



William A. Lunsford, Jr.

May 13, 1921 - October 13, 2007

William A. "Smokey" Lunsford, Jr., 86 of Syracuse, New York died Saturday October 13, 2007 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse after a brief illness.

William was born in Milton, West Virginia on May 13, 1921 and has lived in Syracuse for over 60 years. He was a U.S. Army veteran of WW II and a 1949 graduate of Simmons School of Embalming & Mortuary Science. He owned and operated Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home, Inc. located in the city's Valley section on South Salina Street.

Smokey was a self made man who taught his family the value of hard work and a sense of humor. A job well done was expected of everyone he associated with. He had a variety of interests and hobbies including Church and making crafts for his family and friends. He loved to play cards and dance under the stars. His interest in politics always added depth and a challenge to any conversation.

Bill was a member of Konosioni Lodge #950 F&AM, Tigris Shrine Temple, Syracuse Court Royal Order Jester's, Onondaga-Oswego County Funeral Directors Association and First Baptist Church of Syracuse.

He is survived by his loving wife of 60 years the former Ola C. Cook; three daughters and sons-in-law, Barbara and Gregory Lester of Deposit, New York,

Cheryl and Ed Tribe of Bradenton, Florida, Bonnie and Eric Christopherson of LaFayette, New York; five grandchildren, Kurt (Sheila) Lester of Tully, New York, Shane (Ann Tyler) Lester of Deposit, New York, Darcy (Jason) Fortunato of Deposit, New York, Jennifer (Jonathan) Campbell of Bradenton, Florida and Matthew (Catherine) Newton of Wake Forest, North Carolina; eight great-grandchildren, Kurt Jr. and Caitlin Lester, Elisabeth and Jonathan Campbell, Reilly and Jack Newton, Caden and Blake Fortunato; one brother, Merrill (Annette) Lunsford of Milton, West Virginia; one sister, Ernestine (Frank) Mullens of Bidwell, Ohio; many nieces, nephews and cousins. Bill was predeceased by four brothers and five sisters.

Calling Hours: Wednesday, October 17, 2007, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home, 4612 South Salina Street, Syracuse, New York.

Services: Thursday, October 18, 2007, 11:00 a.m. at Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home with Rev. Scott Kavanagh officiating.

Burial: Onondaga Valley Cemetery, 2500 Valley Drive, Syracuse, New York.

Contributions may be made to a charity of one's choice.

LIFE LESSONS FROM BILL

YOU CAN ALWAYS FIND TREASURES IN OTHER PEOPLE'S CURBSIDE GARBAGE.

NEVER BE TOO PROUD TO RECYCLE.

COUNTRY MUSIC AND DANCING UNDER THE STARS WITH YOUR WIFE IS COOL.

IF SOMEONE ASKS YOU HOW OLD YOU ARE NEVER TELL THEM. JUST TELL THEM YOU ARE AS OLD AS YOUR TONGUE AND A LITTLE OLDER THAN YOUR TEETH.

HAVING HEART SURGERY DOESN'T HAVE TO SLOW YOU DOWN. IT CAN GIVE NEW MEANING TO LIFE.

A PERSON IS NEVER TOO OLD TO CHANGE UNHEALTHY HABITS.

A FATHER AND HUSBAND CLEANING THE HOUSE IS NORMAL AND NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.

SAYING "I LOVE YOU" IS NOT ALWAYS EASY FOR SOME PEOPLE. ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS.

SENIOR CITIZENS CAN BE SEXY. EVEN 80-YEAR-OLD MEN REALLY HAVE NICE LEGS.

HARD WORK NEVER KILLED ANYONE BUT ALWAYS RUSH TO GET IT DONE.

HAVE YOUR POOPER-SCOOPER WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES. YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU MIGHT NEED IT.

YOU CAN BE GENEROUS BUT IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO DISCUSS IT.

IF YOU KNOW YOU DID A GOOD JOB, BRAG ABOUT IT!!

SUPPORT AND GO TO YOUR CHURCH REGULARLY.

PAY RESPECT TO THE DEAD AND THEIR FAMILIES.

ALWAYS PAY OFF YOUR DEBTS EARLY.

IT ISN'T A GOOD POLICY TO BORROW MONEY OR THINGS FROM PEOPLE.

PICK UP AFTER YOURSELF.

IF IT ISN'T BROKEN, BREAK IT.

TALKING ON THE PHONE MORE THAN 5 MINUTES MAY GIVE YOU DIARHEA OF THE MOUTH.

LET YOUR KIDS MAKE MISTAKES AND LEARN FROM THEM.

ENJOY YOUR GRANDCHILDREN AND MAKE SURE THEY WILL CARRY ON SOME OF YOUR TALENTS.

