



## Harry Willis "Chopper" McConnell Jr.

August 17, 1946 - May 21, 2024

Harry Willis "Chopper" McConnell, Jr., age 77, of Fairlawn, Virginia was surrounded by family members as he departed this earth and entered Heaven's gates the evening of May 21, 2024. Chopper was born in Saltville, Virginia on August 17, 1946 to Ruby McConnell and the late Harry Willis McConnell. He graduated from Damascus High School and went on to serve as a Radioman in the United States Navy. While stationed in Norfolk, Virginia Chopper met his beautiful bride, Linda. In 1976, they settled in Fairlawn, where they raised their two children and enjoyed life together in the New River Valley. In southwest Virginia, he loved sharing meals, desserts and movies with his beloved Linda, fishing with Jeff and his grandchildren, gardening with Terri, and golfing or hunting with friends. Chopper worked 31 years for RDAISA at The Radford Army Ammunition Plant and retired from the workforce in 2001. Multiple people have referred to Chopper as the most intelligent man they have ever met. His family members know him as the nicest, most considerate, man they have ever known. The old saying of "he'll give you the shirt right off of his back" was coined for Chopper. For the next 23 years he basked in retirement, spoiled his grandbabies, enjoyed traveling the world, relished trips to visit his mother and family in both Richmond and Damascus, evenings on the carport with his hummingbirds, sneaking snacks to his granddogs and neighborhood pets, talks with his neighbors, listening to music, and most of all just spending time with family.

He is survived by his Wife of 57 years: Linda, of Oceana, WV, Mother: "Granny Ruby", 104 years old, of Damascus, VA, Daughter and Son-in-law: Terri and Shannon Wohlford of Radford, VA, Son and Daughter-in-law: Jeff and Susan McConnell of Richmond, VA, Sister and Brother-in-law: Brenda and Curt Smith of Damascus, Brother and sister-in-law: Tommy and Audrey McConnell of Damascus, Grandchildren: Grace Wohlford of Richmond, Michael, William and Hampton Wohlford of Radford, and Reilly and Tyler McConnell of Richmond.

Funeral Services will be conducted at 12:00, noon, on Friday, May 31, 2024 at the Virginia Southwest Veterans Cemetery in Dublin, Virginia. Donations can be made to the American Liver Foundation to help find a cure for NASH.

# Cemetery Details

## Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery

5550 Bagging Plant Road  
Dublin, VA

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

MAY 31. 12:00 PM (ET)

Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery  
5550 Bagging Plant Road  
Dublin, VA

# Tribute Wall

LF

“ I first met Chopper while serving at the Naval Communication Station in Norfolk while serving this Great Nation. My wife and I lived in Pennsylvania and I would go home on weekends to visit with my wife & daughter. One day Chopper offered to open his home to my wife and daughter for a weekend so that I could spend more time with them. I took him up on the offer and my wife became very good friends with his wife "Linda" (my wife's name is also Linda. He was and still is my Best Friend. He was like a brother to me. How many people do you know that would open their home like that? We continued with our friendship until his promotion to be with Jesus. We would share our faith when spending time on the phone. He took me up on hunting with me in PA and used a Bow to take his first Whitetail buck. Funny, I still hear him calling me a "Northern Honky" :) My health is failing and I'm so looking forward to being with him. They don't make them like Chopper any more. God Bless you all.

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Lewis Fike - March 08 at 06:44 PM

MC

“ To my loving Uncle, You have left us with many good memories of your love, kindness, and blessed heart, only the angels know when it's time, it's our loss but Heavens gain, our love is forever yours, peace be with you in christ name, Blessed be, your loving niece, Sue Costanzo and Family ❤️🙏🏻✝️🌹🌹🌹

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Melinda Costanzo - May 30, 2024 at 01:26 PM


CB

“ Every visit with you and your family was always enjoyable and memorable. Am so grateful that my boys and husband was able to meet you Uncle Chopper. I loved that you always wanted to feed us with snacks and drinks and tell us one of many stories. My boys eyes lit up when talked about fishing. They were eager to know the spots to go and what's in the river. In my earlier childhood years the memories of you and Aunt Linda and the kids visiting was always exciting to look forward to. As an adult we visited you all and you all never disappointed in family love. Thank you for being the man you were. Rest in peace. You will be missed but never forgotten. Love Always Christine Jerry JerryIII Cody Barnes

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**Christine Barnes** - May 29, 2024 at 09:46 PM

LM

“ I remember so clearly of the first time I met Chopper, I was in Va. Beach staying a visit with Linda. I was working at a gas station while there and one evening this guy showed up to buy a pack of gum. We talked a little and he told me that he had a date that evening. I wished him good luck on his date and he left to go on his first date with my sister, Linda.  
I liked him when I first met him and my liking him turned into Love for him and that Love remains in my heart today greatly. Loosing him weighs heavy in my heart for Chopper and Linda the same. He always felt like a Brother to me. My Love and sorrow is heavy. Prayers and Love to sister Linda and all family members!  
. So sorry I can not be with you during this sadness.

