



## Paul Vernon Cottrell

November 14, 1932 - September 24, 2020

Paul Vernon Cottrell, 87, of Teays Valley, passed from this life to eternal rest on Thursday, September 24, 2020. He was born November 14, 1932 at Standard, Kanawha County, West Virginia, the son of Ivy A. and Minnie B. Cottrell. Paul graduated from East Bank High School in 1950 and began attending college at WV Tech. To pay for college Paul applied for the Clerk's position at the C & O Railroad Handley Terminal. A 47-year career blossomed taking him to carry titles of Train Master; Terminal Train Master; Manager of Administration; Director of Train Operations; and Superintendent of Operations at Russell, Kentucky and Queensgate Yard in Cincinnati Ohio. He was married on September 8 in 1962 to his beloved Marvel Lee Belcher of Cabin Creek, WV. To this union 3 children were born; Kelly L. Cottrell of Hurricane, Stroke Program Manager at CAMC; Patrick L. Cottrell of Hurricane, Attorney at Law; and Brian P. Cottrell of Spartanburg, SC, a locomotive engineer with CSX.

Paul was a Mason for 65-years and a member of the Coal Valley Lodge No. 74 in Montgomery, WV. He began his distinguished Masonic career in 1955, and throughout the years served Ancient Craft Masonry and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of West Virginia with distinction. Throughout his career, Paul was elected and served as: District Deputy Grand Master Eighth District 1964-1965, Senior Grand Deacon 1974-1975, Grand Marshall 1993-1994, Junior Grand Warden 1994, Senior Grand Warden 1995 and Deputy

Grand Master 1996. In 1997, Paul was elected and installed as the 125th Grand Master of Masons in West Virginia.

Paul was a Methodist by faith and a member of St. John United Methodist Church in Scott Depot, WV. He loved to read the Bible and often read scripture in church.

Paul was an avid outdoorsman and his hobbies included hunting, fishing, target shooting, and reloading ammunition. He was a life member of the NRA and supporter of the right to keep and bear arms. He was also a collector of vintage guns, pocket and wrist watches, coins, and stamps. Paul loved all sports, the Cincinnati Reds and the West Virginia Mountaineers were his favorite teams.

He was preceded in death by brothers and sisters: Pat, Robert, Kenneth, Ross, Ronnie, Mae, Inez, Ruth, Kay, and Annabelle; his niece Jody Cottrell and sister-in-law Sallie Pat Tackett.

Paul is survived by nieces and nephews: Lisa (Lauri-Ann) Tackett of Miami, Allen (Jessica) Tackett, Jr. of Milton, Pam (Ron) Musick of Montgomery, Bryant Cottrell of Montgomery, Patty (Ronnie) Christy of East Bank, Steve Crist of East Bank, Pat Kinder of Hurricane, Carmen and Mike Mitchell of Dallas, TX.

The family would like to thank the Open Heart Recovery Unit at Memorial Hospital CAMC, Dr. Melissa Poulos, Dr. Rayan Ihle, and Dr. Jacob Misenheimer for their kindness, compassion, and excellent care. Special thanks to family physician Dr. Thopsie Jagannath for his friendship, care and kindness over the years.

Funeral service will be held at 2pm on Thursday, October 1st, 2020 at

Chapman Funeral Home, Hurricane, with Pastor Rev. Robert Hill presiding. Burial and grave site Masonic rites will follow in Valley View Memorial Park, Hurricane. Limited visitation will be held on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 from 5pm to 7pm at Chapman's Funeral Home.

Chapman Funeral Home, Hurricane is honored to serve the Cottrell family

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **30**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Chapman Funeral Home Hurricane  
3941 Teays Valley Road  
Hurricane, WV 25526  
(304) 757-7531  
info@chapmanfuneralhomes.com  
<https://www.chapmanfuneralhomes.com>

## Funeral Service

OCT **1**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Chapman Funeral Home Hurricane  
3941 Teays Valley Road  
Hurricane, WV 25526  
(304) 757-7531  
info@chapmanfuneralhomes.com  
<https://www.chapmanfuneralhomes.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ Chapman Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Paul Vernon Cottrell



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**Chapman Funeral Homes** - September 28, 2020 at 11:10 PM



“ Paul Vernon Cottrell

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October 06, 2023 at 08:41 AM



“ Lee Ann Johnson sent a virtual gift in memory of Paul Vernon Cottrell



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**Lee Ann Johnson** - October 01, 2020 at 10:07 AM

MM

“ I have such terrific memories of Uncle Paul. After the death of my father in 1962, Paul was the first person that my mom, (his sister) Ruth, contacted. He immediately drove from West Virginia to San Antonio, packed Mom, Carmen and I up and brought us up to Minnie's house where we stayed for weeks. We continued to live in Texas after that but would come to visit the family here in West Virginia almost every summer. I was very young and Paul made it a point to visit with me and take me out to do various things every time we visited. I remember his VW Bus and how cool I thought it was. I didn't know anybody else that had one.

