



Ryland Edwin Webb

January 24, 1932 - February 23, 2021

Ryland Edwin Webb 1932-2021

Born and raised in Angola, he leaves a small part of his heart in Africa. The rest of his heart belonged to Wanda Sue, his wife of 60 years. He was her Clark Gable. To see them dance together was like watching an old Hollywood movie. With unspoken choreography, they often danced together for no apparent reason.

Whether telling bedtime stories of Africa to Stanley, Linda and Susan or a generation later telling embellished versions to Parker, Ellery, Rachel, Kevin, Megan and Zach, family came first...Unless of course Walter Cronkite was on.

Dad told slightly inappropriate jokes, snuck candy to grandkids and could never get enough banana pudding, He was a Professor Emeritus at Virginia Tech, a master gardener, a Korean War veteran and an expert carver of all roasts, turkeys and pumpkins. He was a practical man of science with a tender spot for babies. Most recently, his great grandson, Salem.

He was a humble man and threatened consequential haunting if his accomplishments were listed here. But his time spent in Haiti is a source of great pride for us. Dad's collaborations with the Haitian Bureau of Nutrition to prevent preschool malnutrition are an amazing humanitarian contribution and cannot go unmentioned.

Food was important to Dad. Whether in his research or at his kitchen table, food was central. With that in mind, in lieu of flowers please make donations to your local food banks and think of him whenever you eat chocolate covered peanuts or pork rinds.

Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Tribute Wall

MA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Marcia Anderson - February 27, 2021 at 11:21 PM

MA

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Marcia Anderson - February 27, 2021 at 11:19 PM



“ Sympathy Arrangement In Basket (Large) - Multicolor Pastel Mixed Flowers was purchased for the family of Ryland Edwin Webb.



February 26, 2021 at 04:07 PM

JM

“ Ryland and Wanda were our friends and neighbors for fifty years, an we shall always remember the joys of that association.,

Ryland was a special man tied to the earth in an almost mystical way, his happiness evident as he tended his flowers and garden or shared their fruits with others. He was accomplished but humble, keenly aware of but accepting of human frailties, always looking for a laugh as well as a cup of coffee, and as kind and loving as humans can become. We carry an indelible impression of him upon our hearts.

Joe and Beth Maxwell

Joseph Webster Maxwell - February 26, 2021 at 09:53 AM

GG

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Glenda Gillaspy - February 25, 2021 at 01:36 PM

MM

Sorry to hear of your Dad's passing.

God Bless,
Mike McCoy

Mike McCoy - March 18, 2021 at 09:05 PM

MB

“ Mckinley Brillhart lit a candle in memory of Ryland Edwin Webb



Mckinley Brillhart - February 25, 2021 at 07:41 AM

SS

“ Linda, Susan, and Stan,

I was so sorry to hear of Ryland's passing. He hired me when I began working in HNFE (HNF at the time). I worked there 33 years and 5 months. I was the one he told of his prostate cancer just before he retired. He commiserated with me when I had difficulty conceiving and gave me the biggest hug when I told him I was expecting. I remember his stories and off-color jokes. I remember him coming in from teaching the 1000 level class laughing at a story he told in class that day and the students' reactions. He also had all of us in the office "check his fly" before he left for class because he taught an entire class one day with his fly open. He loved to tease you mom with that and would unzip his fly right before he got out of his vehicle when he got home because he knew she would get upset and fuss at him. He was a wonderful man and he is forever in my memories. I wish you all much sympathy but also joy in knowing the kind of man your father was. He and Wanda Sue are dancing together again.

Sherry Saville

Sherry K Saville - February 24, 2021 at 03:48 PM

MB

So sorry to hear of Ryland's Passing. Such a great guy. He and Wanda were so good to my family and children. He will be missed by all that new him. You all will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Mckinley Brillhart

Mckinley Brillhart - February 25, 2021 at 07:39 AM

CC

So sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. I have so many wonderful memories. Ryland's and my offices at Tech were adjacent, part of a big lab where our grad students worked. So, also, as you will recall, our houses were next door, as were our gardens! Almost constant partners in so many things. Lots of laughs and arguments where we could disagree but not be disagreeable. He was my best friend, in the building, on the golf course and in our travels—Philippines, Puerto Rico, Mexico and attendance at conferences In the U.S.

Then there were the parties with Ryland and Wanda, with my wife Karen and me, the bridge group, tricks played on each other.....He was part of some of the best years I ever had!

Colin Campbell - February 25, 2021 at 11:10 AM

FU

Thinking of you, Linda. Hope you are doing well. Fred Umberger

Fred Umberger - February 25, 2021 at 12:29 PM

PK

When I came to the biochemistry department at VT in 1989 Ryland had already moved across the road to Wallace Hall. However, he had never lost his connection with and pride in his old department. So when he ran into the new arrival, he looked me up and down with a discerning eye whose sharpness was camouflaged by his beaming smile. Somehow I must have passed muster -- something having to do with occasionally golfing with his friend and colleague Bruce Anderson -- for we never passed one another in the hallway or on the sidewalk ever again without stopping to exchange a few words (mostly his) and letting me warm myself in his ever present smile.

Whenever I was fortunate to bump into Ryland, he never failed to make my day better. Peter Kennelly

Peter Kennelly - February 25, 2021 at 05:13 PM

MA

Ryland and Wanda were such an important part of the lives of my parents, Bruce and Connie Anderson, and our family. Whenever my husband and I visited my parents in Blacksburg, our trip always included at least one entertaining meal with the Webbs and sometimes a laugh-filled golf game with Ryland and my dad. When my mother passed away in 2009, the Webbs were there for our family through that terrible time. And through the years until my father passed, Ryland was his close friend and support system, making it possible for my dad to live out his life in his house. But when I think of Ryland, my memories are of his humor and his smile. He never met a stranger and charmed everyone who came into his orbit. He was one of a kind, a very special person who will be greatly missed.

Marcia Anderson - February 27, 2021 at 11:17 PM



Linda,

I am so sorry for the loss of your Dad he will truly be missed at Commonwealth. I am so glad I got to spend this past year with him. I'm also glad I got to see him last Sunday. It sure was strange not seeing him these last few days. May God give you & your family comfort and peace.

Sharon Perdue

Sharon Perdue - February 28, 2021 at 08:48 PM