



Samuel "Sam" Andrew Farley

July 30, 2022

Samuel Andrew "Sam" Farley, 75, of St. Albans, WV, died at Hubbard Hospice House in Charleston on Saturday, July 30, 2022, of cancer.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Earl and Ruth Farley. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Yvonne S. Farley; son, Luke Farley [Amanda] of Charleston; Grandchildren, Ellie, Parker and Gracie Pritt of Charleston; Brother, David Farley [Ellie] of Goldsboro, NC; and Sister, Sharon Farley of South Charleston; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Sam was born in Beckley and graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School. He gained his B.S. in Appalachian Studies from Antioch College and obtained an MSW from West Virginia University. During his early years he worked as a coal miner and was secretary treasurer of his United Mine Workers of America Local in Stanaford.

He was a U.S. Army combat veteran serving two years in Viet Nam and upon return was active in Vietnam Veterans Against the War. Exposure to Agent Orange and cancer was too much for his body to overcome but his triumph was an anchor of stable love and family.

After 10 years in the coal mines, he found his vocation in family and youth support as a social worker who tried to make the system work better than it

was designed to do. In 2007 The National Association of Social Workers, West Virginia Chapter, honored Sam with the Catalyst Award for Direct Social Work Practice.

Sam loved listening to music both live and recorded. His favorite genres were Jazz and Bluegrass which played daily in his last days. He was a voracious reader who when he died was reading James Baldwin.

His spirituality stemmed from a vital relationship to a power greater than himself. He was a man of gentle spirit and strong character open to all kinds of people and experiences. He was smart and funny.

Contributions to his memory may be made to West Virginia Free, 222 Capitol Street, Charleston WV 25301 or to Children's Home Society, 1422 Kanawha Blvd. East, P.O. Box 2842, Charleston, WV 25330.

The family would like to thank all the neighbors who visited with Sam as he sat on the porch and who helped him when he fell. Many thanks to those who expressed condolences electronically and with cards, food and flowers. In addition, we thank the U.S. Veteran's Administration; Tom and Donna Weisman of Tucson, AZ; Kanawha County Hospice; Lisa Johnson; Steve Lange; Barbara Freirson; Local 175 Teamsters; and Bartlett-Nichols Funeral - Home in St. Albans. For those not named, you know who you are and that the family is thankful to you. We could not have made it without your support.

Celebration of Sam's life will take place at a later date.

You can visit Sam's tribute page at bartlettnicholsfuneralhome.com to share condolences or memories with the family.

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

Tribute Wall



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Roger Hicks - October 06, 2022 at 11:14 AM



“ Candice & I are sorry that we heard about Sam's passing so late. Our heartfelt condolences are with Yvonne, Luke, and the entire family. I have fond memories of Sam and a great deal of respect for the way he lived his life and worked to make the world a better place.

Roger & Candice Hicks
West Liberty, KY



Roger Hicks - October 06, 2022 at 11:13 AM

JP

“ I went to high school with Sam at WWHS in Beckley. Sorry to hear of his passing.

Judy Combs Puckett - August 22, 2022 at 12:55 PM

SL

“ Sam, the energy of your inquisitive mind knew no bounds. You read circles around me and even sent summaries of various books because you knew I couldn't keep up with you. You had no time for dogma, but great reverence for the still, small voice of that power greater than ourselves. You sought it in the world of ideas, nature and the quiet of the morning and the evening. You saw it in those around you. Your love knew no bounds. Those who abide in love, abide in God and God in them. That fits you so well, Sam. Farewell until we meet again.

Steven Lange - August 15, 2022 at 11:13 AM

RW

“ I loved Sam. I was fortunate to know him since the late 1980s and always enjoyed our conversations and his wry sense of humor. He took me to my first union picket line back in 1989 during the UMWA New Beckley coal strike and years later Anna Megyesi and I got to travel to Mexico with Sam and Yvonne, a truly glorious trip.

Sam went through so much in his life, growing up in the coalfields, serving two tours in Vietnam, becoming political, organizing veterans to oppose military intervention in Central America in the 80s, mining coal and supporting the union--and going through a mine shutdown, pursuing a master's degree and moving on to become a social worker who dealt with some really grim situations. He was a great friend.

My favorite image of Sam is him strolling down the zocalo in Oaxaca to get an ice cream cone, which was pretty much a daily ritual while we were there. Condolences to the family!

Rick Wilson - August 15, 2022 at 09:32 AM



“ *Cheeseboard Gourmet Gift was purchased for the family of Samuel "Sam" Andrew Farley.*



August 12, 2022 at 04:27 PM



“ *Sam was a great person. Mike and I will miss his humor and fun way of looking at the world.*

Fran Finch and Mike Griffin - August 12, 2022 at 04:09 PM