



Merle Eugene Berkshire

April 16, 1949 - April 24, 2024

It is a bittersweet time for our family to announce that Merle Eugene Berkshire, previously of Pipestem, WVA and currently of The Villages, Florida, pushed the fun meter for the final time on April 24, 2024, shortly after his 75th birthday. Bitter, because he will be so deeply missed by his family and friends; but sweet because we know he loved Jesus and has reached his ultimate travel destination - Heaven! We're certain he's hugging his loved ones who preceded him, Vivian Stewart Berkshire (mother), A. Wendell Berkshire (father), Geary and Ron Berkshire (brothers), Joye B. Justice (sister) but mostly, his beloved daughter and "daddy's girl", Victoria C. R. Berkshire. Sadly, those he left behind are grieving his loss: Douglas Scott Berkshire (son) and wife Candance, Rylan L. Berkshire (grandson), Alexandra C. R. Howard (granddaughter), Gaye B. Marston (sister), Herman "Buddy" Marston (favorite brother-in-law) and many nieces, nephews and cousins that he adored.

Merle graduated from Turner Ashby High School in Dayton, VA then served in the Air Force for six years. After moving to WVA, he was a House Parent at Davis-Stuart Group Home in Princeton for ten years and attended Lerona United Methodist Church. Merle was a gifted entrepreneur, known as "Mr. B", who established Berkshire's Custard in Princeton, WVA. After moving to Florida, he attended First Baptist Church in Leesburg, FL, serving on a mission trip to Argentina in 2023. Merle loved the Lord and had a generous heart, finding great joy in giving to those in need. His "happy place" has been in

Florida, where he became an avid croquette player, achieving “Rookie of the Year” in 2019. Merle was a world traveler, yet still enjoyed his leisurely drives in his dream convertible - even taking it 115mph on the Daytona 500 Speedway.

Merle’s infectious personality and zeal for life captured hearts everywhere he went. He will live on through those he loved and those who loved him.

Merle will be celebrated Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at 10:00 AM.

First Baptist Church of Leesburg
220 N 13th St, Leesburg, FL 34748

In lieu of flowers, all donations can be made to First Baptist Church Pregnancy Center, Leesburg, Florida.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home of Leesburg, Florida.

Previous Events

Funeral

APR 30. 10:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Leesburg
220 N. 13th Street
Leesburg, FL 34748

Interment

APR 30. 12:30 PM (ET)

Florida National Cemetery
6502 SW 102nd Avenue
Bushnell, FL 33513

With Military honors

Tribute Wall

BF

“ MEMORIES

My friendship with Merle began some 60+ years ago. He along with his family, moved to the Pettisville, Ohio School district. We were the same age and struck up an immediate friendship. We played sports together and spent a lot of our free time together as we got older. As with many high school friendships, we got separated before graduation and our lives took different directions.

Fast forward 50 years and somehow we reconnected. We were able to carry on a regular routine of hour long phone calls from West Virginia and Florida to Pennsylvania . Finally one evening Merle called and told me he was traveling and was close by. I gave him an address and he arrived at my home an hour later. We spent the nite reminiscing into the wee hours, it was like we picked up where we left off!! My only regret is that we weren't able to share some time in Florida at his new home. He insisted I had a standing invite!!

Bob First - April 30, 2024 at 01:21 PM

DT

“ *Mr. B. will be greatly missed by many. A life lived with compassion and empathy for others. Heartfelt prayers to his precious family and friends.*



Debby Thompson - April 30, 2024 at 12:59 PM

GT

“ *Wow! I am in shock and saddened that this man is gone. I just talked with him a few weeks ago. He was a class act, so positive and fun. I will miss him.*

Gabrielle Taylor - April 30, 2024 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ Seems like only yesterday we were in high school. Merle was always a good friend and for a long time we kept in touch. We know he went to soon for is on earth. For those who went before him they are all rejoicing.

Connie Craun Keatts - April 29, 2024 at 03:29 PM

KM

“ I went on a mission trip to Argentina last October with Merle. He will always be remembered by his wit, his belly laugh, his kindness, but most of all his love shown to others. Condolences to his family and friends.

Kathy Mannara - April 29, 2024 at 01:14 PM

GH

“ Seems like yesterday that Merle was attending Turner Ashby High School. He made a lot of friends and played with us on the baseball team. He always was a fun guy with a bunch of energy and appeared to stay that way throughout his life. He will be missed. Condolences to his family and friends.

Gary Heatwole - April 28, 2024 at 10:14 PM

MW

“ We attended church with Mr. B in WV and we are heart broken. He went above and beyond to build a connection with my son David. They were fast pals who would always make plans to meet up for ice cream after Davids therapy appointments. Thankful to have known such a Godly and giving man. Prayers for loved ones grieving

Myra Wright - April 28, 2024 at 08:59 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Merle Eugene Berkshire.*



April 28, 2024 at 08:45 PM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear about Merle's passing. Prayers for his family during this time. Blessings.*

Rev. Chris Griffin - April 28, 2024 at 08:32 PM



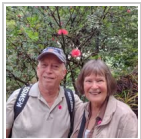
“ *My family attended church for many years with Merle and we became dear friends! Merle and i had many conversations throughout the years. About God, travel, and just about anything else possible! I never saw Merle end a conversation without that big smile and laugh !!! It will be missed! He was an example of how to enjoy your time here! I look forward to being with him again some day!*

Gary Tincher - April 28, 2024 at 08:28 PM



I will miss him . He was always so much fun! Such a very nice man.

Judy Way - April 29, 2024 at 01:52 PM



“ *Merle was a member of The Villages Croquet Club and a good player and friend, We will miss him here in the Villages. Our condolences to his family on their loss. Andy and Bonnie Robert*

Andre Robert - April 28, 2024 at 05:44 PM