



## William Terry Varner

November 25, 1935 - August 19, 2024

William Terry Varner, 88, of Marietta, Ohio and later of Moundsville, West Virginia, passed away peacefully at home with his family by his side on Monday, August 19, 2024.

He was born November 25, 1935 in Greene County, Pennsylvania, the son of William Blair Lahew and Margaret Leona (Dillinger) Lahew. He recently connected with a dear cousin, Sue Hoffman.

A United States Marine and Korean War veteran, Varner lived a life of service for more than 65 years as an esteemed educator, acclaimed speaker, published author, respected editor, avid gardener and fisherman, and beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

He married Lillie (Garrison) Varner of Littleton, West Virginia, in 1959. The two recently celebrated their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary. Together, they raised four children: Stephen (Cindy) Varner, Scott (Suzanne) Varner, Stuart (Jennifer) Varner, and Sara (David) Perry; one foster child, Nancy (John) McCarty; and relished in the joys of 11 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Varner served his community as a Church of Christ minister in congregations across West Virginia and Ohio, officially retiring in May 2021. A sought-after faith-based speaker, Varner offered lectures and presentations in more than 75 lectureships, including seven international engagements, and was a featured contributor for several daily and weekly religious-affiliated radio programs in Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia for nearly 20 years. He

was a prolific writer having authored twenty volumes of study commentaries on books of the Bible and more than thirty Bible class studies. He published two faith-based books and more than 40 religious study workbooks and authored nearly 4,000 weekly devotionals. He also served as co-editor of two religious publications and was an eight-time nationally-recognized writer. He served as a Board member of the Midwestern Children's Home (Milford, Ohio); founder of the West Virginia School of Preaching (Moundsville, West Virginia) where he served as faculty member until June 2024 and was member of the lectureship committee; co-founder of the Warren Christian Apologetics Center (Parkersburg, West Virginia) where he also served as Board member, treasurer, general editor and research coordinator until his passing; and owner and editor of the religious paper, *Therefore Stand*, for more than 20 years.

Varner was named an Honorary West Virginian by Secretary of State A. James Manchin in recognition of his continued dedication to service and contributions to his community.

An avid gardener, Varner was a dedicated member of the American Iris Society and the International Iris Society, where he hybridized well-known irises for nearly 40 years. Additionally, Varner maintained thriving vegetable gardens, which were a testament to his love for cultivating plants and spending time in nature. His passion for the outdoors extended beyond gardening; he enjoyed fishing and hunting and cherished annual fishing trips to Canada with his family for more than 60 years.

Throughout his life, Varner remained "always faithful" to his God, his family, his community and his country. His life has left an indelible mark on all who loved him.

His family will receive friends and visitors Wednesday, August 21, from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Grisell Funeral Home (400 Jefferson Avenue, Moundsville). A memorial service will take place Thursday, August 22, at 11 a.m. at Hillview Terrace Church of Christ (Fourth Street & Willard Avenue, Moundsville), officiated by Charles C. Pugh III, followed by a graveside service with military

honors by the Moundsville Veterans Honor Guard at the Anderson Bethel Cemetery in Littleton, West Virginia.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial contribution to the Warren Christian Apologetics Center 850 Altman Avenue, Parkersburg, WV 26104.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **21**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Grisell Funeral Home  
400 Jefferson Ave.  
Moundsville, WV 26041

## Memorial Service

AUG **22**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Hillview Terrace Church of Christ  
4th Street  
Moundsville, WV 26041

# Tribute Wall

JB

“ Brother Varner published my first article many years ago in his paper. I know of no gospel preacher for whom I had more respect.

John Brown - June 02 at 01:34 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William Terry Varner.



August 30, 2024 at 12:49 AM

LS

“ Love, Helen and Greg Savoldi planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Terry Varner.

Love, Helen and Greg Savoldi - August 30, 2024 at 12:49 AM

RM

“ Randall M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Terry Varner.

Randall M. - August 28, 2024 at 01:02 PM

NF

“ Terry was a wonderful man. Many thoughts and prayers are with your family

Neely & Gerritzen Families - August 26, 2024 at 04:35 PM

MY

“ Scott and Suzanne and family so very sorry to hear about the passing of your love one my god hold you a little closer in this time

Marlene Yoho - August 23, 2024 at 02:11 AM

SS

“ Our deepest condolences to Terry's family. We have always appreciated his stand for the truth and his words of encouragement. He will be missed! God's richest blessings to all of his loved ones.  
Steve & Teena Smithbauer

Steve Smithbauer - August 22, 2024 at 12:31 PM

NH

“ Sending our deepest sympathy. Remembering all the special times our families shared. Terry will be greatly missed.



Nancy K. Hennen - August 21, 2024 at 04:54 PM

CM

“ Sara and Family,

I'm so sorry to hear about the loss of your Dad. I have great memories of spending time at your house with your family during my junior high school years. Thoughts and prayers are with you.

Love, Cindy McCoy

cindy mccoy - August 21, 2024 at 04:51 PM

SS

“ To the whole Varner Family,  
I have many fond memories of Terry and all of you. He baptized me as a teenager, and remained a Christian brother of mine for life. I always enjoyed our times together, as we had many meals, and many laughs. From a child at Harmar Hill, to time spent at Camp Hervida, love of sports, and family friendships, Terry had a positive impact on my life. My condolences to all of you. Scott Smith

Scott A Smith - August 21, 2024 at 03:05 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of William Terry Varner.



