



## Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin

June 21, 1962 - October 17, 2020

Follow this link for the recording of the memorial service:

<https://youtu.be/iZNLQl2Mi5o>

Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin, 58, of Jonesville, VA passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, October 17, 2020.

He was born in Knoxville, TN on June 21, 1962 to Gladys James Cridlin and the late Lawrence Nelson Cridlin, Jr. He earned his bachelor's degree from UVA Wise, formerly Clinch Valley College. Nat taught for 31 years in the Lee County Virginia School System, where he was proud to be the Coach of the 1990 Lee High School State Championship winning Golf Team. He was also the owner and operator of the Subway Restaurants in both Jonesville and Pennington Gap, VA.

In addition to his father, Nat was preceded in death by his father-in-law, Herschell McElyea, grandparents, Paul and Glanita James, uncle, Marion James, and by two aunts, Inez Bryant and Mildred James.

He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Tammy McElyea; mother, Gladys Cridlin; brother, Jim Cridlin and wife Donna; two brothers-in-law, Gary McElyea and wife Betsy and Jeff McElyea and wife Monica; five uncles, Garland James and wife Doris, Charlie James, Tom James, Gary Bryant and

Bobby McElyea and wife Jackie; aunt, Jean McQueen; several nieces, nephews, cousins, special friends, and his beloved fur baby, Piper.

A memorial service in celebration of Nat's life will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, October 23, in the Auditorium at Lee High School with Garland James and Maria Grimm officiating. Please be aware that masks will be required for entry and that social distancing guidelines will be enforced.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent in memory of Nathaniel Cridlin to the MECC Foundation – Lee County Scholarship, 3441 Mountain Empire Rd., Big Stone Gap, VA 24219.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

OCT **23**. 6:00 PM (ET)

Lee High School Auditorium  
200 General Lane  
Pennington Gap, VA

# Tribute Wall



“ *Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin*

October 05, 2023 at 07:31 PM



“ *Nat was a second cousin to his Kentucky family.  
The last time I saw him was years ago , probably at his Aunt  
Phoebe's funeral or Subway.  
So sorry Gladys and his family.  
Judy McGlamery Orick*

**Judy Orick** - November 09, 2020 at 11:14 AM



“ *Debbie Garrett lit a candle in memory of  
Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin*



**Debbie Garrett** - October 27, 2020 at 03:26 AM



“ *My sincere condolences to the family. Nat was a great teacher, a  
wonderful person, and a true friend.  
He will greatly be missed.*

**Bobby Muncy** - October 24, 2020 at 02:35 PM

VS

“ Vicki Snodgrass lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin



Vicki Snodgrass - October 24, 2020 at 01:08 PM

TH

“ We are praying for you all.  
John C Marion Pharmacist Family and Staff

Tim and Jacqui Hobbs - October 24, 2020 at 12:03 PM

BT

“ So sorry for your loss. Praying for you.

Brenda Templeton - October 23, 2020 at 10:16 PM

CF

“ So sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you during this heartbreaking time.



Charlene Nelson Fannon - October 23, 2020 at 09:28 PM

JK

“ If it wasn't for Nat Cridlin there would be zero state trophies at Lee High. He was the driving force behind that team and should always be remembered that way. I had my first class with Nat in the 7th grade and have loved him since. I will miss you my friend.

Jason King - October 23, 2020 at 07:43 PM

FM

“ *Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of Nat's family.*

*Freddy, Kristy, Alani and Preston Marion*

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**Freddy Marion** - October 23, 2020 at 04:53 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin.*



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October 23, 2020 at 04:31 PM

AI

“ *So sorry about the loss praying for you all. If you need anything, please let me know.*  
*Love you, Alan Ingle*

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**Alan Ingle** - October 23, 2020 at 03:08 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin.*



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October 23, 2020 at 12:54 PM

ED

“ Elizabeth Dean lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin



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Elizabeth Dean - October 23, 2020 at 11:48 AM

VE

“ Vera Ely lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin



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Vera Ely - October 23, 2020 at 10:15 AM

