



Woodrow W. "Woody" Ritenour

February 3, 1920 - August 24, 2018

Woody Ritenour was born in Connellsville, Pennsylvania on February 3, 1920. He was raised on a farm and as was the tradition, the youngest child was the only one permitted to finish high school. He completed the eighth grade with the highest grades in the township. Not being the youngest son, he went to work on the family farm. One of his first jobs as a teenager was off-bearing lumber at his father's sawmill. This helped him gain knowledge of lumber.

He served December 31, 1941 to October 1945 in World War II in the Army Air Corp in North Africa and received a Battle Zone Ribbon with four Bronze Stars indicating service in a total of four battles zones. He also received a Good Conduct Medal. His unique skill as a cook was vital to the success of the war effort and in feeding his children when Claribel was sick. While in Italy, he witnessed the eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

Following his service, he returned home to Pennsylvania where he worked as a member of a framing crew in the summer and ran a snow plow in the winter. Shortly after, he was promoted to foreman of the framing crew. Later, he began operating a strip mine in West Virginia where he "flushed Claribel out of the brush", fell in love and got married. They moved back to Pennsylvania and after a few years, returned to West Virginia in 1956 where he started his carpentry and home building business operating as WW Ritenour, Inc.

He was one of the earliest members of the Home Builders Association of Greater Charleston and was the sixth President of the Home Builders Association of West Virginia, serving in 1965 and 1966. During his term as state President, he was invited to the White House to witness the signing of the bill that created the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). He was fortunate enough to receive one of the pens President Lyndon B. Johnson used to sign the bill. Following this, he was the national representative for West Virginia to the National Association of Home Builders.

Around 1970 he joined Bill Dempsey building homes and apartments in Cross Lanes. A few years later, he joined J. E. White Construction and worked there until 1978 when he formed Ritenour and Sons, Inc. with his two sons, Robert and Randy. He served as President of this company until 1992 when he retired at age 72 to become the building inspector/zoning officer for the City of St. Albans. He held this position for 15 years until he retired at age 87.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Claribel and is survived by one daughter, Cindy L. Hall and her husband Larry and two sons, Randy D. Ritenour and his wife Mary and Robert W. Ritenour and his wife Pennie; three grandchildren, Tami G. Coles (Travis), Bridget L. Meadows (Matt) and Jacob D. Ritenour (Mandy); two step-grandchildren, Hollie L. Sims (Jesse) and Zane L. Metz III; six great grandchildren, Jonathan Coles, Gabriel Coles, Anna Coles, Dylan Meadows, Leah Meadows and Alex Meadows; three step-great-grandchildren, Zane L. Metz IV, Dustin Sims and Nathan Sims; brother, Harold "Sonny" Ritenour; sister, Dorothy Clark and numerous nieces and nephews all from Pennsylvania.

Funeral service will be held at 2:00 pm Monday, August 27, 2018 at First Baptist Church, St. Albans with the Rev. Joel M. Harpold officiating. Burial will be in Grandview Memorial Park, Dunbar with military honors.

Friends may call from 12 to 2:00 pm prior to the funeral service at the church.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests donation to, The First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 350, St. Albans, WV 25177 or Henry E. King Scholarship Fund, Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, 1600 Hunt Square, Lee Street East, Charleston, WV 25301

You may visit Woody's tribute page at chapmanfuneralhomes.com to share memories or condolences with the family.

Bartlett-Chapman Funeral Home, family owned and located at 409 Sixth Ave., St. Albans is honored to serve the Ritenour family.

Cemetery Details

Grandview Memorial Park

1313 Hillview Drive
Dunbar, WV 25064

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 27. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church
523 Second Street
St. Albans, WV

Funeral Service

AUG 27. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church
523 Second Street
St. Albans, WV

Tribute Wall



“ *Woodrow W. "Woody" Ritenour*

October 06, 2023 at 08:41 AM



“ *Dear Family - Glenn and I were so sorry to learn of your father's passing. Unfortunately, we just found out at 3:15 today so we have missed the funeral. We would love to have talked with each of you personally, but we would like to extend our deepest sympathy. We feel like it was a pleasure to know Woody and all of you. He was a fine, fine man. Our prayers will be with you as you go through this loss. May God bless each of you.*

Glenn & Vera Atkisson - August 27, 2018 at 02:23 PM



“ *Corrine lit a candle in memory of Woodrow W. "Woody" Ritenour*



Corrine - August 27, 2018 at 11:04 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Woodrow W. "Woody" Ritenour.*



August 27, 2018 at 09:49 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Woodrow W. "Woody" Ritenour.*



August 27, 2018 at 08:38 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Woodrow W. "Woody" Ritenour.*



August 27, 2018 at 08:33 AM



“ *Condolences from Greg Clark and family. Uncle Woody will greatly be missed.*

Gregory Clark - August 26, 2018 at 07:48 PM



“ *100 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Chapman Funeral Homes - August 26, 2018 at 12:13 PM

LZ

“Woody” was truly one of the finest men I have ever known. I had the pleasure of working with him several years in the city building department.

Bob, My sincere sympathy is sent to you and all the family.

*Lucille Zieminick, Retired
City of St. Albans Building Department*

Lucille Zieminick - August 26, 2018 at 12:00 PM

JL

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of Woody. What a great guy and I know he will be missed by all of his family and friends. They don’t make many like this anymore. To Randy, Bob and Cindy, I know you will miss him and Clairebelle very much.

Joe LeRose - August 26, 2018 at 10:54 AM

 Steve
Parsons

“ Woody was a very nice man the time I spent working with him and being on the Property Maintenance Board. Woody always spoke of his wife and loved her dearly. I remember having to respond up to the house after she had passed away and he said that he missed her so. Woody always showed me respect when I would bring up a fire code violation and that I need d his support on the matter. So sorry to the family for your loss. Your Dad was well liked and respected and will be missed.

Respectfully,

*Chief Steve Parsons, Retired
St. Albans Fire Department*

Steve Parsons - August 26, 2018 at 06:46 AM

HT

“ so sorry to hear about your dad seems like all the folks that made up the old neighborhood are gone . what a life he had I am out of town so I will be with you in my thoughts . bob randy cindy take care
Harold thomas

harold thomas - August 26, 2018 at 06:27 AM



“ *Adam Fultz lit a candle in memory of Woodrow W. "Woody" Ritenour*



Adam Fultz - August 25, 2018 at 10:43 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Woodrow W. "Woody" Ritenour.*



August 25, 2018 at 10:31 PM



“ *Love Everlasting Bouquet was purchased for the family of Woodrow W. "Woody" Ritenour.*



August 25, 2018 at 06:28 PM



“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,*

May your memories of Woodrow W. Ritenour, give you peace, comfort and strength...

Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete. I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten.

*My thoughts
and prayers to the family of*

US Army Air Corps Veteran, Woodrow W. Ritenour, is “A True American Hero” God Bless†

† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †

Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum - August 25, 2018 at 03:18 PM

LF

“ *Love, Sis and family?? purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Woodrow W. "Woody" Ritenour.*



Love, Sis and family?? - August 25, 2018 at 02:47 PM