



Carl Price Absher

February 19, 1951 - September 23, 2023

Carl Price Absher, 72, passed away on September 23, 2023, at Roanoke Memorial Hospital, where his final days were spent surrounded by close family following a tough and heroic fight against cancer.

Carl was born February 19, 1951, to Virginia and John Creed Absher in Blacksburg, VA; he was the fifth of their seven children. Carl was a 1969 graduate of Blacksburg High School, and later graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor's Degree in Forestry in 1974. While still in college, Carl met the love of his life, Rebecca Suzanne Bundy (Becky). They married in 1973, had two children, and just celebrated their 50th anniversary earlier this year. Carl was an arborist and a naturalist for decades in both Virginia and Tennessee. Carl was the International Society of Arboriculture's first Board Certified Master Arborist in the state of Tennessee, and the president of the ISA Southern Chapter in 2007. After retiring from the vegetation management department of a utility company in Chattanooga, TN, Carl went on to run his own private tree company in the area for several more years. At the age of 69, Carl seized the opportunity to do something that very few people get to do: he climbed to the top of an old growth Giant Sequoia tree in Eastern California. The tree was then named "Wisdom" after him.

Near his retirement, Carl and his wife purchased and renovated the Absher family homeplace on the outskirts of Blacksburg, VA, so they could return to live in Carl's hometown. After he retired, Carl continued to avidly pursue many interests and hobbies; he loved to be outdoors, and enjoyed hiking, fishing,

kayaking, hunting, and riding motorcycles to name just a few. Carl was passionate about American Chestnut tree restoration, and he managed multiple plots of hybrid chestnuts in an effort to restore a nearly extinct population in Virginia. He could often be found spending his free time volunteering with the American Chestnut Foundation, the Virginia Native Plant Society, and the Virginia Tech Catawba Sustainability Center.

Carl was preceded in death by his parents, John Creed Absher, Sr. and Virginia Elizabeth Price Absher, his sister Virginia Lynn Barker, and his brother Charles Dean Absher. Carl is survived by his wife Becky, daughter Amanda (Colin White), son B.J., and grandsons Jameson and Lucas. He is also survived by two sisters: Hope Machemehl and Bonnie Widner, two brothers: J.C. Absher and Richard Absher, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and many friends.

Carl Absher's legacy will live on through his work, his values, and especially through his family. The family will host a Celebration of Life for Carl on October 7, 2023, 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the family residence in Blacksburg. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you spend some time in nature with your loved ones in his honor, or make a donation to the American Chestnut Foundation (<https://support.tacf.org/donate/tributes>) or the American Cancer Society (www.cancer.org/donate/memorial-giving.html) in his memory.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT 7. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Family Home
3825 Catawba Rd
Blacksburg, VA 24060
(423) 313-2925

Tribute Wall

EC

“ I didn't interact with Carl many times, but his love of American Chestnut trees was infectious, and I caught the bug. I helped with weeding in the Va Tech chestnut farm there at Catawba, and I graciously received a few chestnut seedlings to start my own germplasm orchard. I'll remember Carl fondly every time I look at these trees. RIP, good and faithful servant.

Eric C - February 28, 2024 at 01:58 PM

MH

“ Michael H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carl Price Absher.

Michael H. - October 07, 2023 at 03:31 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Carl Price Absher.

October 03, 2023 at 12:29 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Carl Price Absher.



October 03, 2023 at 12:29 PM

LB

“ I'm thinking of the legacy that Carl left for the world. It was plenty that he was a wonderful human but the commitment to the chestnut tree and the outdoor world in general will inspire me to give back just a bit more. Every tree I plant the rest of my days will be in his honor. May the arms of our community and all that knew Carl comfort you and the family Becky. Sending hugs and love.

Lynn Brammer - October 03, 2023 at 08:11 AM

CD

“ Such a great man. Carl was always smiling, very polite. He will be missed by so many.
Lifting the family up in my prayers. RIP Carl.