We dug potatoes one summer in his gigantic garden. I seem to remember that his garden was out back of his house that was directly on the Kanawha? Some big river. I got the biggest kick out of finding these great big potatoes in the dirt in his garden and Paul did too....I remember, he just kept saying "Well, dig over there and see what you find." That same year, he and a police officer buddy of his took me out to shoot guns (starting my life-long interest in shooting and hunting). This was in June of 1966 when I was 7 years old. I was too small to hold the rifle so they opened the trunk of the police car, laid a quilt on the fender, put me in the trunk, and had me shoot Paul's .222 Sako at a cardboard target at 40 yards. I remember all this in such detail in part because I still have that target....with Paul's handwriting specifying the location, date, range, caliber and type of rifle.... and had his police buddy sign as a witness. I also remember Ruth not being too happy about all this....she seemed to think that having a 7 year old shooting guns might not be a good idea. Another time he took me to the train yard down from Minnie's house in Handley and set me in the engineer's seat in a locomotive. He would come by multiple times during each of our visits and would take me to buy what he called a "pop" and we in Texas just called a coke. Always in the VW bus.

Our family moved to Florida in 1967 and my mom wanted to go back to Texas in '68 but wanted to go up to West Virginia for a visit before we headed back to Texas but she was scared to drive West

*Virginia's mountain roads. Ruth called Paul and asked him to come get us and, of course, he did. Paul took the bus to Fort Lauderdale, packed us up again and drove Mom's 1962 Pontiac Bonneville from Florida to Minnie's house.....non-stop.*

*Paul arrived in Florida in the late afternoon (after riding the bus all night to get there) and I remember my mom asking him if he wanted to wait and start the next day so he could get some sleep and he said "If you're ready to go, let's go." We drove straight through the night and we got to Minnie's early the next morning.*

*Ruth always said that Paul was the baby of the family. I think all the sisters were teenagers when he was born and they all doted on him. I know that Ruth adored him.*

*I can't believe that they are all gone.*

*Kelly, Patrick, Brian; please accept my condolences on the loss of your dad. Life well-lived.*

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**Mike Mitchell** - September 30, 2020 at 10:36 PM

JH

“ *Paul was a good friend. He was always willing to help when ever asked. He will be greatly by all and especially me. I would like to extend my condolences. Jerry Haney Grand Lecturer Royal Arch Masons of West Virginia.*

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**Jerry Haney** - September 30, 2020 at 07:02 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Paul Vernon Cottrell.*



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September 29, 2020 at 08:57 PM



“ *My condolences to Uncle Paul. He was the last of my Grandfather's siblings. here is an old pic I had of the brothers. I think Uncle Binny Bob was the only boy missing.*



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**Loren Lyons** - September 29, 2020 at 05:47 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Paul Vernon Cottrell.*



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September 29, 2020 at 02:32 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Paul Vernon Cottrell.*



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September 29, 2020 at 08:39 AM

Jl

“ I remember vividly when i was about 10 , im now 67 when my Uncle Paul bought me my first BB Gun. While showing me how to operate it he accidentally shot himself in his hand. He put on a big show , hooting and hollering like crazy . It was so funny . My dad -Pat , me and uncle Paul were in stitches laughing. We lived in Baltimore and i would only get to see my Uncle Paul a few more times. As life , US Navy , family and work took over. All are fond memories I shall treasure forever.



John Patterson Cottrell II  
Norfolk, Va  
7039280066

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**John Cottell II** - September 29, 2020 at 07:20 AM

KK

“ The word that comes to mind when thinking of Paul would be gentleman. He was a humble academic. He loved God and people. I feel blessed to have known him and could call him friend.

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**Karen Kindet** - September 28, 2020 at 01:32 PM

CF

“ Paul was one of the kindest railroaders that I have ever known. He supported me and my friends of the C&O Historical Society and went out of his way to encourage our efforts to preserve the history of his favorite railroad. I hope that his future with our Lord and Savior is filled with joy and his reunion with his loved ones who have passed before him is a grand reunion.

Charles Ford

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**Charles Ford** - September 27, 2020 at 08:50 PM

CF

“ Paul was a longtime friend of mine. Enjoyed many times together. We worked together at the Handley Terminal. Sorry for your loss. Praying for all.  
Charles "Chick" Filbin.

Charles Filbin - September 27, 2020 at 10:11 AM

JD

“ One of the finest men that my wife and I have ever had the privilege to know. Praying that the family will be comforted by the many thoughts of love sent your way by the prayers of those who care. May you find peace in God's presence as He is the One who will comfort you. So sorry to hear of your loss. Jim and Patty Dempsey

Jim & Patty Dempsey - September 27, 2020 at 08:27 AM



“ Mary Payne lit a candle in memory of Paul  
Vernon Cottrell



Mary Payne - September 26, 2020 at 12:43 PM

PS

We will miss Paul. We always loved seeing him at St John and missed him when he couldn't come. Our prayers are with his family. He will be missed by many. 🙏

Phyllis Stephens - September 26, 2020 at 01:47 PM

AK

RIP, Paul. Marvel Lee is waiting for you on the other side.

Aileen Holbrook Kelley - September 27, 2020 at 04:46 PM

BS

*Paul was a true gentleman. I met him in Eastern Star. He made me strive to be a better person. I truly enjoyed talking with him and his guidance. The world has truly lost one of the finest men you will have the pleasure of meeting. Prayers and love for the family. Thank you for sharing him with us.*

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**Barbara Smith** - September 28, 2020 at 09:04 AM



*A True gentleman is the best way to describe Paul.*

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**Doug Cooksey** - September 28, 2020 at 09:26 AM

BG

*We will miss Paul very much, especially his beautiful voice as liturgist at St. John.*

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**Bill & Louise Goode** - September 30, 2020 at 11:36 PM