



## Melvin Utterback

March 9, 2014

### Obituary of Melvin Utterback

Melvin "Mel" Utterback, 75, of The Villages, FL, died March 9, 2014 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born in Wellington, KS, where he met his high school sweetheart and future wife Janie. They enjoyed 53 wonderful years of marriage. He served in the Army and the Air Force Reserve. He retired after 38 years from the Santa Fe R.R. and was currently doing taxes for H & R Block. One of his greatest passions was serving as an Elder in his church. Mel was a fun loving and loyal friend who could make anyone laugh. His family was his pride and joy. He was a die-hard Cubs and Bears fan and named his beloved dog Cubby Bear. Mel is survived by his wife Janie; his daughter Julie (David) Wessel of Wonder Lake, IL; his son Mike of Enterprise, FL; 5 grandchildren, Scott (Stacy) Wessel, Woodstock, IL; Mike (Hillary) Wessel, Woodstock, IL; Jeff Wessel, Wonder Lake, IL; Allison Utterback, Deltona, FL; Ryan Utterback, Deltona, FL; 2 great grandchildren, Caleb Wessel and Logan Wessel; one sister Joanne Moseley of Alamo, TX. Services will be held at 11:00 AM Friday March 21st at New Life Christian Church 4707 East CR 462 in Wildwood, FL. Burial will be private. Donations may be made to the church building fund or Villagers for Hospice, 601 Casa Bella, The Villages, FL 32162.

## Services

Services will be held at 11:00 AM Friday March 21st at New Life Christian Church 4707 East CR 462 in Wildwood, FL.

## Interment

Burial will be private.

# Tribute Wall

JS

“ So sorry Janie, Julie and Mike. My prayers and love are with you all at this time. May God comfort you and give you His strength and peace. Judy (Lusk) Snyder

Judy (Lusk) Snyder - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TR

“ Dear Janie, Julie, Mike and family, May He comfort you as only He can! He will be greatly missed! All our love, Tito and Diana

Tito and Diana Rojas - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ Goodby my friend, you shall be sorely missed by all that passed your way.....

A.C. LIKES - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Mel Utterback was the salt of the earth. He was a man of God with many wonderful ways he contributed to life, family and friends he was blessed with. He always had a smile on his face and a kind word for everyone. We all know he is sitting at the right hand of God and sending angels to watch over his precious Janie and family. We will miss you MEL. you deserve to be exactly where you are. We all hope to join you someday . ALL THE LOVE IN HEAVEN AND EARTH.

Dave and Barb Castor - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Melvin Utterback

October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RD

“ Having grown up at Deer Creek, Mel Utterback has influenced my life in ways too numerous to recount. Thank you for sharing your lives with me, I look forward to seeing Mr. Utterback again in the life to come. Peace.

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**Rob Daniels** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Janie; So sorry to hear of Mel's passing. He is home with the His Lord that he served and looked forward to being with. No more pain to deal with. He was a wonderful man of God. Please know that our prayers and thoughts are with you and the family. Love in Jesus, Bill & Gale

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**Bill & Gale Smith** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Dear Julie and family, With Deepest Sympathy from your friends at Prairiewood Elementary School in Woodstock, IL.

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**Carol E. Cerny** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Remember Mel from so many years ago living up the street from us in Rolling Acres in Peoria, IL. Wonderful man and wonderful family. Prayers with you all. Mel was a wonderful servant of God as well as a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather.

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**Cheryl Criss** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MI

“ Sorry for your loss. I always loved going to your house on Fountaindale....I always felt welcomed! He will be missed.

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**Mary (Owen) Innis** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AU

“ I cannot get my grandfathers voice out of my head. Since the first time he saw me as a new born up until the other day when I said goodbye to him in the hospital, he never stopped making me laugh. He always told us grand kids how proud he was of us. I felt real special for having Mel as my grandfather; I felt too lucky. Not every boy and girl could have had the grandfather I had (Nana, too!). Our inside jokes will stay with me forever, little things will always remind me of him. I love him and I will always miss him.

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**Allison Utterback** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Always a smile on his face always positive many great memories as a child growing up across the street on fountain dale drive in Sherwood Forrest peoria Illinois.Great man husband father glad to have known him. I know he will be missed RIP.

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**Bill Brown** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ Janie; my thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family. Mel was a super great guy and will be greatly missed by all.