Carol Davis - October 03, 2023 at 05:40 AM

JC

“ Becky,
I have missed seeing Carl for years now, but I have always wondered where he moved to. Carl was a very important part of my staff. He worked tirelessly to keep the lights on and I appreciated that very much. Between John McClure and James Craig they made a great team.
Jack Case. Retired EPB

Jackson Case - October 02, 2023 at 05:50 PM

SP

“ I had the pleasure of working with Carl at EPB. He was always friendly, exceptionally knowledgeable and a wonderful Southern gentleman. My prayers to his family and friends.... Scott Ptak

Scott Ptak - October 02, 2023 at 04:43 PM

DH

“ My best friend from high school came to visit several years ago. We wanted to show him and his wife a good time so we went out hiking, went to a VT football game, ate out at several restaurants. When asked what was his favorite activity was, he said when we went to McDonald's Mill and helped Carl harvest the season's Chestnuts to support his reintroduction efforts. It was fun and informative. Could not have done something like that anywhere else.
Thank you Carl

Don Heindel - October 01, 2023 at 10:05 AM

LW

“ Becky, so sorry to hear about your loss, you and your family are in my prayers.

Linda Weade - September 30, 2023 at 09:00 PM

CB

“ Carl was a smart cheerful man who will be missed by all who knew him. My deepest sympathy to Becky and all his family. Planting a tree in his honor!

Charlotte Burgess - September 30, 2023 at 07:25 AM

DH

“ Becky, I'm so sorry to read about your beloved Carl. Wishing you peace and warm memories.

Daphne Huffman - September 30, 2023 at 07:23 AM

RP

“ My deepest condolences to the family in your loss of Carl. May God comfort your hearts in the days ahead.

Rocky Price - September 27, 2023 at 02:50 PM

CC

“ *Becky and family, we were so sad to hear about Carl ! My heart hurts for you. I think of you so often and all the good times we have shared as Shady Ladies thru ISA. Carl has certainly left a lot of wonderful attributes. Cherish your wonderful memories. May he rest in peace. Peace and comfort friend and Hope to see you soon.*
Carolyn and Clark Comer

Carolyn Comer - September 27, 2023 at 11:03 AM

KV

“ *I will never forget visiting and seeing all the work Carl and Becky had done on his homepage. It was wonderful having them nearby and seeing them from time to time. I appreciated them continuing the reunion + as they were able and showing love and concern for my father. Becky, you are in our thoughts and prayers. Let us know what we can do.* *Karen*

Karen Vines - September 26, 2023 at 03:43 PM

JC

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with Carl's family, during this time of sadness. It was a pleasure working with Carl for many years. Becky, please feel free to call if there is anything we can do to help. When we visit Salem, we will call and hopefully visit for a while.* *James & Carolyn Craig*

James & Carolyn Craig - September 26, 2023 at 01:04 PM

LG

“ As a little girl in The Price Family, I always looked forward to seeing Carl. He was so nice to me and we had so much fun. I reconnected with Carl just a few years ago and he gave me a couple of American Chestnut trees to plant in my yard. They are growing well and I look forward to watching them grow the rest of my life in his memory.

Lisa Lucas Gardner - September 26, 2023 at 10:40 AM

JB

So very sorry to hear about Carl's passing. Peace and love for you and your family. Joyce hHill Brusseau.

Joyce Brusseau - September 30, 2023 at 11:25 AM

EH

“ Carl you were the best neighbor I never had. I was so looking forward to getting to know you better and spend some time with you. You were so kind to me, an outsider moving into the valley, your neighborhood. I could tell when we first talked on the phone that you were kind and helpful and a genuine good person with vast knowledge of the valley. You will be missed but never forgotten my friend. - Emory Hodges

Emory M. Hodges - September 26, 2023 at 09:49 AM

JT

“ Junior Taylor sent a virtual gift in memory of Carl Price Absher



Junior Taylor - September 25, 2023 at 06:52 PM

KM

“ *Kathy S McCoy lit a candle in memory of Carl Price Absher*



Kathy S McCoy - September 25, 2023 at 01:19 PM

BH

Becky.....I did not know your husband Carl but I am very sorry. I only found out from you at the Colonel Luncheon on December 1st. God bless you.

Bobby Haggerty - December 05, 2023 at 06:57 PM