



Willie E Norris Jr

May 12, 1925 - March 12, 2017

Willie E. "Fess" Norris, Jr., 91, passed on March 12, 2017. His final days were spent surrounded by family. He was born in Jonesville, SC, the son of Reverend and Mrs. Willie E. Norris, Sr. He was a graduate of Hampton University where he gained a degree in Automotive Services. He worked for TVA at Boone Dam. He was employed as a teacher in the Johnson City, TN school system for 36 years where he taught Brick Masonry and Auto Mechanics for the Johnson City Vocational School at Langston High School. He retired as an Auto Mechanics teacher at Science Hill Vocational School. He was a WWII veteran. He was an avid Dallas Cowboys and NASCAR fan. He was also known as "The Puzzle Man".

He was a member and served actively in a number of positions at Thankful Baptist Church. He was a charter member of the Pro-To Club. He was a member of NAACP, UMOJA, Washington County AARP, Iota Lambda Sigma fraternity, Washington County Retired Teachers, SALT, and Senior Saints. He was previously a board member of Boy Scouts of America, former director of Jackie Robinson Boys Club, and NACAT (National Association of College Automotive Teachers).

He was preceded in death by his parents, his son Haynes E. Norris and two grandchildren, Jason M. Fields and Jamie Lynn Fields. He leaves to mourn his wife of 72 years, Thelma Haynes Norris; his daughter Jackie (Fred) Fields, Murfreesboro, TN; his son Thomas (Kimberly) Norris, Bristol, TN; his grandchildren Karin Petway, Murfreesboro, TN; Angela Barkley, Columbus,

OH; Tony Sewell, Memphis, TN; Ashleigh (Tekai) Norris-Shu, Bristol, TN; Jason Norris, Bristol, TN; Adrienne Norris, Murfreesboro, TN; Ezekiel Watterson, Boston, MA; Kyerra Norris, Bristol, TN; Kailyn Norris; Bristol, TN; three inherited grandchildren Tracy (Joe) Mintz, Woodstock, GA , Ryan Parks, Bristol, TN and Arvid (Daphne) Hall; his 17 great grandchildren, two great-great grandchildren, a loving godson, John F. Birchette, IV, Johnson City, TN and a host of cousins, nieces and nephews. He leaves also to mourn two long-time special friends, Robert "Buck" Johnson and Deborah Jones. Visitation with the family will be Saturday, March 18, 2017, between 10-11:30 AM with the funeral immediately following at 11:30 AM at Thankful Baptist Church, 1501 E. Watauga Ave, Johnson City, TN. The family will receive friends at all other times at the home of Willie & Thelma Norris, 211 Elm Street, Johnson City, TN

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **18**. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Thankful Baptist Church
1501 E Watauga Ave
Johnson City, TN 37601
(423) 926-5241

Service

MAR **18**. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Thankful Baptist Church
1501 E Watauga Ave
Johnson City, TN 37601
(423) 926-5241

Interment

MAR **18**. 1:00 PM - 1:15 PM (ET)

Washington County Memory Gardens
113 Memory Gardens Rd.
Johnson City, TN 37615

Tribute Wall

LB

“ So sorry to hear. Mr Norris was a great man and a wonderful teacher.

Louise Bentley - March 29, 2017 at 11:19 AM

LL

“ 1 file added to the album Tribute Wall



Linda Thomas Long - March 19, 2017 at 09:55 PM

MF

“ Mary(Cissy)Rollins And Family lit a candle in memory of Willie E Norris Jr



Mary(Cissy)Rollins and family - March 19, 2017 at 04:39 AM

LL

“ 1 file added to the album Tribute Wall



Linda T. Long - March 18, 2017 at 08:46 AM

LL

Photo from the map on Willie's wall taken by cousin Linda Thomas Long From SC

Linda T. Long - March 18, 2017 at 08:52 AM

HD

“ *Tim and I send our thoughts and prayers to Mrs. Thelma and family. I have enjoyed knowing Thelma as a fellow teacher in Johnson City Schools for many years. Mr. Willie was my husband, Tim's VERY Favorite teacher ever, for Auto Mechanics as an adult learner/ student at Science Hill. Although I moved up to teach at "The Hill " after Willie retired, I knew and loved him too. He was a fine man, loved by all. We love you Mrs Thelma ❤️ Tim hopes to be at the funeral home, I am out of town. Again prayers and love, Holly and Tim Davison*

Holly Davison - March 17, 2017 at 09:32 PM

CL

“ *Carolyn Livingston lit a candle in memory of Willie E Norris Jr*



Carolyn Livingston - March 17, 2017 at 05:16 PM

GF

“ *Sometime you can choose where you live but you can't always choose your neighbors. The Norris' played an important role in our neighborhood and in the life of the Fain family. Mr. (and Mrs.) Norris were mentors to their students and, while not perfect, Mr. Norris was an example of what a father and a husband could be.*

Geneva Fain - March 17, 2017 at 10:35 AM

LW

“ Louise Williams lit a candle in memory of Willie E Norris Jr



Louise Williams - March 16, 2017 at 11:47 PM

LW

Mr Norris was a very good man he talk to me when I was a student at SHHS and i will always be thankful for his guidance and encouraging words m ay God bless you all at this time of your loss but know he is with the lord

Louise Williams - March 16, 2017 at 11:51 PM

AH

“ Ive known Mr. Norris and his family since I was very young and I'm very proud that I became a member of his family some years ago. I pray for his soul and family during this time and hope that the healing process will be begin as he is laid to rest.

Arvid Hall - March 16, 2017 at 10:59 AM

SU

“ Jackie,
Pam and I send our prayers, thoughts, and condolences to you and your Family. Your Father truly lived a full, honorable, and rewarding life. Keeping you, Fred, and Family in prayer! Love Sam & Pam Lyons

Samuel Lyons - First Baptist usher - March 15, 2017 at 09:55 AM

MS

“ So very sorry to hear of the loss of Mr.Norris.
He was a great man.He would always greet
you with you with a smile.



Martha Sanders - March 15, 2017 at 09:50 AM

RB

“ Karin and family, Our thoughts and prayers
are with you during your time of loss.



Rose Beckett - March 15, 2017 at 09:30 AM

BR

“ I would like to pass on my condolences to the Norris family. A
graduate of The Hill in 1975, I never took anything in vocational
school, but EVERYONE knew Mr. Norris. May God wrap his loving
arms around each of you during this time.

*Bob Ramsey
London, England*

Bob Ramsey - March 15, 2017 at 02:50 AM

AS

“ Jackie, what a wonderful full life he lived, may God continue to give
you strength and bless you and your family, keeping you in prayer
with love. Annie Spann

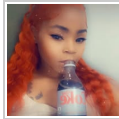
Annie Spann - March 14, 2017 at 08:07 PM

GM

“Willie was an awesome man who would always tease and bring a smile to your face. He adored his beautiful wife and they are an example of what marriage should be like. I worked with Willie at Science Hill for a long time and enjoyed being a co-worker with him. He was a Godly man and I know God's arms were stretched outward to receive His son to say Well Done to Willie. I pray that Willie's family will rely on their many memories of their husband, Dad, brother, grandfather, great grandfather, cousin, uncle, friend, church member, etc. to get them through their lost but realize Willie is in the arms of Jesus and will be with his family that has preceded him to heaven. May God Bless his family in His arms and let them know that God is our Comforter and Strengthens us in our time of need. Love to all of you.

Glenda Whitehead McCracken: 214 E. Rime Street, Orfordville, WI 53576

Glenda G. McCracken - March 14, 2017 at 08:04 PM



Thanks Mrs. McCracken, I hope you are doing well.

EzJuan Porter Norris - March 17, 2017 at 04:20 PM

JD

“So sorry to learn of Mr. Norris' passing. He was my auto mechanics instructor back in the mid '70's. He was a great teacher and a wonderful man. Thanks for teaching me the path of fuel through a 4 bbl carburetor and trying to teach me how a Mazda rotary engine works. God Bless.

Jim Deakins
Charleston, WV

Jim Deakins - March 14, 2017 at 06:59 PM

TD

“ Sorry to here about the loss. He was a.great man. And a great teacher enjoyed. Having him for auto..MEC...Teacher. We will miss you fess.