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**Pat Norris Hendrix** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ What a wonderful man we have all lost. We send our love and prayers to you all.

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**Linda Hibbs Robertson** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ *he always made me laugh when I was down and he was a good friend will miss hemrigger happy trails to mel and roy rogers goodbe frien and happy trails*

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**roy and joyce parrish** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RU

“ *The Utterback family surely will never be the same with the loss of Grandad. It has been an honor spending time and getting closer to him. He was a big inspiration to the family having a sense of pure love and endless humor. When my time comes, I hope to leave just as he did, with a smile. Being very busy, I didn't spend as much time with him as I wished. However, he came across my mind at least once a day and I hope he knew what he still meant to us considering our absence. Allison and I only were given one grandfather, and I can easily say that Grandad couldn't have been better. His family and church was his life. Farewell, Grandad. You'll never be forgotten. I love you so much.*

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**Ryan Utterback** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ *Julie was one of my best friends in high school. I remember coming to there house for sleep overs an I`all always remember being greeted Cubby bear there dog. There was a song we always sang about the dog but I can't remember. My heart is very sad today knowing that we lost a wonderful man. But happy that he will spend forever with God. He will be very missed and my prayers are with you all. Love you.*

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**Maribeth Joos Bradle** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *Mel Utterback was a great man of God. He was a walking testimony for The Lord. We are so blessed to have known him. We are looking forward to a time when we will see him again in Heaven. Our prayers are now with Janie, Juie, Mike, and family. Love, Jim and Catie Chapman*

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**Jim and Catie Chapman** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ *Dearest Janie & Family, I've been praying for your family & for Mel during this journey you have all taken together. What an amazing guy, I'm sure he's spreading cheer in heaven with his contagious laugh! Janie, you were such a blessing to me and others in our church family, so thankful God allowed our paths to cross for several years. May you feel God's peace, presence and strength in the days ahead. Love, Donna*

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**Donna Miller** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ *My prayers and thoughts are with Mel's family. Mel will be missed here, but I look forward to seeing him again in the next life to come.*

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**Jim Tiller** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *I will miss his hugs and smiles!*

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**Sue Schroeder** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ *Janie and Family, Heaven could not have gotten a more special Angel. Mel was a great man with a huge heart. He always went out of his way to make us feel welcome. He will be greatly missed. Our hearts go out to you and your family.*

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**Chris and Denise Castor-Karnes** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CT

“ *May the love and comfort of family and friends give you and your family some peace. Julie, I truly know how difficult this is. Please remember I'm Just a phone call away.*

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**Carole Tipps** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ *Mel's love for Jesus showed through in the way he lived life*

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**Ray and Sylvia Miller** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ *I always knew Mel as Melvin when we were in school. Mel fits a man who always had a smile and a laugh. And you, Jane, were perfect for him because you always had a laugh and a smile and a twinkle in your eye. I love you and pray for God's peace and comfort to surround you and your family.*

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**Peggy Ginn** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DV

“ *Janie, you are in our prayers!! Lean on God!! He will be your strength and comfort!! We will miss Mel!!!*

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**Dale and Vicki** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ We will miss Mel, his friendliness, and his hugs. He made us feel like he knew us forever.

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**sue and Jim fields** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

WH

“ Janie and Family. You are in our thought and prayers, although we haven't seen in in a long time. Remember us all in our youthful days in HS in Wellington.

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**Wayne & Vicki Howell** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PR

“ Janie Words cannot express how one feels at a time of such loss. You and I know that Mel is with his Savior and is in peace. We are so blessed to have known Mel.... what a great guy.... always so funny and positive. You have our prayers and kind thoughts. Patsy

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**Patsy and Ron Riendeau** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

FB

“ Janie, Even though you and Melvin were miles from most of us, we were appreciative of you taking the time to update us about Melvin and his illness. Each of us in our class no doubt has wonderful memories of Melvin. Melvin had such a pleasant and even personality.He was a joy to be around and will be missed by all his friends, especially the class of 1956. I am so sorry for you and your family as this is a great loss to each of you. Please accept my heartfelt sympathy. With love, Flavia

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**Flavia Krohn Bigham** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ Dear Janie: So very sorry for your loss. I believe it is Melvin gain and that you will see him in God's time. He was a great guy and you all were a "special" pair. God comfort you as his promise. Love, Sallie

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**Sallie and Gail** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ Janie, I feel so privileged to have known this godly man. Mel was an example of a true Christian. I pray that God gives His comfort and peace to your whole family. Love, Marsha

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**Marsha Cassady LeMere** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ So sorry for your loss. No matter how many years we have a loved one it is never enough. God bless you in the coming months and years.

