



Byron Walter Thornton Jr.

January 20, 1933 - August 17, 2024

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BYRON “WINDY” THORNTON, 91, of Kermit, West Virginia, passed away on August 17, 2024. Byron was a lifelong resident of Kermit. He was born in Kermit on January 20, 1933 to the late Byron W. Thornton, Sr. and Roxie Carlton Thornton. He is survived by two daughters, Elaine Endicott (Dr. J.W.) of Kermit and Leslye Thornton of Winston-Salem, North Carolina; two sons, B.W. Thornton, III (Dr. Alice) of Lexington, Kentucky and James Thornton (Karon) of Raleigh, North Carolina; and eight grandchildren, Dr. Elizabeth Endicott of Hurricane, West Virginia and Katherine Endicott of Kermit, Matthew Thornton (Kallie) of St. Paul, Minnesota, Dr. Zachary Thornton of Cincinnati, Ohio, Benjamin Thornton of Lexington, Kentucky, Dr. Madeline Thornton of Durham, North Carolina, Sam Thornton of Raleigh, North Carolina and Clay Thornton of Durham, North Carolina. Byron is predeceased by his wife, Ruth Marcum Thornton. He is also predeceased by his sister, Betty Jo Helmick of Teays Valley, West Virginia.

Byron was a graduate of Kermit High School and Marshall College, where he received his degree in Retail Marketing. While in high school, he was a member of the 1950 Class B state runner-up basketball team. At Marshall, he was a member of the Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity and active in the jazz ensemble. An accomplished drummer, Byron spent several years as a member of various “big band” jazz groups playing for dances and gatherings

in the Tug Valley and Tri-State area. Byron worked alongside his mother, Roxie, and his wife, Ruth, as co-owner of Thornton's Department Store in Kermit. Thornton's provided family clothing to the surrounding Kermit area for 47 years until Byron and Ruth retired in 1995. After retirement, Byron began working at the Warfield Branch of the Inez Deposit Bank where he could be found interacting with patrons.

Byron and Ruth were married on November 24, 1954 at the Kermit United Methodist Church. The couple then spent 18 months in Germany where Byron was serving in the United States Army. The couple resided with a German family in Weinheim, Germany and traveled to various locations throughout Europe.

Byron was a man of strong Christian faith and life-long member of the Kermit United Methodist Church where he served many leadership roles. Byron was also a leader in the surrounding Kermit area, serving on the board of directors of many organizations and foundations. Byron was an active member in the Kermit Kiwanis Club. An avid sports fan, Byron was instrumental in organizing youth athletics in the Kermit area and led efforts to provide athletic facilities. He was also an integral part of a delegation of Tug Valley area leaders who lobbied Congress in Washington, D.C. to provide adequate flood control measures for communities along the Tug River.

Byron was a friend to many. His genuine kindness and personal connection brought happiness to everyone around him. More than anything, Byron's greatest joy came from being a loving husband, father and grandfather.

Visitation will be held on August 22, 2024 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Callaham Funeral Home in Inez, Kentucky with additional visitation from 10:00 am to 11:00 am at Kermit United Methodist Church prior to funeral services.

Funeral services will be conducted on August 23, 2024 at 11:00am at Kermit United Methodist Church, with Pastor Ronnie Pinson officiating. Interment services will follow at Mountain View Memory Gardens, Maher, West Virginia.

Donations may be made in memory of Byron at Kermit United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 455, Kermit, West Virginia 25674. Arrangements are under

the direction of the Callaham Funeral Home, Inez, Kentucky.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **22**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Callaham Funeral Home, Inez Location
278 West Main St.
Inez, KY 41224
(606) 298-3501
kellycallaham@yahoo.com
<http://www.richmond-callaham.com>

Funeral Service

AUG **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Kermit United Methodist Church
US-52
Kermit, WV 25674
(304) 393-3739

Tribute Wall

LC

“ Love, Susan Cappellari purchased the *Your Light Shines* for the family of Byron Walter Thornton Jr..



Love, Susan Cappellari - August 22, 2024 at 02:21 PM

 Jeanie Robinson

“ Windy was one of my dad's best friends. He was so good to me when I moved to Kermit to teach. He had the kindest heart. I will really miss him. I am sure he and dad are hanging out in Heaven and smiling down on all of us.

Jeanie Robinson - August 22, 2024 at 11:30 AM

DD

“ Darryl D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Byron Walter Thornton Jr..

Darryl D. - August 21, 2024 at 10:08 AM

LG

“ Love! Lisa, Chris and Rebecca&Co girls planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Byron Walter Thornton Jr..

Love! Lisa, Chris and Rebecca&Co girls - August 20, 2024 at 09:59 PM

LG

“ *Love! Lisa, Chris and Rebecca&Co girls purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Byron Walter Thornton Jr..*



Love! Lisa, Chris and Rebecca&Co girls - August 20, 2024 at 09:59 PM

HM

“ *I'm so sorry about your dad Elaine.*

Harold Marcum - August 20, 2024 at 06:06 PM

ES

I'm so sorry for your loss Elaine.

Evelyn stamper - August 20, 2024 at 07:53 PM

DG

Byron, was a great person to work for at Thorton. Sorry for your loss. Ruth Goble , Debbie Goble.

debbie goble - August 22, 2024 at 08:59 AM

CM

“ *Cathy Peden and Janet Morris purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Byron Walter Thornton Jr..*



Cathy Peden and Janet Morris - August 20, 2024 at 03:49 PM

SS

“ Sharon Smith planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Byron Walter Thornton Jr..

Sharon Smith - August 20, 2024 at 03:42 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Byron Walter Thornton Jr..



