



Kerry Laffonne (Fonne) Hay

February 3, 1932 - October 13, 2021

Kerry Lafonne Hay (Fonne), age 89, passed away at home on Wednesday, October 13. He was born February 3, 1932, on Backbone Ridge in Dickenson County, VA. He was the son of Willard & Willie Hay, with siblings Theta Artrip, Janice Patton, Mack Hay and Terry Gortney. Kerry is survived by his wife of 66 years, Sula Fields Hay; daughters and sons-in-law Melissa and Chris Kile, Susan and Lyn Jordan, Rebecca and Robert Pittard, son John Hay; granddaughters Elizabeth Metz (Scott), Anna Will (Tanner), Caroline Pittard, Rachel Robbins (Carter), and grandson Brice Reid; great-grandchildren Kile and Andrew Metz, Norah Will, and Mac Robbins, and “adopted” son, Paul Trianosky.

After graduating from Haysi High School, Kerry went into the Air Force (1949-1953) serving mostly in Japan. He enrolled in Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and completed his degree in Electrical Engineering in 1957. He worked at Poly-Scientific and Electro-Tec (both now part of Moog) in Blacksburg.

After retiring early, Kerry earned his auctioneer’s license and formed Hay Holler Auction Sales. He ran auctions in the Blacksburg area with the help of family and friends. Kerry and Sula created a record label, Hay Holler Records, specializing in bluegrass and old-time music.

Many, many summer weekends were spent at fiddlers’ conventions in southwest VA and northwest NC, camping with family and friends. Kerry was a great host at Hay Holler, the home he and Sula built in the late 70s. For almost 40 summers, friends and family gathered for a weekend of minestrone soup, sourdough bread, breakfast casseroles, roasted pig, slaw, baked potatoes, baked beans, desserts galore, biscuits and gravy, eggs and sausage, and best of all, a lot of picking way up into the early morning hours. He could often be found on the porch flatfooting with his children and grandchildren. During the past several years, he and Sula hosted a monthly porch (or kitchen) jam for the Blacksburg area old-time musician group.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the Good Samaritan Hospice

nurses and caregivers who have given extraordinary care to Kerry and the family during this time.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a contribution to Good Samaritan Hospice (1160 Moose Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073) or Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center (480 Cinnabar Rd, Christiansburg, VA 24073).

Please join us to celebrate the life of Kerry on Sunday, October 17, from 2-4pm at Hay Holler, Blacksburg, Virginia. Come and visit with family and friends. Bring your instrument and pick one more for Kerry.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT 17. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Hay Holler
1691 Lusters Gate Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Tribute Wall

CT

“ Kerry was a very good friend of my parents and the rest of the family. Always kind and welcoming, enjoyed spending time at Hay Holler. Went to some of the VA Tech basketball games with Kerry and Dad. Condolences to his family and loved ones. May you find peace knowing he is with Our Lord.

Cathy Terhune - July 22, 2022 at 09:11 PM

LB

“ New Year's Eve 1978, I believe it was, when Rebecca invited my buddy Bill Christopher and me to her family's house for some sort of bluegrass party. Her dad Kerry, who I always knew as Mr. Hay, welcomed us heartily with a *twinkle in his eye* (as Bill wrote here) and made us feel right at home among his warm, generous family & friends, and I can still hear him *chuckling* with pleasure at how GOOD the bluegrass was, there in the kitchen that night ... and on the porch & in the yard in summers to come, when I was lucky enough to be at the Pick-in! I'll miss you, Mr. Hay!

Lloyd Bishop - October 18, 2021 at 12:04 PM

JC

“ So sorry to hear of Kerry's passing. Worked with Kerry at ETC for many years.
Janet Croy



Janet CroyCrittenden - October 16, 2021 at 07:16 PM

BC

“ To Miz Hay, Rebecca, Melissa, Susan, John, Robert, Chris and the rest of the family... I'm so sorry to hear about Mr. Hay's passing and my thoughts and prayers are indeed with you.

I know he was quite accomplished in many ways (engineer, record producer, auctioneer, etc.) but I remember him mostly as a kind man with a sharp wit, a twinkle in his eye and a spring in his step. A man who loved life, family, friends, and music more than just about anybody. I can't imagine a fuller life than that of Kerry Hay.. he truly made the world a richer place. Im sorry I cant be at Hay Holler on Sunday. Sounds like the perfect send off. Take good care and all the best.

Bill Christopher - October 15, 2021 at 09:03 PM

LP

“ Kind thoughts and prayers for the family & friends of Kerry. I have some great memories of my friendship with him over the years--camping at Galax, sharing some live recordings with him, & having meaningful conversations with him down through the years. We shared much the same views when it came to the music.

Leon Pollard

Leon Pollard - October 15, 2021 at 06:37 PM

DM

“ All our best to Sula and the whole family. Kerry's hospitality was always infectious and added so much to everyone around him. I treasure my association with Hay Holler through the liner notes I wrote for a few of the releases. Kerry truly loved the music and his family. ~ Dale & Connie Morris, Elk Creek, Virginia

Dale Morris - October 15, 2021 at 05:06 PM

TS

“ Remembering all the good times we shared with Kerry and his family while we were part of the Hay Holler label. Our 10 albums with Hay Holler Records sure was a wonderful time in our lives. Rest in Peace good friend. Tommy & Teresa Sells - Big Country Bluegrass

Tommy Sells - October 15, 2021 at 04:05 PM

WK

“ Thank you Kerry for your solid and successful support of bluegrass and oldtime country music down through the years. It was a pleasure knowing you; happy times await you in Fiddlers' Green!



William B Knowlton - October 15, 2021 at 11:33 AM

YI

“ Your Japanese son, Kaz Inaba purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Kerry Laffonne (Fonne) Hay.



Your Japanese son, Kaz Inaba - October 14, 2021 at 11:43 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Kerry Laffonne (Fonne) Hay.*



October 14, 2021 at 06:47 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Kerry Laffonne (Fonne) Hay.*



October 14, 2021 at 01:05 PM

SM

“ *So many great memories of attending the Hay Holler w/Rebecca & Ashlie Troutman during my years at BHS. Kerry was such a gracious host and put on such an amazing event along with Sula. Even though I have lived in CA for many years, I often think of the amazing Hay family and the joy they brought to so many people. SO wish I could be at the 10/17 Celebration of Kerry's life. My thoughts & prayers are with family, especially Rebecca 🙏❤️...*

Scott Mullen - October 14, 2021 at 11:54 AM

PT

“ *I am so honored and touched to have been noted in this as a member of the family. Kerry and Sula have indeed been parents to me for the past 40+ years; they and the siblings and extended family are dear to me. I will miss Kerry far more than I can express... and I'm so very grateful for his example, love and mentorship in my life.*

Paul Trianosky - October 14, 2021 at 11:48 AM

JH

“ *A GIANT of a human being with a family to match.*
Jack Hinshelwood

Jack Hinshelwood - October 14, 2021 at 10:56 AM

GW

Thoughts, prayers, and hugs to all of you during this time of adjustment. What a beautiful day it will be when we are reunited and hear sweet music again.

*Garrett, Erma, and Garrett Lee Williams
Roanoke Valley, VA*

Garrett, Erma, & Garrett Lee Williams - October 14, 2021 at 11:28 AM

MT

Our hearts break for all of you as you transition into a new phase of your lives without your husband, father, father-in-law, and grandfather. Your family has been blessed with many living generations which have nourished your children and theirs. We love you deeply and are holding you in the light.

*Mary and Ray Turner
Annapolis, MD*

Mary Turner - October 14, 2021 at 01:04 PM