RESPECT YOUR ELDERS AND THEIR LIFE EXPERIENCES.

IF YOU HAVE TO GET ANGRY, FIND IT IN YOUR HEART TO FORGIVE AND FORGET.

Tribute Wall



“ *Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of William A. Lunsford, Jr.*



Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home - October 13, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ *I will miss Grandpa. My earliest memory of him was when I 3? and I was sitting on his lap, fasinated that his teeth came out!!! I am very thankful that my family and I were able to visit in September. My daughter has a lasting memory of him.*

October 21, 2007 at 12:00 AM



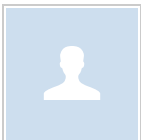
“ I worked for Mr. Lunsford from 1979-80 as an intern after graduating from SUNY-Canton. I have many fond memories of him, the majority of which make me laugh! He was the nicest person I ever worked for in my life. I have thought of him often over the years. I saw him at Turning Stone Casino in 1996 and after 16 years, he recognized me! We sat down and talked for about 20 minutes. It was great to see him and hear that his plan for his grandson to take over the business came true (as he always told everyone back when I worked there). I learned he continued to come to the funeral home everyday after he stepped out of the operating duties and called himself ""the janitor"" in typical Mr. Lunsford humor! I enjoyed his stories of growing up in depression-era West Virginia with that huge family of his, and the old stories of working for Mr. Ballweg. The legacy he leaves is a true testament to his hard-working values mixed with his fantastic sense of humor. I truly respected and loved the man! We will all miss him but he is truly sitting in a wonderful place right now... probably smiling down on us, having a chew of tobacco! God speed, Mr. L -- you were the best!

October 17, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ Mr. Lunsford was the kind of guy you never forget. He gave me the opportunity to do my internship with him after mortuary school. Little did I know that 30 years later, I'd still think about some of the things he taught me. One of them was that it could be fun to do what other funeral directors call the "grunt work." I am grateful that I had a residency in which I not only did traditional funeral work, but I mowed the lawn, painted doors, cleaned chairs, wiped down wallpaper, shoveled snow, and washed cars. And thankfully, because he was comfortable doing things that some men aren't, I also learned to make macramé plant hangers and latch hook rugs. He also taught me that rewards and positive reinforcement are important, frequently giving me a half-day or even a whole day off when we had spent the previous day working especially hard or long. Toward the end of my internship, I was pregnant and sometimes experienced morning sickness. Of course I was very self-conscious about it, but I'll always remember how he joked with me about it. He did it in such a kind sensitive way that it always made me laugh and even feel better. I remember one time when a funeral director/friend of his was short-handed, he went to that funeral home to embalm someone for him. As he walked out the door, taking a few of his own instruments with him, it made me smile. Then I realized that it made complete sense a?" kind of like a master craftsman, doing his best work with his own tools. He had a great sense of humor, showed generous compassion to others, and was a consistently good person. May you find comfort and laughter in sharing memories and feeling his sweet spirit.

October 17, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ To: Kurt, Family & Funeral Home Staff My thoughts and prayers are with you. Mr. Lunsford was a true gentleman. Kevin

October 17, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ The following are lessons we have learned from grandpa/dad. This was written by his family for his 80th Birthday. Grandpa, We will always cherish your memory. Love you!*YOU CAN ALWAYS FIND TREASURES IN OTHER PEOPLE'S CURBSIDE GARBAGE. NEVER BE TOO PROUD TO RECYCLE. COUNTRY MUSIC AND DANCING UNDER THE STARS WITH YOUR WIFE IS COOL. IF SOMEONE ASKS YOU HOW OLD YOU ARE NEVER TELL THEM. JUST TELL THEM YOU ARE AS OLD AS YOUR TONGUE AND A LITTLE OLDER THAN YOUR TEETH. HAVING HEART SURGERY DOESN'T HAVE TO SLOW YOU DOWN. IT CAN GIVE NEW MEANING TO LIFE. A PERSON IS NEVER TOO OLD TO CHANGE UNHEALTHY HABITS. A FATHER AND HUSBAND CLEANING THE HOUSE IS NORMAL AND NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF. SAYING I LOVE YOU IS NOT ALWAYS EASY FOR SOME PEOPLE. ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS. SENIOR CITIZENS CAN BE SEXY. EVEN 80-YEAR-OLD MEN REALLY HAVE NICE LEGS. HARD WORK NEVER KILLED ANYONE BUT ALWAYS RUSH TO GET IT DONE. HAVE YOUR POOPER-SCOOPER WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES. YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU MIGHT NEED IT. YOU CAN BE GENEROUS BUT IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO DISCUSS IT. IF YOU KNOW YOU DID A GOOD JOB, BRAG ABOUT IT!! SUPPORT AND GO TO YOUR CHURCH REGULARLY. PAY RESPECT TO THE DEAD AND THEIR FAMILIES. ALWAYS PAY OFF YOUR DEBTS EARLY. IT ISN'T A GOOD POLICY TO BORROW MONEY OR THINGS FROM PEOPLE. PICK UP AFTER YOURSELF. IF IT ISN'T BROKEN, BREAK IT. TALKING ON THE PHONE MORE THAN 5 MINUTES MAY GIVE YOU DIARRHEA OF THE MOUTH. LET YOUR KIDS MAKE MISTAKES AND LEARN FROM THEM. ENJOY YOUR GRANDCHILDREN AND MAKE SURE THEY WILL CARRY ON SOME OF YOUR TALENTS.* RESPECT YOUR ELDERS AND THEIR LIFE EXPERIENCES. IF YOU HAVE TO GET ANGRY, FIND IT IN YOUR HEART TO FORGIVE AND FORGET.