MG

“ Tammy,  
*Passing notes in geometry class so long ago, I would never have thought I'd send this note to you. Tammy, I am so, so sorry for your loss. My deepest sympathy for the family. When Mom died, someone said to dad "the first 18 months are the worst but it gets better". When Rusty died, I clung to that advice. I want you to know that the next 18 months will be hard. Hard to not cry when you see a picture or a project he worked on. Be easy on yourself for that. But after 18 months, you will find you will smile when you see his picture or project. You'll remember how he mashed his thumb working on that or what he said when the picture was taken. It doesn't get less tragic, but it gets easier to cope. If you need to talk or cry, give me a call. I have a shoulder. I've decided to not attend the memorial because of dad, his advanced age, and crowds. Again, I am so sorry. You are stronger than you ever knew. You are in my thoughts.*

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Melinda Peters Goins - October 23, 2020 at 10:13 AM

LI

“ *Lila lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin*



**lila** - October 23, 2020 at 07:02 AM

LI

*Nat was such a ray of light and joy. John and I are very saddened to learn of his passing. We both send sincere regrets and sympathy to Tammy and all his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

**lila** - October 23, 2020 at 07:07 AM

FM

“ *Fred Marion lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin*



**Fred Marion** - October 23, 2020 at 12:41 AM



“ *Yvonne Boggs lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin*



**Yvonne Boggs** - October 22, 2020 at 11:05 PM

MJ

“ *Nat, Jim, Dad and I watched a lot of bad football in the MiniDome for many years. Great times.*

**Mike James** - October 22, 2020 at 09:54 PM

TG

“ Teresa Poteet Greer lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin



Teresa Poteet Greer - October 22, 2020 at 09:36 PM

BH

“ Thinking of all the family during this sad, difficult time.



Bob and Sammie Horton - October 22, 2020 at 08:28 PM

DH

“ Dr. Clyde Hester lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin



Dr. Clyde Hester - October 22, 2020 at 06:59 PM

DH

*I liked Nat!*

Dr. Clyde Hester - October 22, 2020 at 07:00 PM

RM

“ *My sincere condolences to the entire family. You remain in my thoughts and prayers. May God grant you peace and comfort during this very difficult period. Nat was a friend and colleague for over 30 years and will be missed dearly. Not only is this a loss to friends and family but for the entire community as Nat touched so many lives in a positive way. God bless.*

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**R.C. McDavid** - October 22, 2020 at 06:35 PM

JC

“ *We are so sorry to learn of Nat’s passing. He was loved by everyone. Such a kind spirit. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with Nat’s loved ones during this very sad time.*



*Deepest Sympathies,  
Jerry and Betty Crusenberry*

*‘Absence from the body, is presence with our loving Lord.’*

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**Jerry Betty Crusenberry** - October 22, 2020 at 04:15 PM

JC

“ *JBruce Catron lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin*



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**JBruce Catron** - October 22, 2020 at 03:18 PM

MJ

“ Mike & Cindy James lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin



Mike & Cindy James - October 22, 2020 at 02:43 PM

JC

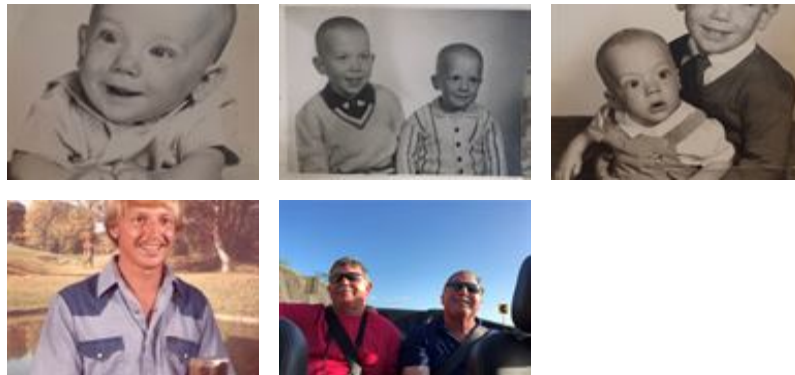
“ Prayers for the family



Jennifer Campbell - October 22, 2020 at 02:42 PM



“ 57 files added to the album LifeTributes



Robinette Funeral Homes - October 22, 2020 at 01:45 PM

SC

“ Prayers for the family.