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**Larry Miller** - May 29, 2024 at 07:10 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Harry Willis "Chopper" McConnell Jr..



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May 29, 2024 at 12:03 PM



“ My heart is sad by the news.... But my Hope comes from the Lord knowing we will meet again in Heaven one day! I am so thankful that I was part of the McConnell Family....and I knew Chopper. Terri and I met in college and her family welcomed me with open arms. I remember walking into her house and Chopper with his big smile always made me feel like family!!! Whenever I was there Chopper would always ask me questions about what was going on in my life and always offer me food. I have so many stories.... When Terri and I lived in Radford, Chopper and Linda would always stop by dropping off food and goodies for us girls!! And one time Terri and I went to pick out a Christmas tree... the guys helps us put it on the car but when we got back to the apartment we could not get it in the apartment.... so Terri called her dad and Chopper came right over to help us! He always was around helping us out!! He was great with directions too .... he would write out the safest way for us girls to drive to the beach and add stops for us. I am so thankful and feel so blessed to have known Chopper. Love and Blessings Julie

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**Julie** - May 29, 2024 at 08:49 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Harry Willis "Chopper" McConnell Jr..*



May 28, 2024 at 08:33 AM



“ *Debbie, the girls & the Stafford family purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Harry Willis "Chopper" McConnell Jr..*



**Debbie, the girls & the Stafford family** - May 25, 2024 at 05:12 PM



“ *Debbie, the girls & the Stafford family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harry Willis "Chopper" McConnell Jr..*

**Debbie, the girls & the Stafford family** - May 25, 2024 at 05:12 PM



“ *With Love, Felicia, Brian Jr. & Max purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Harry Willis "Chopper" McConnell Jr..*



**With Love, Felicia, Brian Jr. & Max** - May 25, 2024 at 05:05 PM

WM

“ With Love, Felicia, Brian Jr. & Max planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harry Willis "Chopper" McConnell Jr..

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**With Love, Felicia, Brian Jr. & Max** - May 25, 2024 at 05:05 PM

BM

“ The Bible says, “finish the race. Keep the faith and there’s a reward. That’s in heaven for you”. . Well, my sweet, precious, humble Brother, Chopper, received his award! It definitely won’t be the same here on earth without him! Almost every day we would FaceTime or visit he would talk to our Mother Who adored him! He was always giving making sure she had enough sweets, jam and jelly. He was so polite, so caring, always peaceful, and always loved his family deeply! I will miss my brother, but I know that he’s in heaven because we talked about it several times and he loved the Lord Jesus! I always remember him as such a brilliant man, I loving, brother, and a devoted family man! I even to this day Remembering the day that he left to go to the Navy was in San Diego and left Damascus. I thought it was so so far away and brokenhearted when he left that’s how much of an impact he made on everyone’s life! And like the obituary says most people thought it was the brilliant man. I always thought he was super brilliant! I wanted to follow his footsteps Because I looked up to him! I know I’ll see him again and I know when I do my heart will heal. It’s not goodbye brother. It’s good night and I will see you in the morning.



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Brenda McConnell - May 24, 2024 at 06:43 PM

RR

*I am blessed to have got to meet him! He loved his Mama and family so much. He always picked out the best sweets for granny! I would ask her "Is that good granny?" She would say ya boy!!!! Miss you Chopper until we meet again . Rae*

**Rae Ramshaw** - May 24, 2024 at 10:08 PM

LF

*“ My family was Blessed to have known Chopper, his wife and children. He always opened his door to you and treated you like you were the most important person he ever met. He was a CHRISTian and we shared our faith in Jesus Christ all the way to his passing. He would do anything for anyone to help them. His Family meant the world to him. I never met anyone nicer that cared so much for others. I miss you Brother! Lewis Fike & Family.*

**Lewis Fike** - May 24, 2024 at 04:10 PM

BM

*Lou, he always talked about how great of a neighbor you were as you know Chopper was a great man!*

**Brenda McConnell** - May 24, 2024 at 06:22 PM