



Wilburn Thomas "Hawkey" Preece

August 25, 2025

With a heavy heart, we announce the passing of our dear husband, father, papaw, brother, and uncle, Wilburn Thomas "Hawkey" Preece Jr. Hawkey departed this world surrounded by his loving family on August 25th, 2025, at St. Mary's Medical Center. He was born February 24th, 1956, in Tomahawk, Kentucky, to the late Mary Virginia "Coonie" and Wilburn Thomas Preece Sr.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Janet Brewer Preece, and his daughters, Caressa Muncy and her husband, Daniel, of Kermit, WV, and Kesheia Matheny and her husband, Jeff, also of Kermit. His grandchildren Haleigh Muncy (Elijah Fluty), Garrett Hensley, Harper Muncy, Preston Matheny, and Sadie Matheny. His siblings Mary Ann (Steve) Kominar, Emma (Ronnie) Muncy, Linda Gail (Monk) Sartin, Brenda Preece, Debbie (David) Dodd, Donnie (Angie) Preece, Robin (Doug) Collins, Michelle Preece, Stella (J.R.) Hinkle, and Reco Brandon (Robin) Preece, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Hawkey is preceded in death by siblings William Harold "Bull" Preece, James Edward "Jimbo" Preece, Timmy Dale Preece, and Stevie Preece.

Hawkey Preece was a dedicated member of the Kermit United Baptist Church, served on the Kermit Buddy League Board of Directors, was a 20-year member of the Kermit Town Council, and a lifetime member and current fire chief of the Kermit Volunteer Fire Department. He was also a retired

employee of LST and Consol Energy. Throughout his life, he remained an avid supporter of Kermit K-8 and Tug Valley High School athletics. More than any other accomplishment, Hawkey will always be known for his servant's heart. Most recently, the flooding of February 2025, in which his actions truly minimized the devastation of those impacted, while also uplifting the communities left in its wake. More than just an active community member, Hawkey lit up the lives of any and all children blessed to be his neighbors on "The Backstreet" of Kermit.

Visitation will commence on Wednesday, August 27th, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, and continue from 6:00 to 9:00 pm on Thursday, August 28th, at the Old Kermit Gym. On these evenings, special services will begin at 7:00. Funeral Services will also be held at this location on Friday, August 29th, at 12:00 pm with Freddie Messer officiating. Burial to follow at the Preece Family Cemetery in Warfield, Kentucky. Pallbearers will be Ricky Hundley, Silas Belt, Davey Jude, Odell Sartin, Eric Sartin, Jeff Kirk, JW Endicott, Channing Preece, Bryson Preece, Chase Crum, and Jerry Ratliff. Honorary pallbearers will be Ronnie Brewer, Bud Kirk, Charles Sparks, and Matt Clovis, as well as the members of the Kermit Volunteer Fire Department.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 27. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Old Kermit High School Gymnasium
101 Main St
Kermit, WV 41224

Visitation

AUG 28. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Old Kermit High School Gymnasium
101 Main St
Kermit, WV 41224

Funeral Service

AUG 29. 12:00 PM (ET)

Old Kermit High School Gymnasium
101 Main St
Kermit, WV 41224

Tribute Wall

TW

“ So sorry to hear about Hawkie passing away. An old friend that I haven't seen in many years. But I will never forget his friendship and memories. My thoughts and prayers are with his family members and friends. You certainly will be missed.

Tim Webb - August 29, 2025 at 09:55 AM



Thank you! Michelle Preece

Michelle Preece - October 20, 2025 at 10:03 PM

JM

“ Jim, Billy & Mo purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Wilburn Thomas "Hawkey" Preece.



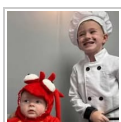
Jim, Billy & Mo - August 28, 2025 at 02:58 PM

DG

“ Rest In Peace Chief I will sorely miss our talks about rescues, and your knowledge of Fire Fighting. Even though we were not blood you were one I called a Brother, and a friend I could depend on to assist when needed.



Doug Goolsby - August 28, 2025 at 11:25 AM



Thank you Doug! He loved you!

