



Carl Edwin Polan

September 14, 1931 - May 8, 2026

Born on September 14, 1931, on Eibs Camp, Blandville, WV., to Willie D. Polan and Flossie Trent Polan. He grew up with his brothers, Clinton (deceased) and Cecil and sister, Carol Sue. Farming was a way of life from a very young age. He grew up in a small community with love from family and friends to guide him. He attended the Middle Island Seventh Day Baptist Church.

On June 9, 1956, he married Anna Lee Underwood, they were married for 66 years. Together they had four children; sons, Mark Edwin Polan (deceased), Gregory Carl (Pam Linkous) Polan, David Louis (Debby) Polan; daughter, Leanne (Robert) Reynolds; six granddaughters, Rachel (Dwayne) Link, Alice (Aaron) Duty, Emily (Andrew) Polan-Harper, Carly (Brandon) Dove, Sarah Polan, and Lindsey Polan; great-grandchildren, Daniel, Sadie, and Natalie Link, Austin and Cayson Dove and Amos and Adalee Duty. He is also survived by more than 70 cousins, sister-in-law, nieces, and nephews.

After receiving his BS and MS from WVU he received his PhD from NC State in Raleigh, NC. Worked on Post-doc in Biochemistry at University of Minn., St. Paul. He then moved his family to Blacksburg in 1965 and became a Professor in Dairy Science.

Carl was a boy scout leader beginning in 1967. Bought a small farm outside of

Blacksburg and started his own small herd of cattle. He loved to work the land, mow hay, and watch the calves grow.

Over the years he has been recognized with scouting, professional, and industry awards. He prized the 1988 ADSA Animal Research Award and the 2003 WVU College of Ag Alumni Distinguished Service Award. In January 1998, Professor Emeritus of Dairy Science at Virginia Tech.

Carl Edwin Polan, our dad, pa, will be missed so much. He filled a huge space in our lives. The greatest gift our dad gave us was not what he left behind but what he helped us become. He was very loved by us all.

A graveside service will be conducted, Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 11:00 A.M. in the Westview Cemetery, with the Rev. Todd Milsap officiating.

Cemetery Details

Westview Cemetery

723 E. Roanoke Street
Blacksburg, VA

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAY 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Westview Cemetery
723 E. Roanoke Street
Blacksburg, VA

Tribute Wall



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

May 12 at 12:40 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Carl Edwin Polan.



May 12 at 12:40 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Carl Edwin Polan.



May 11 at 05:11 PM



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

May 11 at 05:11 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Carl Edwin Polan.



May 11 at 02:35 PM



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

May 11 at 02:35 PM



“ Forever Our Angel Bouquet was purchased for the family of Carl Edwin Polan.



May 10 at 12:32 AM



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

May 10 at 12:32 AM

SW

“ It was with sadness that I learned of the passing of my friend, esteemed colleague, and fellow West Virginian, Dr. Carl E. Polan. Carl grew up in Doddridge County, a neighboring county to my home in Harrison County. He attended West Virginia University for his BS and MS degrees where he interacted with Harrison County natives from my neck of the woods including Bob Steele, Jim Stutler, and Raymond L. Greathouse. He was also a roommate with Glenn Snyder, Jr. from Preston County who later became the first 4-H agent that I knew in Harrison County. We interacted some over many years at meetings of the American Dairy Science Association but I really got to know Carl in 1998 when he was one of 15 members of a study tour to Ireland and Northern Ireland to learn more about their dairy grazing systems. As Carl indicated on the tour and at subsequent training sessions in SC, NC, and VA in 1999: "I was into grazing before grazing was cool." Members of the study tour and a few dairy graziers and friends met at Mrs. Rowe's Restaurant in Staunton, VA this past September to reminisce and to celebrate Carl's 94th birthday where he had cherry pie for dessert.



An Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face.

And rains fall soft upon your fields.

And until we meet again,

May God hold you in the hollow of His hand.



Steve Washburn - May 09 at 06:41 PM

LA

“ Two memories of Carl. I was asking if I could get some student help to wash dishes in the lab, told Carl he was paying me as a post-doc to think, not wash dishes. Carl said he thought I could think while washing dishes, Now I smile every time I wash dishes. He wrote a letter of recommendation for my position at Wisconsin. Years later I became chair and had access to the personnel files. Got bored one night and read Carl's letter. About me: 'he has a few rough edges, but that makes him human'. I agree on the rough edges, glad Carl found me human'. Human' describes Carl pretty well too I guess.

Louis Armentano - May 09 at 06:30 PM

LA

“ Louis Armentano purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Carl Edwin Polan.



Louis Armentano - May 09 at 06:06 PM

LA

“ Louis Armentano planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carl Edwin Polan.

Louis Armentano - May 09 at 06:06 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Carl Edwin Polan.



May 09 at 03:25 PM

CS

“ *Dr.Polan was a great friend and neighbor. We first got connected at the VT Dairy Center and have been friends and neighbors ever since. He was a good man.*
Chuck

Charles Shorter - May 09 at 01:57 PM

TD

“ *Terry M Duty purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Carl Edwin Polan.*



Terry M Duty - May 09 at 01:10 PM

TD

“ *Terry M Duty planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carl Edwin Polan.*

Terry M Duty - May 09 at 01:10 PM