August 21, 2024 at 02:32 PM

LH

“ Love, Terry and Gean Hackworth planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Terry Varner.

Love, Terry and Gean Hackworth - August 21, 2024 at 02:32 PM

RB

“ Dear Scott and family, Jennifer and I are so sorry for your loss of your dad. He was a great Veteran who served his country proudly and raised a good man in you Scott. I am sure he will be missed. God Bless you Mr. Varner

Robert & Jennifer Blazer - August 21, 2024 at 11:33 AM

CB

“ We are so sorry and wish you all possible strength... he was among the finest of men.

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**Chad Burrall** - August 21, 2024 at 11:16 AM



“ May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,  
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,

May your memories of William Terry Varner, give you peace, comfort and strength...

Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete. I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten.

My thoughts  
and prayers to the family of ....

US Marine Veteran, William Terry Varner, is “A True American Hero”  
God Bless†

† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †

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**Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum** - August 21, 2024 at 08:33 AM

DM

“ A great man! Brother Varner was no nonsense and caring. His passion as an evangelist and patience as a teacher at WVSOP was unmatched.

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**Daniel Mitchell** - August 21, 2024 at 07:02 AM

JC

“ Kim and I have many wonderful memories of Sunday dinners with the Varners during the 37 months we were at Harmar Hill. Brother Terry was my first and most valuable mentor when I started trying to preach. He left a lasting impression on me about the need to diligently study and be thoroughly prepared when teaching and preaching God's word. I am a better person and a better preacher because of him and his influence.

John H Chowning - August 20, 2024 at 10:54 PM

MA

“ Matt and Monica Thomas family, Conway Ar planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Terry Varner.

Matt and Monica Thomas family, Conway Ar - August 20, 2024 at 10:49 PM

MA

“ Matt and Monica Thomas family, Conway Ar purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of William Terry Varner.



Matt and Monica Thomas family, Conway Ar - August 20, 2024 at 10:49 PM

MT

“ Our condolence's go out to the entire Varner family. EQT is lucky enough to have his grandson Todd on our team. He is a true catalyst and leader in our industry and always spoke so highly of Mr Varner. Todds leadership is stern and unshaken, says he learned to lead through his grandfather. After I had the pleasure of meeting him at West Union I would say his legacy and grittiness will live on through all his children and grand children. His sermons were always to the core and Mr Varner always made you feel worthy in discussion.... May the family find peace and healing during this difficult time. 2 Timothy 4: 7-8

Mike Tucker - August 20, 2024 at 09:06 PM

AN

“ Scott, Suzanne y familia, mis más sinceras y profundas condolencias por el fallecimiento de tu papá. Qué honor haber disfrutado, semanas atrás, su amor y sabiduria por el jardín y la vida misma. Vuelta alto Terry.

Andrea - August 20, 2024 at 07:51 PM

FF

“ Fort Gibson Church of Christ Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Terry Varner.

Fort Gibson Church of Christ Family - August 20, 2024 at 05:29 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of William Terry Varner.



August 20, 2024 at 05:29 PM

RJ

“ Our Deepest condolences to all the Varner Family  
Your in our thoughts and prayers



Richard and Cindy Johnson - August 20, 2024 at 04:39 PM

WC

“ Have many great memories growing up with Terry’s boys in North Canton. Terry baptized me as a young believer at the North Canton Ohio Church of Christ where he served as our preacher for many years. To his family, take comfort knowing Terry is graciously being rewarded by our Heavenly Father for his faithful service to Him.  
Bill Cole

william cole - August 20, 2024 at 04:37 PM

NB

“ NMHS Boys Basketball Boosters planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Terry Varner.

NMHS Boys Basketball Boosters - August 20, 2024 at 04:19 PM

NB

“ NMHS Boys Basketball Boosters purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William Terry Varner.



NMHS Boys Basketball Boosters - August 20, 2024 at 04:19 PM

PP

“ So sorry to hear of his passing. What a remarkable man. A true servant of God and other children of God. His wonderful influence can be seen in his family. We are sending thoughts & prayers to his family.

Philip Prichard - August 20, 2024 at 03:17 PM

CT

“ To The Varner clan,  
Please accept condolences from the Ticehouse in Mississippi. We will be making a donation in his honor to the Warren Apologetics Center.  
In Christian Love,  
Chris & Angie Tice

Chris Tice - August 20, 2024 at 03:13 PM

BF

“ Brandon, Shelley and the Parris Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Terry Varner.

Brandon, Shelley and the Parris Family - August 20, 2024 at 03:13 PM

BF

“ Brandon, Shelley and the Parris Family purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of William Terry Varner.



Brandon, Shelley and the Parris Family - August 20, 2024 at 03:13 PM

HW

“ Scott and family,  
I am so sorry for the loss of your Dad. He was a very nice man and his devotion to spreading God's word will continue to impact many lives. I loved when he came to see you at work. His love of family and the outdoors was evident in the stories of the Canada fishing trips. His light will continue to shine through each one of you ❤️🙏  
❤️

Holly Woods - August 20, 2024 at 12:36 PM

TB

“ The Breedings planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Terry Varner.

The Breedings - August 20, 2024 at 12:12 PM

TB

“ The Breedings purchased the Simply Elegant Sp  
athiphyllum for the family of William Terry Varner.



The Breedings - August 20, 2024 at 12:12 PM