Michelle Preece - October 20, 2025 at 10:05 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Wilburn Thomas "Hawkey" Preece.*



August 28, 2025 at 07:35 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Wilburn Thomas "Hawkey" Preece.

August 28, 2025 at 07:35 AM



“ *Jeffro lit a candle in memory of Wilburn Thomas "Hawkey" Preece*



Jeffro - August 28, 2025 at 05:37 AM



“ *Sharon Harmon lit a candle in memory of Wilburn Thomas "Hawkey" Preece*



Sharon Harmon - August 27, 2025 at 11:38 PM



“ Pam, Prissy, Trish and Pheshie (Munvy’s) purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Wilburn Thomas "Hawkey" Preece.



Pam, Prissy, Trish and Pheshie (Munvy’s) - August 27, 2025 at 07:33 PM



“ Pam, Prissy, Trish and Pheshie (Munvy’s) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wilburn Thomas "Hawkey" Preece.

Pam, Prissy, Trish and Pheshie (Munvy’s) - August 27, 2025 at 07:33 PM



“ Hawkey was a great guy, I’m proud to have served under him. The last 10 years I haven’t seen him much but I still often times remember joking and carrying on with him at the station. After I moved I continued to vote in Kermit because I knew I’d see Hawkey and a few of the guys. It gives me reason to stop in Kermit. It won’t be the same without him out there asking who I’m voting for. Haha. Kermit won’t be the same without him. But Everything aside, I want to say to the family that I’m sorry that you all are having to go through this difficult situation and that I wish everyone the best through these trying times.

John Moore “Opie” - August 27, 2025 at 05:46 PM



Michelle Preece - September 09, 2025 at 12:16 PM



Yes he was

Michelle Preece - October 20, 2025 at 10:06 PM



“ *Jessica Preece sent a virtual gift in memory of Wilburn Thomas "Hawkey" Preece*



Jessica Preece - August 27, 2025 at 08:56 AM

PC

“ *Pamela Chafin lit a candle in memory of Wilburn Thomas "Hawkey" Preece*



pamela chafin - August 27, 2025 at 06:02 AM

JC

“ *So sorry for your loss!! Rip Hawkey*



Joann Chapman - August 27, 2025 at 06:01 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Wilburn Thomas "Hawkey" Preece.*



August 26, 2025 at 11:34 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Wilburn Thomas "Hawkey" Preece.

August 26, 2025 at 11:34 PM



“ *Kathy Chambers lit a candle in memory of Wilburn Thomas "Hawkey" Preece*



Kathy Chambers - August 26, 2025 at 11:24 PM



“ *Prayers for God's comfort for the family during this difficult time. 🙏*



Dica Ann Parsley-Johnson - August 26, 2025 at 11:14 PM

SC

“ I will remember Hawkey as someone who cared for others in need. He would often contact me at Christian Help seeking resources to help a needy family in the community. He also would round up his fellow firefighters to help when Christian Help had large distributions at the old car wash or to help load or unload large trucks of donations. Job well done good and faithful servant. God bless you Hawkey. Love & prayers, Sister Therese Carew



Sister Therese Carew - August 26, 2025 at 10:50 PM



Thank you Sister!

Michelle Preece - August 27, 2025 at 12:16 AM



Thank you

Michelle Preece - September 09, 2025 at 12:17 PM

SL

“ Sue Light lit a candle in memory of Wilburn Thomas "Hawkey" Preece



Sue Light - August 26, 2025 at 09:27 PM

RC

“ Richard C sent a virtual gift in memory of Wilburn Thomas "Hawkey" Preece



Richard C - August 26, 2025 at 09:10 PM

WG

“ Wayne Giffin lit a candle in memory of Wilburn Thomas "Hawkey" Preece



wayne giffin - August 26, 2025 at 08:46 PM

SK

“ Sharon Kirk lit a candle in memory of Wilburn Thomas "Hawkey" Preece



sharon kirk - August 26, 2025 at 08:31 PM

WG

You will be miss my friend rest in peace

wayne giffin - August 26, 2025 at 08:42 PM