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**Ruth Ann Hart Henry** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ Dear Jane and family, I can never tell you how much Mel meant to Jack & I. Mel is the perfect exzample of the word gentleman. He was the first person I met down here from Block. His smiling face will always be etched in my heart and mind. He will always be one of my best friends. Johanna Mel and I have had so much fun together studying for classes. (The three amigos) My prayers are always there for you and the family. Love, Judy & Jack

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**Judy Kyle** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JS

“Wow!! Life is just too short!! We were so blessed to have spent a few days with you guys in January, 2014, never dreaming that it would be the last time we would see Mel & Janie together-- at least on earth! We enjoyed all the good times we were fortunate to spend with you and will miss Mel lots! When people as special as Mel leave this life, the loss is great!! But I know in heaven there is celebration!!

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**Jack & Janine Swanson** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RA

“Mel was a inspiration to all that knew him. He will give us lasting and fond memories for all that were a part of his life

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**Ron and Karen Akey** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SM

“Dear Janie, You & the family have been in our prayers for quite some time. Still remember the "mongoose" & chuckle every time we think of it. May God bless all of you during this time of sorrow with His peace & comfort. Love, the Maxwells

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**Steve & Lorna Mxawell** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ Jane You and your family havemy deepest Sympathy. I loved this man so very much. I never before met anyone like him. He loved his Family, he loved to Laugh, he loved Life, he loved to Tease anyone around him, just to make us laugh, he loved People. He was a complete gentle man, a kind man, and if he was your friend,he would do anything for you. I rememberleaving my checkbook home, one day, and in came a package that needed to be paid for. I had some money but not enough.He came over to me and said " Jo Jo, how much do you need ?" I emptied my pockets and he emptied his and together, we had enough to pay the bill, with just some change left in both our pockets. We laugh, and laugh. " What a Guy" He was the Best you would ever want to met. I'll never forget him. He will always have a space in my heart, that's the space He made when he took a part of me with him. I know the Angels in heaves are laughing so hard, their sides are spliting. I hope they are enjoying you as much as we did. Rest in Peace, my friend. Love ya , Jo Jo

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**Jo Jo** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PE

“ Dear Janey and family, I'm thankful that Mel is not suffering anymore. Haven't seen Mel since high school but he was always special. God bless you all during this time. I know saying 'goodbye' is difficult but only temporary and what wonderful memories you all have. A joy to read what his friends have said. He was a true inspiration to others. Love, Penny & Loren

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**Penny** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

EH

“ Janie, Melvin was a great man. You and he had many wonderful years and memories together. He will always be with you and your family while he has departed this life for life eternal. Ellis

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**Ellis Hitt** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ In his little hometown of Wellington, Kan., Melvin was a treasure. He was known for his good nature, quick smile and positive outlook on things. Melvin and Janie were the perfect match and we loved them both. Our hearts are with you, Janie.

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**Corky Simpson** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DE

“ We are so sorry about Mel's passing. What a guy. He was always working, laughing and cheering up everybody. He was a good man who practiced his Christianity by the way he lived. I never saw such a devoted couple. May God surround you with love and comfort knowing Mel is out of pain and cheering up those in Heaven. God bless you all.

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**Dick and Roberta Edler** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

FD

“ I am so sorry to hear of Mels passing. When I talked with him a while back he indicated that he was having some medical problems but at that time did not confide in me what they were. I think subconsciously I held back on calling him for a follow up because I just did not want to hear any bad news. Though we didn't get together after HS, I thought of him often and prayed for him lately, Hopefully we shall meet again and I know I will easily find him in a crowd as everyone will be laughing listening to him regale them with his humor. Good by Mel.....and God speed you to your rewards.  
Fred and Sharon Dickey

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**Fred and Sharon Dickey** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

EH

“ *Janie, I am really sorry about Mel. I always enjoyed talking with Mel. He had a great sense of humor. Even though I haven't seen him lately, I will miss him.*

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**Ed Hollingsworth** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM