



Louie Ray Beasley

September 20, 1934 - October 11, 2023

Louie Ray Beasley passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, on the morning of Wednesday, October 11th, 2023, at the age of 89. He was born on September 20th, 1934, to Carl Beasley and Hettie Prim Beasley.

He is survived by his wife Wanda Guerin Beasley; daughters Teresa Coulson (David), Lora Riley (Mark), and Rhonda Thomas (Jason); brother Ralph Beasley; sisters Melda Jackson (Pete) and Janice Jackson (Wayne); grandchildren Shelley Riley (Mike), Eric Coulson (Autumn), and Anna Lee Thomas; 3 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents Carl and Hettie Beasley; sisters Christine Gail Beasley and Zelda Easter; brother Wayne Guy Beasley; and deceased wife of 35 years Shirley Dodson Beasley.

Lou was born in McDowell County, West Virginia, and grew up in Carroll County, Virginia. He enlisted in the United States Army in 1957, where he rose to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4 and retired in 1983. He served in the Vietnam War where he was the Avionics Officer in a Combat Aviation Battalion. He served in many duty stations and received many decorations, including the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, and Air Medal.

After retiring, Lou began a second career at CAS, Inc., where he worked for

many years.

Throughout his life, Lou had hobbies including hunting, fishing, archery, and playing traditional music. Later in life, he focused on music with the Huntsville Traditional Music Association, Madison County Ramblers, Log Cabin String Band, and Athens Dulcimer Group.

A memorial service for Mr. Beasley will be Sunday, October 15th, 2023, at 3:00pm at Emmanuel Baptist Church, with Bro. Dan Hughes and Bro. Ralph Elliott officiating. Visitation will be Sunday from 2:00-3:00pm at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Union University EDGE Program of Jackson, TN, Hospice of Limestone County, or Emmanuel Baptist Church.

Thank you to his amazing caregivers - Hospice of Limestone County, Darlene Colwell, Tiffany Evans, and the employees of Moore Care Health Solutions.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **15**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Emmanuel Baptist Church
1917 US Highway 72 W
Athens, AL 35611

Memorial Service

OCT **15**. 3:00 PM (CT)

Emmanuel Baptist Church
1917 US Highway 72 W
Athens, AL 35611

Tribute Wall

SP

“*My Big Cuz Louie meant so much to me. I remember his time visiting in Arlington, Va. and his dating. He was so handsome. I was younger and he seemed like a Dreamboat to me. Being younger I just remember mostly getting on the big escalator at the Hecht Co. and getting to ride up and down.*

Louie was very close to his family. You would see his face light up talking about Carroll Co., Va. and our Grandpa Beasley's farm. He used to follow Grandpa and help him with chores.

I could never tire of his music or storytelling. He was so proud of his musical family and treasured his instruments.

Louie would faithfully call early on Sunday mornings to check on my husband Jack. He would ask how things were and offer kind words of encouragement. Those calls made my day as he knew they would.

A couple of times he called just to ask about someone he had remembered that day and see if they were in our Family Tree. I would tell him about the person (one a very young girl who lived out the road and rode the school bus with him). Then he would comment "Sorry To Hear That" or "That's Too Bad". He remembered that person in a special way and just wanted to know how they were.

He could talk to you about anything. I was very often a recipient of his articles and photos. He would make a comment on the photos and say how hard it was to get this angle, etc. It made me appreciate photography more.

His times overseas were often discussed with my family. He made you very familiar with each assignment.

When he came home from Germany he was so excited to tell us about the girls and how they had mastered the Bow and Arrow. I

remember they won in competitions. He was so proud of them.

If you never got to taste some of his cooking you really missed something. He loved his barbecue and he made many pots of soup. My brother Danny uses his recipes often. He has the cooking bug too.

*Louie and I had a lasting love of Superior and Welch WV. Country Roads was a favorite song. Blessings and Peace Dear Buddy
Sheila Beasley Pinner*

Sheila Beasley Pinner - October 16, 2023 at 08:29 PM

“ I can't say enough about what a class act that Louie was. Years ago, infrequent conversations became more frequent as we continued to learn we had more in common about the way we thought about things. Louie's calm respectful demeanor drew me in, and I was anxious to learn more. His many stories and life experiences entertained me. Throughout the stories, I could tell there was a deeper layer to Louie's character. The theme was that he cared about helping people. Louie was consistently showing his love through his actions to others.

