



Nelson R. "Boots" Jennings

September 7, 2013

Jennings, Nelson "Boots" R., age 73, of New Martinsville, WV, died Saturday, September 7, 2013.

He was born June 17, 1940 in New Martinsville, the son of the late Homer and Wanda Coen Jennings.

Nelson was a 1958 graduate of Magnolia High School. He attended Potomac State College where he played football for legendary Coach Horse Lough. He graduated West Virginia University with a degree in Agriculture Education in 1965. Nelson taught Vocational Agriculture at Wahama High School in Mason County for 2 years. He then went to work for the Farmers Home Administration (now Rural Development) with the USDA. He retired as a supervisor after over 40 years of service.

Nelson grew up on a typical WV "hill farm" and maintained that the family values and work ethics he learned there were the most important facets of his life. He was a generous man who devoted his life to serving his family, community, and those in need.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Albert Jennings; and a son-in-law, Richard Robinson.

Survivors include his wife of 48 years, Joyce Kerr Jennings; a son, John (Mollie Toppe) Jennings of New Martinsville; two daughters, Susan (Jim) Alt of Charleston, WV and Jennifer Robinson of Fairmont, WV; and a sister, Fonda Colleen "Susie" (John R. "Sonny") Harman. He was a loving "Pap" to 10 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Family will receive friends on Tuesday from 1-3 and 6-8 p.m. at Grisell Funeral Home & Crematory, 751 Third Street, New Martinsville, where a Celebration of Life will be held on Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.

Interment in Craigs Chapel Cemetery, New Martinsville.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Nelson Jennings Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Magnolia High School, 601 Maple Avenue, New Martinsville, WV 26155.

Tribute Wall

NI

“ *hi uncle boots, it's Nicholas just wanted to let you know I think of you everyday. Miss you bunches.*

Nic - November 08, 2014 at 08:48 AM

JA

“ *Dad - it's Jim. I walked you to your grave while you walked me into my real self and life. I learned from you that I am worthwhile and have things to give to this world. You showed me what family means because I, like so many others, didn't really have that in my early years. I will miss talking about cars with you, especially those damn Fords! And I will miss just hearing your voice. It was the sound of a Dad to me. My Dad. So add me to your roll call of others you have adopted along the way. I love you Dad.*

Jim Alt - September 21, 2013 at 01:18 PM

SA

“ *Dad - there aren't words to express what I feel at your passing away. The typical ones just won't do to express this loss. Every since you picked me out - as you said - and went all the way to the State Supreme Court to "get me", I've known I was loved deeply. To me, this is so personal that I just won't and can't express sorrow. You taught me to love life - to love death as part of it. Some people don't have legends as Father's and I did. Simply put - I love and miss you with all my heart and soul. Goodbye Dad!*

Susan Paige Jennings Alt - September 19, 2013 at 12:42 AM

AN

“ *Much love to you all. I remember my mother accidentally leaving me behind at church after vacation bible school one night. Nelson sat with me, told me funny stories, and comforted me until she came to pick me up. Much of him lives on in you, John. Thinking of your family.*

andrea null - September 13, 2013 at 03:37 PM

JC

“ *It's been many years, but I have the best memories of those times when Nelson and his sweet family were our neighbors. Then we had Jane living next to the Jennings and just a few houses down from there where Kevin and Sherri. Joyce, God has Blessed me and our family by knowing all of you all. May God comfort you all.*

Jeff Cibulka and Family

Jeff Cibulka - September 13, 2013 at 02:57 PM

MA

“ *So sorry for your loss. Nelson was a kind man and will be missed by many. Prayers to the family. Madeline Adkins*

Madeline Adkins - September 11, 2013 at 10:04 AM

BW

“ *Praying for you all at this time. He was a very nice man, who had a story to tell and always kind words. He will be missed. - Betsy Westfall*

Betsy Westfall - September 11, 2013 at 10:03 AM

CS

“ My heartfelt sympathies go to you Joyce and John and the rest of the family. I worked next door Nelson for 10 years and have the upmost respect and love for him. He gave!! He gave kindness , his time, his ear, his touch to his clients as well as co workers. He would occasionally surprise me with a brownie . He knew I loved then. I admire him, slow to anger and gentle. He loved his son John and would beam just at the mention of his name. It hurts that he had to leave and I hurt for you all. He gave what he was asked to give to life without complaint. I'm feel honor to see that example and know some day we will meet again. Love and God's Care to you. Cathy Stricklin

cathy stricklin - September 10, 2013 at 07:47 PM

AD

“ John, your Dad was a kind man. He helped us buy our first home many, many years ago. He will be missed. Hugs to you and Mollie. Love, Amy

amy jo dieffenbauch - September 10, 2013 at 07:44 PM

DC

“ I will never be able to express how grateful my family is to Nelson. He was a god send is helping my mom getting her home. He became a great friend to our family. I hope he knew how much he touched our lives. The world has lost a great man. He will be missed by all who knew him. We only heard of Nelson's passing Monday evening and will be unable to attend funeral but your family will be in our hearts and prayers. Love, Mary and Diane Clark