Susie Crabtree - October 22, 2020 at 12:08 PM

DL

“ Donna Lawson lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin



Donna Lawson - October 22, 2020 at 10:38 AM

DL

Judge McElyea, I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your husband. I wanted to let you know that our entire family and our church is praying for comfort for you and your family. Donna

Donna Lawson - October 22, 2020 at 10:40 AM

LS

“ Lisa Fee Stapleton lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin



Lisa Fee Stapleton - October 22, 2020 at 09:56 AM

SM

“ Sharon & David McGee lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin



Sharon & David McGee - October 22, 2020 at 09:48 AM

SH

*Sending peace and comfort to Tammy, Aunt Gladys, Jim & Donna*

Sharon - October 22, 2020 at 09:55 AM

SB

“ Shelia Belcher lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin



Shelia Belcher - October 22, 2020 at 09:20 AM

DG

“ Dennis And Gail Donehew Greer lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin



Dennis and Gail Donehew Greer - October 22, 2020 at 08:56 AM

LP

“ Words can not express my sadness for your loss. My thoughts are with you and your family.

Larry Gene Parsons - October 22, 2020 at 07:44 AM

JM

“ So sorry to hear of Nat's passing. Prayers for the family. I know he will be greatly missed.

John Moretz - October 22, 2020 at 07:25 AM

TM

“ I had Nat my freshman year of high school. He was by far my favorite teacher. Nat believe in me when it seemed no one else did at the time! My condolences to the family.



Taylor Massey - October 21, 2020 at 11:19 PM

AS

“ Aubrey Stapleton lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin



Aubrey Stapleton - October 21, 2020 at 11:15 PM

JE

“ Tammy, Jim, and all the family  
Words cannot begin to express how stunned we were to hear of Nat's passing. We were at Clinch Valley getting certified to teach at the same time , began teaching the same year , and retired the same year. Nat was truly a dear friend and will be missed by me and many in the community

Joe & Tracy Ely - October 21, 2020 at 11:00 PM

LS

“ *Lisa Wynn Stewart lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin*



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**Lisa Wynn Stewart** - October 21, 2020 at 09:57 PM

LS

*So very sorry Tammy, praying for comfort for you and the family.*

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**Lisa Wynn Stewart** - October 21, 2020 at 09:59 PM

SD

“ *Had Nat As A Teacher, Loved Him To Death. RIP Nat*

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**Shawn Davis** - October 21, 2020 at 09:56 PM

LG

“ *Nat was the golf coach at LHS when our children were on the golf teams in the 80's and 90's. We traveled to VHSL State Golf Championships over a 4 year period and had many a good trip and good conversation. Nat will be missed and our prayers go out to Tammy, Gladys, Jim, Tommy and other members of Nat's family. Lannie, Freda Gilbert Family*

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**Lannie Gilbert** - October 21, 2020 at 09:44 PM

CS

“ *Chuck And Phyllis Shackelford lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin*



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**Chuck and Phyllis Shackelford** - October 21, 2020 at 09:36 PM

NG

“ Words cannot explain the heartbreaking news of Nat’s passing!! He graduated from JHS with my sister, Lisa. We taught together at JHS and LHS. He and Jim taught me Golf lessons. Nat was a Big Bob Seger Fan along with Tammy and myself. He loved life to the fullest!!! What a great friend we have lost too soon!! Praying for Tammy, His Dear Mother, Jim, Charlie, Tom and all the family!! 🙏



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**Nancy Garrett** - October 21, 2020 at 09:16 PM

DS

“ I am sorry to learn of Nat’s passing. I remember when he used to go quail hunting with my brother Mike. I always enjoyed catching up with Nat and Jim when they came to MECC with the Lee High students. My deepest condolences to Tammy, Gladys and Jim.  
*Donna Watson Shelton*

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**Donna Shelton** - October 21, 2020 at 09:14 PM

WI

“ Rest in peace Nat praying for your family.  
Many memories of our class of 1980 gone but never forgotten



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**Wanda Ingle** - October 21, 2020 at 09:06 PM