October 16, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ May the memories you cherish of your father bring you strength and comfort in your time of sorrow. Much love, The Seaver family

October 15, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ We are praying for the family and we know that Jr. will be missed. He is in a great place now. Just imagine he is walking with the Lord at this very moment, with a new perfect body and no pain what so ever. Love you guys sorry that we can't be there.

October 15, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ We are so sad we cannot be there. We are thinking of you and our prayers are with you. I am glad we got to come up and spend the night with them at least once. I enjoyed his stories. He will be missed. Love you kids, Pam and Keith

October 15, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ I am the husband of Smokey's niece, Sandra Mongak. I always looked forward to our visiting relatives in Syracuse, and Smokey most of all. I always enjoyed sharing current events, issues, values and Rush Limbaugh with this lovable rock-ribbed conservative. There was no pretense about him. Smokey spoke his mind directly without meandering, although he did blend in a keen sense of humor. Smokey embodied the America that we read about & admire, hard work, ethical values & common sense. If we could teach or bottle that of which Smokey was made, we could surely turn the country in the ""right"" direction. Smokey was a truly ""Great American."" I will miss him dearly.

October 15, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ You are all in our thoughts and prayers. So sorry for your loss.

October 15, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ I have so many memories growing up of visiting Uncle Smokey and Aunt Ola. My mother Olive (who passed away in February, 2000) was Ola's twin sister. When I think of Uncle Smokey, I think of a life force and it is hard to believe he is gone. He was so full of energy, hardwork and wit. I have many memories of visiting every summer and staying with HelenHibbard. After dinner at Helen's, my father, Dan, Uncle Harlan and Smokey would shoot pool in the basement and smoke cigars. Even though Smokey dealt with death every day as a funeral director, he was so full of life because he probably saw how fragile life is.I remember that during the height of the Aids epidemic,he was one of the few if not the only funeral director who would take Aids patients.He was a compassionate husband,father, grandfather and greatgrandfather. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.He did not go gently into that good night. He fought to the end to live because that was his personality.His was a life well-livedand I applaud him.Kurt, you are carrying on the legacy.Sandy

October 15, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ I am Claude's granddaughter, Junior's older brother. The last time I saw Junior was probably 20-some years ago at a reunion at the old home place. Looking at his picture in the paper today sure reminded me of my grandfather and Clovis. I'm sorry I really don't know the branch from NY, but I know it's a difficult time. My prayers and thoughts are with the family.

October 15, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ *He always had a smile on his face and was loved very much*

October 15, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ *Your family is in our prayers.*

October 15, 2007 at 12:00 AM



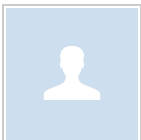
“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of loss. We love you.*

October 15, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ *"Smokey"- what a treasure of a man! He taught me So much during my year of residency, and not just about funeral directing, but about life. Such a dear, compassionate man. "Thank You, Smokey, With Love."Prayers to all the family.*

October 15, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our thoughts and Prayers are with all of you at this time.*

October 14, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ *You are all in our thoughts and prayers as you live through this sad time.*

October 14, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ I will never forget you dad. You taught me so much -You are the voice in my head.Thank you for being such a good father. I love you. Cheryl

October 14, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ Grandpa meant more to me than I ever knew. I am beyond lucky to have had him in my life. All his handmade gifts, jokes (I love them!)and many Christmas days at their house are memories I will have forever. We are all better people because of him. I love you grandpa!!!

October 14, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ wE ARE SO SORRY WE CANNOT BE WITH YOU AT THIS TIME. mERRILL HAD A GOOD CONVERSATION tHURSDAY NIGHT WITH jR AND THEY VISITED MORE THAN THEY HAD IN AGES. hE IS SO GLAD TO HAVE THAT MEMORY NOW. IOVE AND PRAYERS TO ALL OF YOU.

October 14, 2007 at 12:00 AM