Diane Clark - September 10, 2013 at 07:27 PM

SK

“ Dearest Family of Nelson Jennings,

I join with so many others who knew Nelson in offering our deepest sympathy on his passing. Although it is little consolation at this sad time, it should be of some satisfaction to know that in his passing you can celebrate the end of a very long and productive life, for every life has a purpose to fill, and he was a gift from heaven, whose purpose was to make this world understand what love, friendship, goodness, and humbleness was all about.

The measure of a life well-lived is not in how much money one has or what possessions they have accumulated, but rather through the lives they touched which Nelson touched many and the sorrow they leave behind. If the outpouring of sympathy on his loss is any indication, and it most certainly is, you can proudly and confidently say that his indeed was a life well-lived.

May you find peace and comfort in knowing that his loss is felt by all who knew and loved him.

*In Sympathy,
Sherrie Kinkade*

Sherrie Kinkade - September 10, 2013 at 07:10 PM

SL

“ *What an awesome tribute so many have said and it all fits Boots so well! I so wanted to be there to see you all but the distance made it too hard. My memories of Boots at the farm as a youngster and later on as an adult coming back are some of the fondest memories I have and many of them were because Boots was there to tell his stories and make it all so special. As a youngster Boots was there on many hunting trips my Dad and I would take to the farm and many times Boots would go with us or me and teach me about the woods and hunting. When my sons became teenagers I took them back to the farm and spent many days teaching them about hunting and farm life. Boots was always there to give of himself and teach them in his special way. He always made a trip to the farm to make sure we had everything, take us in the truck or on the tractor and tell my sons about the farm and life. They both have fond memories of it and talk about him so fondly. As many have said heaven gained a wonderful angel this week and I personally look forward to meeting him again and enjoying Boots pure love and concern for all and his wonderful stories.*

*Love and prayers to all of his family, may God bless you all!
Scott and Sue Lasure*

Scott Lasure - September 10, 2013 at 07:07 PM

LM

“ *RIP Nelson <3 You were a wonderful man who will be greatly missed. I had people message me that I never dreamt knew you and told me how amazing a person you were and how kind and generous. Deepest condolences to the family.*

Latasha Midcap - September 10, 2013 at 05:36 PM

BS

“ *I love you and miss you Pap. Everyday I will carry your love and memories on. You will be missed greatly. I love you.*

Brittany stout - September 10, 2013 at 03:20 PM

CM

“ *JENNINGS FAMILY, I AM SO SORRY TO HEAR OF YOUR LOSS. NELSON HELPED US PURCHASE OUR HOME ON THE COURTHOUSE STEPS WELL OVER 20 YEARS AGO. HE WAS SO HELPFUL IN LETTING US KNOW EXACTLY WHAT WE NEEDED TO DO. I KNOW THAT HE WAS AS HELPFUL TO MANY OTHERS. HE NEVER FORGOT A FACE OR NAME. GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU AT THIS TIME OF GREAT LOSS. REMEMBER THAT GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF NELSON NOW AND HE WILL WATCH OVER THE REST OF THE FAMILY. REST IN PEACE NELSON.*

CATHY STOUT MORRIS - September 10, 2013 at 03:20 PM

DN

“ *Joyce and Family,*

We are saddened to learn of Nelson's passing. God Bless the family as they go through the sorrow of saying goodbye to their loved one.

We will be thinking of you and regret we will not be able to pay our respects in person as we are out of town for the week.

David & Janice Nicholson - September 10, 2013 at 03:20 PM

KG

“ Dear Joyce and Family,

We are so sorry for your loss. Nelson had such a big heart and it showed in so many of the things he did. He was always one of the first to reach out to help any one in need. He was a caring person in general, but he had so much love for and pride in his family.

We send you love and sympathy and prayers that God will bless each of you with the comfort, peace and strength that only He can provide in this sorrowful time.

Love, Ken & Genieva

Ken & Genieva Glover - September 10, 2013 at 03:19 PM

BM

“ So sorry to hear of Nelson's passing on. He was a friend of many years, ever since he came to Central Grade School. He had a kindness about him that most men of his size does not have. He never took advantage of his size and never looked down on those not as fortunate as himself.

Rest in peace friend and I am looking forward to the day we will meet again.