Troy dale. - March 14, 2017 at 06:14 PM

PT

“ Praying for the family during this time. Remember when I was in school and we would cook lunch at vocational school in Food Service. Mr. Norris would come by every day and get those wonderful chocolate cookies we would make and kid with all of us. RIP Mr. Norris

Pauletta Y Hale-Thomas

Pauletta Thomas - March 14, 2017 at 05:21 PM

GM

Yes Pauletta he really was about the first in line to get the cookies you all made in lab. Mrs. Glenda Whitehead McCracken

Glenda G. McCracken - March 14, 2017 at 08:07 PM

CM

Jackie and Karin...I am thinking of you guys and praying for your strength and comfort during your time of bereavement. Love you both CeKeating March

Celestine March - March 18, 2017 at 09:20 AM

NP

“ Nancy Posey lit a candle in memory of Willie E Norris Jr



Nancy Posey - March 14, 2017 at 04:54 PM

EH

“ So sorry to hear of the Homegoing of your father Ms. Jackie, I will keep you and your family in prayer

Eric Holiday
Usher...First Baptist Church

Eric Holiday - March 14, 2017 at 04:10 PM

DL

“ Darlene Lampkin lit a candle in memory of Willie E Norris Jr



Darlene Lampkin - March 14, 2017 at 02:30 PM

GG

“ So many memories. My sincere condolences to Mrs Norris and the entire family.

Gail Goines - March 14, 2017 at 01:16 PM

GG

“ Gail Goines lit a candle in memory of Willie E Norris Jr



Gail Goines - March 14, 2017 at 01:13 PM

CR

“ Our hearts are heavy as we, too, share in the sorrow of the passing of Mr. Norris. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to you, Mrs. Norris, Jackie, Tommy, Karin, Debbie McC, and the many grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and special friends. Mr. Norris's wisdom and wit was always appreciated and his mischievous smile always radiated the room. As those of us who knew him realize that he knew who his Creator was and just as the precious picture of him on Facebook demonstrated, he humbled himself before his Lord as shown when he prayed on his knees nightly. Let each of us follow his example and know that as he is now reunited with those who have crossed through the veil that separates us between life and death, we will stand before our Creator and answer whether it is well with our souls...there is no doubt that Mr. Norris was able to answer "Yes." The community is going to be a little less bright, but his legacy will live on, and those of us who had the privilege to know him are blessed to have done so. Let us teach and live by his example so that his living will never have been in vain. God Bless you and may He provide you with the comfort of His Love and bring you peace during your difficult times.

Cecil E. and Clara Faye Hart Rutledge

Clara H Rutledge - March 14, 2017 at 10:59 AM

KB

“ Keith And Cynthia Brady lit a candle in memory of Willie E Norris Jr



Keith and Cynthia Brady - March 14, 2017 at 10:41 AM

JC

“ James And Brenda Charles lit a candle in memory of Willie E Norris Jr



James And Brenda Charles - March 14, 2017 at 10:19 AM

JC

“ James And Brenda Charlesb lit a candle in memory of Willie E Norris Jr



James And Brenda Charlesb - March 14, 2017 at 10:06 AM

JC

Mrs Morris and Family, we would like to offer our sympathy on the loss of your loved one Mr. Norris will be missed.

James And Brenda Charles - March 14, 2017 at 10:45 AM

TJ

“ Mrs. Norris, Jackie, and Tommy,
I would like to offer my deepest sympathy on the loss of your loved one. Your family and mine go back a long way. Mr. Norris will certainly be missed by all who knew him. I want you to know that your family is in my thoughts and prayers as you go through this difficult time.
Sincerely,
Thomas "Tom" Hager, Jr.



Thomas "Tom" Hager, Jr. - March 14, 2017 at 09:14 AM

JD

“ *James And Evelyn Dugger lit a candle in memory of Willie E Norris Jr*



James and Evelyn Dugger - March 14, 2017 at 08:13 AM

SM

“ *Prayers to the Norris Family.*



Stefanie Murphy - March 14, 2017 at 08:04 AM

RD

“ *Ralph & Glodine Davis lit a candle in memory of Willie E Norris Jr*



Ralph & Glodine Davis - March 14, 2017 at 06:36 AM

DM

“ *Darrell & Janice Murphy lit a candle in memory of Willie E Norris Jr*



Darrell & Janice Murphy - March 14, 2017 at 05:57 AM

PD

“ *Pauline Douglas lit a candle in memory of Willie E Norris Jr*



Pauline Douglas - March 13, 2017 at 06:59 PM

RS

“ *Roz Saunders lit a candle in memory of Willie E Norris Jr*



Roz Saunders - March 13, 2017 at 03:31 PM

RB

“ *Roddy Bird lit a candle in memory of Willie E Norris Jr*



Roddy Bird - March 13, 2017 at 01:03 PM

JI

“ *John F. Birchette, IV lit a candle in memory of Willie E Norris Jr*



John F. Birchette, IV - March 12, 2017 at 07:46 AM