



Captain Walter L. Cavender (Retired)

March 3, 1942 - February 21, 2023

Captain Walter L. Cavender (Retired) 80 of Cross Lanes, WV ascended to heaven with his family by his side on Tuesday February 21, 2023.

Walter was born March 3, 1942, in Charleston WV to the late Carl Cavender and Lillian Tyree. He was also proceeded in death by his stepfather Walter Tyree. He was proceeded in death by his sisters Sherri Tyree and Faithe Stevens.

Walter was a Christian by faith.

Walter was a devoted husband to the love of his life of 60 years, Karol (Shanholtzer) Cavender; and loving father to three sons, Steve (Pam) of Point Pleasant, Brian (Cathy Wiseman) St. Albans, and Chris at home.

Besides his wife and sons, he is also survived by his grandsons Justin (Amber) Cavender and Logan Wiseman and great grandchildren Layla and Easton Cavender. He is also survived by a sister Alice Armes and his four-legged buddy Bowser.

Walter was a graduate of Charleston High School, class of 1960. Walter graduated from Parkersburg Community College where he obtained a Board of Regents degree in Fire Science. He obtained his West Virginia Professional Firefighters Certification Board of Apprenticeship and Training as a Journeyman Firefighter.

Walter joined the Charleston Fire Department in 1967 retiring in 1993 with 26 years of service. During his tenure with the Fire Department he held the ranks of Firefighter, Lieutenant and Captain. He was one of the original firefighters assigned to Rescue 1. Walter was well respected by his colleagues and everyone in the fire service through out West Virginia. After retirement he remained active in the fire service by teaching and mentoring firefighters through out West Virginia and beyond. His fire service career expanded more than 50 years.

Walter was a member of the International Association Firefighters local 317, former instructor for the West Virginia University Fire Service Extension and West Virginia Public Service Training, former board member and President of the Tyler Mountain Volunteer Fire Department.

Walter was an active member of the Collis P. Huntington Railroad Historical Society for 27 years, where he held the position of Board Member, President, and Safety Director. He also served as a Board of Director for Operation Lifesaver of West Virginia.

The family would like to thank special care giver Jackie Harden Bill Bartley and lifetime friend who cared for him during his illness, Chad Smarr.

A celebration of Walter's life will be held at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, February 26, 2023 at Bartlett-Nichols Funeral Home, St. Albans with the Rev. Doug McComas officiating. Burial will be in Cunningham Memorial Park, St. Albans with Fire Service Honors.

The family will receive friends from 12 to 2:00 p.m. prior to the funeral service.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Ronald McDonald House in Memory of Walter Cavender.

Any fire department wishing to bring apparatus, please contact Chad Smarr at 304.965.4550

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

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

Cemetery Details

Cunningham Memorial Park, Lower Mausoleum Chapel

815 Cunningham Lane
St. Albans, WV 25177
(304) 727-4349

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **26**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Bartlett-Nichols Funeral Home
409 Sixth Avenue
Saint Albans, WV 25177
(304) 727-4325

Funeral Service

FEB **26**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Bartlett-Nichols Funeral Home
409 Sixth Avenue
Saint Albans, WV 25177
(304) 727-4325

Tribute Wall

MI

“ I met Walt through his son Bryan. My wife and I had only recently moved into our new home at # 3 Gatewater Road when Bryan knocked on the door and asked my wife: Mrs. Weikle can Mike come out and play. Soon I met Wait and Karol who came down to introduce themselves, that was 47 years ago, and were fast to become friends with the whole family. Walt and Karol were nite owls and many times we would get together in their family room after midnight solving the world's problems. After moving away in 1989 I stopper by at any time at night - early morning knowing that I would be welcome. I left soon aftrt finding a bride for Steve -- my only effort I ever made to get two people together -- they both worked for me at the bank, and I knew Steve had a young man's crush on Pam, but too shy to ever ask her out. So, I had some commercials made for the bank and paired them as a young couple looking for wedding rings at Marr's Jewlers with the final cut of the two of them walking into their new home with my daughter Keri who was two at the time. Bank of Nitro we're here to meet your needs for those special purchases (the rings) and every good thing that comes along - home and family. They were so cute, and the next thing I knew, they were married. I quit matching after that, could not top it. Will miss you Walt - a truly good man!

Mike - February 26, 2023 at 12:36 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Captain Walter L. Cavender (Retired).



February 24, 2023 at 05:48 PM



“ 73 files added to the album LifeTributes



Bartlett-Nichols Funeral Home - February 24, 2023 at 11:27 AM

SP

“Walt, (Waldo) was such an influence to so many people. Took some of my very first classes from him in 1978. He was a fireman’s fireman, loved his job and it showed. So knowledgeable, never talked down to anyone. Always wanted to help train others so that they could do the best they could do. I was a better firefighter because I knew him and called him friend. When I became Chief at my home department his excitement for me and enthusiasm was so up lifting. You would have thought he just got promoted. Later on I helped him teach numerous auto extrication classes and he treated me like a son. Nothing but the utmost respect for him.

Chief Steve Parsons, Retired

Stephen Parsons - February 22, 2023 at 09:59 PM

JH

Walt was one of the first people I met when I became an instructor at WVU Fire Service Extension. He also had a smile, sometimes a joke, took me in my first FDIC trip with Matt Jackson, and so many other things. I could say more about the classes he taught, the people he loved and helped, and the assistance he gave me along the way. Brian, Chris and Steve, I’m sorry to hear of his passing - you guys are just like him and I know his goodness will be carried on by his sons.

JT Hodges

JT Hodges - February 23, 2023 at 07:16 AM

CF

*Walt was my friend!
Many years we spent traveling and training. Walt had a passion for improving the tactics of operation in extrication. When he saw that firemen had been injured from an auto air bag deployment we joined to research and overcome that danger. Walt personally committed to safe training and preparing his brothers and sisters for this new threat.
Describing my friend would be that he was passionate and fun! A great example for the fire service!
Praying for your family and the Brotherhood of Charleston Fire!*

Chris Brunetti ,Alum Creek Fire - February 23, 2023 at 08:54 AM