Bob Miller - September 10, 2013 at 03:19 PM

RY

“ Heaven sure has gained another angel! I don't know of any man that had as big of a heart as Nelson did! We first meet him when we bought our house 25 yrs ago this month. There was not one time in that 25 yrs that he never spoke, he would stop and talk every time. He would always ask how we was doing, how our house was and how our kids are,(the youngen's as he called them). This guy was special in many peoples eyes. He would give shirt of his back and never think twice about it! I know, I am going to miss him and this talks, he was a wise man and I will always remember some of the best advice given to me by this special man! Nelson, may you rest in peace, cont. to send me great advice when I need it and cont. to watch over your family that you loved so much! I pray that your family can find comfort from the good Lord and the wonderful stories about you.

Ronnie and Lisa Young - September 10, 2013 at 03:19 PM

JE

“ My sincere and heartfelt condolences to all the Jennings family.I pray with you for your loss. May the memories of Nelson give you strenght for many tomorrows to come. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Jan Emch - September 10, 2013 at 03:18 PM

JE

“ John and Mollie,
Your father was the kindest man I ever met. I am so sorry about your loss and the communities loss. He was a great man.

Jan Emch - September 10, 2013 at 03:18 PM

SM

“ *Suzie and Jennifer*
We are so sorry to hear of Nelsons death. He was a very caring man, always stopped to speak and always remembered the good old softball days from us girls school days . gonna miss him dearly. Hope you all can find peace and comfort in time. love and prayers to you all.

Shawn and Bobbi Cecil Meadows - September 10, 2013 at 03:17 PM

SS

Thank you so much Shawn and Bobbie!

Susi Smith - September 21, 2013 at 02:33 AM

VB

“ *Sorry, to hear of Nelson passing. He was a good friend to my family. I saw Nelson Friday at my brother viewing. I move away many years ago I haven't seen him in years, I have fond memories of Nelson and his family.*
You are in my thoughts and prayers.
Vickie (Leasure) Basich

Vickie Basich - September 10, 2013 at 03:17 PM

CW

“ *To the family of Nelson..So sorry to hear the passing of a wonderful man..Our prayers are with you all at this difficult time...*

Clyde & Kay Weekley - September 10, 2013 at 03:17 PM

MS

“ *I am so very sorry to hear about Nelson, he was a truly generous and very caring man and I will miss him!*

Melinda Stevenson - September 10, 2013 at 03:16 PM

BT

“ We are so sorry for the passing of Nelson..He helped us to become home owners..He was a wonderful and very caring person...He will be missed by many..Our prayers are with you all...

Bill & Pansy Tharp - September 10, 2013 at 03:16 PM

BT

“ We are so sorry for the passing of Nelson..He helped us to become home owners..He was a wonderful and very caring person...He will be missed by many..Our prayers are with you all...

Bill & Pansy Tharp - September 10, 2013 at 03:16 PM

LW

“ Although distance keeps me from being there with all of you, my thoughts and prayers are constant for all of those who knew and loved him...and there were many. My memories of growing up and going to visit the cousins on the farm, the great weiner roasts, learning to swim at Big Rock...all are forever in my heart and I will always treasure having the same family and memories. Love to Joyce, John, Susi, Jenny, and all of those who loved him dearly. Blessings to all of you.

Linda Lasure Williams - September 10, 2013 at 03:16 PM

MF

“ We were so sorry to hear of Nelson's passing. He had such a kind heart. He was always so friendly and thoughtful. He will always be remembered and missed.

Mike and Chris Farhatt - September 10, 2013 at 03:15 PM

KB

“ *Dearest Jennings' Family,
As so many have expressed sadness over the sudden news of Nelson's passing we share the warmth of Nelson never forgetting our faces. My Mom said in disbelief this evening "I just saw him last week." It's been a few years since I saw the big teddy bear I remember for over 30 years, but he never forgot me. After growing up & having kids he never failed to ask how my parents (before we lost Dad) were, my kids, where we're living didn't matter where we ran into each other. His smile radiated & his kindness will never be forgotten. Nelson never changed. So many will treasure so many memories. I know you each will carry his legacy.
You all will be lifted in prayer & truly embraced by God's Love.*

Kimberly Geho Blackwell - September 10, 2013 at 03:14 PM

WW

“ *I was so sad to hear this news. He always had time to stop and talk. May all the good memories and God's amazing peace that passes all understanding sustain you during this hard time.*

Wilma Westfall - September 10, 2013 at 03:13 PM

BR

“ *West Virginia has lost a true advocate, as Nelson always loved his home, his family, and served his community so well. He will be missed by many. He & I served on the Bayer/PPG CAP together for several years. I always enjoyed his smile and friendly stories. My sincerest sympathy to all his family for your loss.*

Barbara Rush - September 10, 2013 at 03:13 PM

SC

“ I'm so sorry to hear of the loss of such a good man. I remember how he talked a lot about John and football, he was so proud of him. A great guy gone to soon. God Bless!