August 20, 2024 at 03:42 PM

DC

“ Duke University Office of Counsel planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Byron Walter Thornton Jr..

Duke University Office of Counsel - August 20, 2024 at 10:36 AM

DC

“ Duke University Office of Counsel purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Byron Walter Thornton Jr..



Duke University Office of Counsel - August 20, 2024 at 10:36 AM

DT

“ Debra T. purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Byron Walter Thornton Jr..



Debra T. - August 20, 2024 at 09:51 AM

AT

“ I'm so sorry to hear of the loss of Byron. My grandmother Tennie Meade and my mom Lois Meade-Viars worked at Thornton's, with my grandmother retiring from there. I can remember my mom taking me to Thornton's every fall to get new clothes and shoes for school. Byron was always there with a big friendly smile ready to assist with any needs or questions, or just to greet us and chat a little. I have many fond memories of Byron and Ruth and the store. He was a wonderful Christian man and will be missed by many. Keeping the family in my thoughts and prayers. 🙏❤️

Andrea Viars Thomas - August 20, 2024 at 09:11 AM

EM

“ Dear Family, I am so very sorry for your loss. I remember what sweet, good man as well a man of God he was my whole life. God Bless everyone Eva (Hatcher) Martino from Florida



Eva Martini - August 20, 2024 at 06:45 AM

WC

“ Dear Elaine, Leslye, B.W., James and families,

I am so sorry to hear that you have lost your dad. I have known him my entire life and have always had the utmost respect for him. He, along with your mom, were always so active in the church and worked hard for the community.

He was kind and caring and actually, we are all better for having known him. His was a life well-lived.

I will be keeping all of you in my prayers!

Hugs to all, Walli Miller Conn

Walli Miller Conn - August 20, 2024 at 12:56 AM

JC

“ Joann Chapman lit a candle in memory of Byron Walter Thornton Jr.



Joann Chapman - August 19, 2024 at 11:04 PM

JC

“ Janet Johnson Cantees planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Byron Walter Thornton Jr..

Janet Johnson Cantees - August 19, 2024 at 10:45 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Byron Walter Thornton Jr..*



August 19, 2024 at 10:45 PM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Byron Walter Thornton Jr..*



August 19, 2024 at 09:00 PM



“ *The Barry Marcum Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Byron Walter Thornton Jr..*



The Barry Marcum Family - August 19, 2024 at 06:19 PM

BW

“ I opened FB and the first thing I saw was Mr. Thornton's obituary. I was shocked and saddened. As a child I loved to go in his store with mom when she purchased dad's suits. He and his wife were so friendly. Afterward we would go down to the Bargain Basement to see his mother. It was like visiting family everytime we went into their store. I grew up with B.W, we went to school together since we were 4 yrs old in headstart. He married my cousin Alice. My heart absolutely breaks for all the family. I know it is a great loss for them as well as the community. I'll always have fond childhood memories of him. May God bring comfort and peace to his family and close friends.

Bernice Meade Webb - August 19, 2024 at 06:09 PM

WM

God be with the Thornton family give them peace and comfort lord Mr Thornton was a wonderful person he was always good to me and our family our mother would love going in his store which was bargain basement he was good to everyone and everyone loved him to my heart goes out to the Thornton family may God be with you all I know Mr Thornton is resting in peace now his with his father in heaven 🙏🙏
God bless Wanda Spaulding Marcum

wanda spaulding marcum - August 19, 2024 at 07:16 PM

BS

“ I remember him we was in his store a lot he was a good man r.i.p.

Barry Speer - August 19, 2024 at 03:40 PM

SA

“Byron was a friend to many. His genuine kindness and personal connection brought happiness to everyone around him”. A perfect sentence to describe him and my opinion. I was not a personal friend although I have special memories of going to Kermit to the store as a child and an adult. I'm so glad I was able to introduce my self to him at the Martin County Health Care Facility as his daughter was leaving and he sat in the lobby before going back to his room .I was drawn to him to tell him what special memories I have of Throtons. I shared with him how my dad took me there to buy my first pair of smalls heels that my mother absolutely refused to allow me to have . He smiled so nicely and thanked me for sharing my memory with him . As the sentence above that someone wrote in his obituary so accurately describes him his smile and words to me were genuine he was happy I shared my memory with him and I was too. I'm sorry for the families lost of their father and grandfather .



Sandy McCoy Adkins - August 19, 2024 at 03:40 PM

ES

My Dad always took us to Thornton's to buy our school clothes. one pair of pants and a shirt.

Elliot Sartin - August 19, 2024 at 04:18 PM

NR

I am sad to learn of our (& I mean MANY people's) loss. Windy was so caring to all - always. As a teenager I worked at his store during Christmas holidays wrapping Christmas gifts. It seemed that he was in good Cheer year around. So many of us bought everything that we could at his store. I too remember getting my first pair of small white heels & nylons at his store. The last time I talked with him was 10 years ago this December when he attended my mother's viewing (Nannie Rouse). That was so kind. My mother worked at his store for so many years & his loyalty was true.

Nancy Rouse-Nossoff - August 19, 2024 at 08:43 PM

RM

I was driving through Kermit last Thursday with my mother and for some reason we started talking about Windy and what he might be doing these days. What I remember most about him is how he made everyone feel important including me as a child. A truly great man whose memory will endure far beyond his life on this earth.

Russell McCoy - August 20, 2024 at 08:31 AM

DL

Definitely one of the kindest men I ever knew. I'm so sorry for your loss.

Donelle (Runyon) Little - August 20, 2024 at 10:01 PM