There are so many things I could say to describe Louie. He was a true gentleman who spoke kindly and respectfully to people. A life of selfless service to his country was complimented by a distinguished demeanor that made not only me, but others look up to him.

Louie was incredibly intelligent. His intelligence was often on display through a quick comedic comment that would stick with you forever.

Louie's intelligence motivated him to continue to learn throughout his life. He read and kept the owner's manuals for every item that required operation in his home. I dare say Louie was the most technically sound person that I have ever met. Not only did he read and master the manuals for everything, he knew exactly where those manuals were, even decades later. Louie was obsessively organized in an admirable way. I know that his characteristics of intelligence, organization, dedication and caring for his troops under him are what catapulted him to warrant officer where he thrived. I know everyone who worked under Louie respected him. Those who were ranked above him, knew they could count on him but also, they better not get out of line, or Louie would put them in their place. Louie's intelligence and passion led him to music where he also thrived. He mastered both playing and building beautiful instruments through his extensive woodworking skills (I mean really how talented is this guy?). My belief is that the thing Louie loved most about music was that it was a gateway for him to be around people. Whenever Louie made a friend, whether through music, the military, or a neighbor, those folks became lifelong friends. I believe that speaks most to Louie's amazing character. Much like Louie drew me in, he drew others in for life. No one could ever get enough

Louie.

From humble beginnings in carroll county Virginia where Louie would share stories with me about rabbit hunting as a young boy (he was gifted his first gun at 4 years old) or looking for Santa's sleigh tracks on the roof of their family's snow covered cabin, to a world traveler doing anything his country asked of him.

Every time I drink a Coke or eat a piece of chocolate anything, I will think of Louie because I know they were his favorites. Every time I eat a piece of chicken or fish, I will think of Louie because he could not stand them as a "hooves and horns kind of guy" as he described himself often. Of all the places that Louie traveled to, the most meaningful place to me was my heart where I will keep him forever. Louie was my best friend who I loved dearly, and I will miss him and think of him every day. I will do my best to live a life that will make him proud, and I will always share stories of him with his great grand children who love him and who he loved deeply.

Every day I still think it is time to call Louie to talk, but he is not there.

I can't wait until we talk again, Louie. I love you, Eric.

EC - October 15, 2023 at 04:38 PM

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EC - October 15, 2023 at 04:36 PM

SB

“ I will always cherish my time visiting Uncle Louie and Aunt Wanda while working at Browns Ferry. We jammed bluegrass together and played dulcimers with his buddies at their home and all over Athens. And when Jan visited me, we all went to dinner at Big Bob's BBQ. I had a wonderful Christmas Eve party at their home and dinner at Jason and Rhondas' Christmas day when I couldn't get home for the holidays. And cutting up at a reunion with Louie, Ralph, and Brad, talking about how lucky our wives were to marry us Beasley men.

Scott Beasley - October 14, 2023 at 01:12 PM

CM

“ We will miss our fellow veteran and friend very much. He was an inspiration from the moment we met at the gym in New Market at 530 AM back in 2010! He and Wanda provided so much encouragement and happy times when we visited them. We're thankful we heard him make music so often. Lou was caring and thoughtful, and he was a great storyteller. Thanks for being part of our lives. See you in Heaven! Much love to Wanda and the family, John and Cheryl McAuley

Cheryl McAuley - October 13, 2023 at 07:28 PM

DC

“ Mr. Lou was a wonderful friend and neighbor to me and my family for almost twenty years. He would always offer to help anytime we had a project going. We could not go outside together without stopping for a visit. It became so common that our two families bought benches and chairs and created our own small park at the end of our cul-de-sac so we could sit and visit when ever we wanted. Mr Lou taught my girls how to shoot a bow and we loved to hear him play music. Mr Lou will be missed by many. He was a good man.

David Coffey - October 13, 2023 at 06:49 PM

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Scott Beasley - October 13, 2023 at 05:31 PM

CR

“ A great musician and friend he played guitar with us one time at the Galax Fiddlers Convention, He loved his autoharp and dulcimer.

Clarence Roberts - October 12, 2023 at 02:32 PM

WB

“ We all will miss our Uncle Louie. He had a heart of gold and the sweetest soul. The music he played was absolutely amazing.. A wife that took such great care of him. Till we meet again in heaven, we will cherish all of our memories of the time we spent together thru out the years.. Our condolences to all of our sweet Alabama/ Virginia family your in our thoughts and prayers .. Love you all Brad and Wendy Beasley.

Wendy Beasley - October 12, 2023 at 02:55 AM