Shirley Coutts - September 10, 2013 at 03:13 PM

RS

“ Echoing other messages here, I am saddened we lost a man who cared so much for family, friends, and communities all over our great state. I had the fortune of knowing Nelson for only a brief time through work. But it only took a few minutes of his enthusiasm to make you feel right at home. He was one of a kind and he will be missed dearly and remembered fondly.

Rob Steptoe - September 10, 2013 at 03:13 PM

HB

“ I was saddened to hear of Nelson's passing. He was a friend to my brother John and I. I recall many funny stories he would tell in his own unique style. He was a kind man and very generous. Our prayers are with the entire family. May God hold you in his hands during these times. Remember one day you will meet again. God Bless.

Howard L. Bertram - September 10, 2013 at 03:12 PM

MR

“ Nelson helped us and many families thru his work with FMHA. Our home and others stand as a testimony to his love for families and concern for them to have homes to live and grow in. Thank you so much for sharing him with all of us. May the Lord give you peace and comfort.

Mark & Cheryl Ross - September 10, 2013 at 03:12 PM

HP

“ Joyce & Family,
Nelson shared wonderful stories of people (Potomac State & Coach Lough, his cherished FAMILY, FmHa, RD, Magnolia High, his favorite Subaru mechanic (Cal), football, coworkers, & advice. He endeared himself with generosity & a caring personality. We treasure this special man's camaraderie & guidance! May you find comfort & peace that passes all understanding from our precious Heavenly Father!

Howard & Vera Page - September 10, 2013 at 03:12 PM

LK

“ Nelson will be greatly missed by many people in our community. He was a smiling friendly face who always had your best interest at heart, always had time to stop and talk to you, always remembered your name and your family. He was a great man and a great friend. He also helped me buy my first home. So sorry for your as well as New Martinsvilles loss.

Linda Knight - September 10, 2013 at 03:12 PM

CA

“ Nelson enjoyed life and his cup of coffee. He will be greatly missed by many people. He always had a smile on his face. He had a story to tell and I am sure he is still telling his stories. May you find comfort and peace in your time of need. God Bless.

Chris Missimer - RD Architect - September 10, 2013 at 03:11 PM

SB

“ *Joyce and Family,*

My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time. He was always "Pap" to me and I am so thankful I got to spend as much time with him growing up as I did. He was an amazing man and will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

Stacie Brown - September 10, 2013 at 03:11 PM

PR

“ *Sending our sympathy and caring to all the family. Always enjoyed our visits with him.*

Phil and Betty Lou Rine - September 10, 2013 at 03:11 PM

JH

“ *Heaven has become a brighter place because Nelson has returned home. I sure he is already planting a garden. He always made sure he had plenty to share. We will miss our friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and his many many friends.*

Janice and Roger Hall - September 10, 2013 at 03:11 PM

GP

“ *Joyce, John, Jenny, Susi, cousin Susie and the rest of you close family: As "our" family is gathered there now at nearly 2 p.m. on Tuesday, with friends as well, we are with you in our thoughts and prayers and miss and regret that we are not there in person to share. It is a shock felt in NC too. We are so glad that Nelson called for a long chat a few days ago and that we were able to have breakfast with him on our last quick trip through New Martinsville September two years ago. We feel your pain and loss and recognized love for Nelson—but know that your daily lives are impacted greatly. Until later...love, prayers, and sympathy.*

Garnet and George Persinger - September 10, 2013 at 03:10 PM

SS

Garnet and George - the memories of my childhood include you both and your sons. I love you and miss you. Thank you for your kind words and I'm also glad you got to share some time with him on the phone. He seems to have had an "inkling" that something wasn't right because as time goes on, more and more people are saying the same thing. Love you!

Susi Smith - September 21, 2013 at 02:06 AM

RF

“ *Jennings Family: I am very sorry to hear about Nelson. He was a very kind and caring man! He always smiled and put a smile on my face. I sure will miss seeing him but Heaven has gained a good angel. He will be watching over you all. My thoughts and prayers are with you all!!*

Ruth Fluharty - September 10, 2013 at 03:10 PM

TR

“ *I am so sorry for the loss of this wonderful man. I am so thankful to have had the chance to meet Nelson and hear him talk about his family and see the pride he had for each one.*

Teresa K. Rush - September 10, 2013 at 03:10 PM

LR

“ *Dear John, Mollie, & Family,
I am so very sorry for your loss. May fond memories give you peace during this time. You're in my thoughts and prayers.*

Lauren Riggs-Matthews - September 10, 2013 at 03:10 PM