



Donald L. Ellis

November 4, 1933 - June 12, 2020

Donald L. Ellis, 86 of St. Albans went home to be with the Lord on Friday, June 12, 2020 at CAMC Teays Valley Hospital, Hurricane.

He was born in Newport News, Virginia to the late Harry Wilson and Heloise Marie Watson Ellis and moved to St. Albans with his wife Emma and son Karl in 1957.

Don was a retired co-owner of Coal River Insurance Company and a member of St. Andrew United Methodist Church of St. Albans.

He was a graduate of Warwick High School, Newport News, VA, attended Auburn University under a football scholarship, and graduated from The College of William and Mary.

He was a member of the St. Albans Jaycees and Lions Club. He was on the board of the St. Albans Planning Commission and the Teays Hill Cemetery Board. Don and Emma were one of the first members of the Friendship Force. He sang with the Messiah Chorus, the Charleston Civic Chorus, and the church chancel choir. He performed with the St Albans Theater, M.O.S.T., and was in the production of 1776 with the Charleston Light Opera Guild. Don also enjoyed telling stories to the 2nd graders at Central School. He was instrumental in organizing the Circuit Rider with the United Methodist Men in

conjunction with the Boy Scouts of America. He was also a Sunday school teacher. Don received the Torch Award and was a Fellow of the Society of John Wesley. Don was very active in the boy scouts. When he moved to St. Albans, he was the Assistant Scout Master and then the Scout Master at the First Presbyterian Church. He was in the Order of the Arrow Vigil, a 4-bead Wood Badge, and in later years on the Executive Board. He was awarded the Silver Beaver. He was on the staff of Subcamp 13 for 4 National Jamboree's at Fort AP Hill in Virginia

Surviving are his loving wife of 65 years, Emma Spear Ellis; daughter, Rene` York of St. Albans; sons, Karl Ellis (Kimberly) of Wooster, OH and Shawn Ellis (Denise) of Newport News, VA; brother, Robert Leslie Ellis (Janice) of Columbia, MD. Also surviving are his grandchildren, Robert York, Vernon J. York, Jr., Jeremy Reger and Hilary Nikkel and 10 great grandchildren.

Private funeral service will be held at St. Andrew United Methodist Church, St. Albans with Rev. Jonathan Dierdorff officiating. Burial will be in Teays Hill Cemetery, St. Albans.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests a donation to St. Andrew United Methodist Church or to the Boy Scouts of America Donald L. Ellis Scholarship Fund for Summer Camp. The donations to the church may be sent to St. Andrew United Methodist Church 815 Kanawha Terrace St. Albans, WV 25177, SASAUMC.org. Donations to the scholarship fund may be payable and sent to Boy Scouts of America Buckskin Council 2829 Kanawha Blvd., E. Charleston, WV 25311.

You may visit Don'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 Ellis family.

Cemetery Details

Teays Hill Cemetery

Coal River Road
St. Albans, WV 25177

Tribute Wall

JW

“ Dear Emma, we were so sorry to read the distressing news of Don's passing. I have such fond memories of the two of you as youth leaders at the FUMC-Newport News. I was a Freshman and you were Seniors! We were always so glad to see you when you came to visit, even in recent years. May the dear Lord wrap you and your family in the comfort of His sustaining love. Prayers and Peace!
Jane and Bill Waters

jane & Bill Waters - July 06, 2020 at 05:41 PM

JC

“ Emma, Know that Stanley & I shall never forget yours and Don's hospitality to us when we came in with Pat. Also know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Much love to you. Stanley & June Chappell

June Chappell - July 06, 2020 at 04:21 PM

RJ

“ Emma, I read the obituary this morning for Don. What a nice guy, always complimentary of my work here at First UMC, Newport News. I buried Marie his mom as you may have remembered. She remembered all the preachers of Hilton Village Methodist that became First UMC, and I loved chatting with her about those memories.
My deepest sympathy to you and your family. John LeGault (First UMC 1999-2012).

Rev. John T. LeGault, Jr. - July 05, 2020 at 01:36 PM

CC

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Charlotte Cogar - July 01, 2020 at 12:52 PM

SH

“ I'm so sorry to hear this and am also impressed but not surprised by the many ways he volunteered in his community. Maybe some of the Charleston Civic Chorus remember when he turned 80 we were working on Eleanor Daley's repertoire. Don loved it so much and proclaimed that he wanted "In Remembrance" from her "Requiem" sung at his funeral. I wish we could. I know he'd be singing his part with joy. I have the CD from our 2014 concert with Don singing along and would be happy to get it to the family for his service. My condolences to you all.

Stephanie Hysmith

Stephanie Hysmith - June 18, 2020 at 12:46 PM

JE

“ My heartfelt sympathy and condolences to you, Emma, and your family. He is at peace and will be remembered by many.

John Ellis - June 18, 2020 at 10:51 AM

TD

“ It was a privilege to know Don in the context of the Charleston Civic Chorus. He was a fine bass, always very positive, and often shared his gift of story telling. He will be missed.

Truman Dalton - June 17, 2020 at 07:33 AM

RW

“ Don was a great story teller, mentor and genuine superb human being. My husband and I met him in Scouting and have some fond Woodbadge memories of him. He will be missed.

Rebecca Wiseman - June 16, 2020 at 11:53 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Donald L. Ellis.



June 16, 2020 at 06:31 PM

KM

“ My memories of growing up in St Andrews always included fond memories of Mr Ellis and my friend, Karl. My sincere sympathy for your loss and my true joy for his transition to eternity with God.
Kathy Dodd McHenry

Kathy McHenry - June 16, 2020 at 06:02 PM

CS

“ Don was very good friend to me and my family. Don always talked to me about our trips out of country and the places he and his family went and enjoyed. He always kept me on my journey throughout my Scouting career. He loved to tell his stories about Scouting adventures he had. We loved Don and he will be missed.... Carleton and Minnie Starr

Carleton Starr - June 16, 2020 at 04:24 PM

VS

“ Don was a mentor, a friend, a fellow creator of Ramp Stew and a brother! He was my Woodbadge Coach Counselor and I never put my Woodbadge on without thinking of him. I've probably eaten hundreds of his meals and they were all superb, you just didn't always want to know what was in them. I've cooked and camped and laughed and cried with him and I'll miss him terribly! Reminds me of a story Vic and Sarah Sands

Vic and Sarah Sands - June 16, 2020 at 12:08 PM

HJ

“ Don, was a great mentor to many boys and men affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America. He was a great contributor to the Wood Badge program. He also served in many capacities with the Buckskin Council. I was privileged to be a member of the Ramp Patrol with Don for several years. He was always cooking good tasting meals for the patrol while we were working on projects at the scout camp at Dilley's Mill. He won't be forgotten by myself and many other people who he worked with in Scouting.
With deepest sympathy,
Heartley Anderson Jr.

Heartley Anderson Jr - June 16, 2020 at 02:09 AM