



## Garland V. Ely

December 8, 1921 - March 23, 2017

Garland Ely, 95, of Jonesville, Virginia, passed away at his home peacefully on March 23, 2017.

He was born in Sprigg, West Virginia, to Spicie (McCoy) Ely and Gustavus Zeblin Ely.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by 4 siblings: June Giles (Pat), Nanetta Cridlin (Clyde), Robert Ely (Betty), Bonnie Johnson (Marion), and by his son, Steven Carter.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years Ophelia (Bellamy) Ely; one daughter, Garnetta Ely; daughter-in-law, Mary Lou Carter; granddaughter, Valarie Carter Miller; one aunt, Dorolyn McCoy Newberg, and several nieces and nephews.

He was a proud WWII veteran, having served as sergeant for 3 years in the 850th Aviation Engineering Company in Europe. He returned from the war in early December, 1945, and began working in the furniture business of his future father-in-law, W. M. Bellamy.

In 1949, he became manager of Lee Farmer's Cooperative, a position he held for 27 years. He co-owned and operated Jonesville Oil Company for 12 years until his retirement in 1979.

Garland was a lifetime member of the American Legion, having served as the Commander of the American Legion Post 185 for three years, and he was also a member of the VFW.

Garland was the first president of the Lee County Community Action Committee Inc., administering the Poverty Programs in the 1960s, and was the first director of the first Head Start Program in Lee County. He served 38 years on the Jonesville Town Council, including being vice-mayor.

He was a devout member of the Jonesville First United Methodist Church, which he first attended at age 9 with his grandmother, Merietta Ely. Garland cherished his church family.

The family will receive friends 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 28th, at the Jonesville First United Methodist Church. A funeral service will follow at 8:00 p.m., with Layne Pennington officiating. Family and friends will meet at Lee Memorial Gardens in Woodway, Virginia, at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 29th, for internment. Military Honors will be presented by the Wise County Veterans' Organization and the Gate City Honors Team.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Jonesville First United Methodist Church or to the Jonesville Volunteer Fire Department.

# Cemetery Details

## Lee Memorial Gardens

Woodway, VA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAR 28.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Jonesville First United Methodist Church  
Church Street  
Jonesville, VA 24263

## Funeral Service

**MAR 28.** 8:00 PM (ET)

Jonesville First United Methodist Church  
Church Street  
Jonesville, VA 24263

# Tribute Wall



“ *Garland V. Ely*

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October 05, 2023 at 07:31 PM



“ *Very sorry to hear of his passing. I enjoyed working for him at the Jonesville Oil Company. He and my dad were good friends. My wife and I stopped by to visit Ophelia and Garnetta came by at the same time so it was a good if sad visit.*

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**Steve Noe** - April 30, 2017 at 01:53 PM



“ *Garnetta, I'm so sorry to hear about your dad's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your mother as you adjust to the coming days. Hold on to the memories.*  
*Edwina G. Bailey*

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**Edwina Bailey** - April 05, 2017 at 02:12 PM

DK

“Garney was a dear friend who I will miss very much. He had always been there thru the years on many occasions when I needed him. He would slip off when he went to therapy for his knees and visit me at the office. He said he had come to visit "his girl". I considered it an honor. Each time he was featured in the newspaper, usually veteran related, I would laminate it and send it to him. He never failed to call and thank me. He always said I have it put up in the bedroom for Garnetta. He loved his family so very much. He loved the Lord, his church, and was proud of all veterans. Rest easy my friend, you will be greatly missed by all of us who knew you!



*With Love and Prayers,  
Dianne Kiser and Family*

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**Dianne Kiser** - March 28, 2017 at 10:37 AM



“Dorothy Hall lit a candle in memory of  
Garland V. Ely



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**Dorothy Hall** - March 27, 2017 at 05:51 PM

ER

“I was sorry to hear of Mr. Ely's passing. He was a great man. It was always a pleasure to see and talk to him over the years. He was a comfort and blessing to me when I first came back home. May God comfort his family.

*Eddie L. Ramey*

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**Eddie Ramey** - March 27, 2017 at 01:58 PM

CP

“ *Garney always greeted me with a smile and a hug. His warmth and love with his greeting always left me feeling good about myself. He was one of the very best of his time. Heaven is blessed with his presence.*

*My prayers are with his family.*

*Carolyn L Parsons*

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**Carolyn L. Parsons** - March 25, 2017 at 12:35 PM

RM

*To the family and to all his friends I can truly say, Garland embodied the very essence of "The Greatest Generation". I will miss my friend. My love and prayers. Rex McCarty*

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**Rex McCarty** - March 26, 2017 at 08:42 AM

BC

“ *Garney was the best! A true Christian in every way. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.*

*'To be absent from the body, is to be present with our precious Lord'*

*In loving memory*

*Betty Corrinne*



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**betty crusenberry** - March 25, 2017 at 08:42 AM

VS

“ *What a wonderful man! I miss you and your smile , not to mention those chocolate covered peanuts.*

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**Virginia Spence** - March 24, 2017 at 07:46 PM