BQ

“ *Barbara S Quinley lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin*



**Barbara S Quinley** - October 21, 2020 at 09:03 PM

BQ

*I'm sorry for your loss. He was my daughter's teacher and she thought the world of him. Lee County lost a good Man with a Big Heart. Heaven gained a Wonderful Angel. RIP...Prayers for all the Family during this time. Prayers of Comfort.*

**Barbara S Quinley** - October 21, 2020 at 09:06 PM

DL

“ *Darlene & Jerry Light lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin*



**Darlene & Jerry Light** - October 21, 2020 at 08:36 PM

DL

“ *Our deepest sympathy to each of you. So very sorry.*

**Darlene & Jerry Light** - October 21, 2020 at 08:32 PM

CB

“ *May you find peace and comfort in the days to come.*

*Carolyn Johnston Benham*



**Carolyn Benham** - October 21, 2020 at 08:04 PM

TA

“ *Bill & Tinker Anderson*



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**Tinker Anderson** - October 21, 2020 at 07:56 PM

RT

“ *Very sad to hear of Nat's passing. Prayers sent to his family. May God comfort you during this difficult time.*



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**Robin Tabor** - October 21, 2020 at 07:52 PM

RE

“ *Sorry for your loss he was a great man Ralph Moore, Elizabeth Moore, and Rebekah Moore*



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**Rebekah** - October 21, 2020 at 07:46 PM

JC

“ *Saddened to hear of the passing of Nat. He was a super nice guy and will be missed by many. Prayers for Judge McElyea and the whole family. May God grant you peace and comfort during this difficult time and the many days ahead.*

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**Joey & Kathy Cooper** - October 21, 2020 at 07:35 PM



“ *Thoughts & Prayers for all*



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**Susan Martin** - October 21, 2020 at 07:18 PM

MM

“ *Sending love and prayers during this time for Tammy, Gladys, Jim and the rest of the family. Nat was such a great person inside and out, he will be missed by many.*

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**Malissa McConnell** - October 21, 2020 at 07:17 PM

AT

“ *So sorry to hear of the passing of Nat. I will miss seeing him and talking to him in our neighborhood when I am home. He was a genuinely sweet man of integrity. I want to send my sincerest condolences to his family and especially his wife Tammy, who was such a great friend to my brother Sandy throughout his life. Words cannot express how sorry I am for your loss. Many prayers to this beautiful family in the coming days! He will be surely missed!*

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**Andra Thomas** - October 21, 2020 at 06:52 PM

RH

“ *Tammy so sorry for your loss, God's grace be with you.*

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**Roger D Hammons** - October 21, 2020 at 06:20 PM

DK

“ *David, Judy & Jason King*



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**David, Judy & Jason King** - October 21, 2020 at 06:08 PM

JE

“ *Jill Evans lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin*



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**Jill Evans** - October 21, 2020 at 05:56 PM

JA

“ *Nat spent a LOT of time at our home in Jonesville. He and daddy became GREAT friends and daddy loved him fiercely! They enjoyed sitting in the yard just talking and time on the golf course. He was so very kind to daddy and daddy LOVED the times they spent together. I will continue to hold the family in my prayers. I KNOW daddy has a huge grin on his face in heaven as they sit together reminiscing.*

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**janet** - October 21, 2020 at 05:35 PM

IW

“ *I am so sorry for your loss, prayers*



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**Irene Whittimore** - October 21, 2020 at 05:10 PM

DM

“ Donna&Bob Muncy lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin



Donna&Bob Muncy - October 21, 2020 at 05:06 PM



“ Jack Jones lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin



Jack Jones - October 21, 2020 at 05:05 PM

KP

“ Karla Keel Parks lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin



Karla Keel Parks - October 21, 2020 at 04:42 PM

KP

Tammy, so sorry to hear of Nats passing. Hugs & prayers.

Karla Keel Parks - October 21, 2020 at 04:43 PM

SL

“ *Susie Ledger lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin*



**susie Ledger** - October 21, 2020 at 04:41 PM

SL

“ *Tammy we are very sad to learn of Nat's passing. We have great memories with Nat. Please extend our sympathy to Jim and the rest of the family. You all will be in our thoughts and prayers in the coming days. God Bless! Sincerely Susie & Charles Ledger*

**susie Ledger** - October 21, 2020 at 04:39 PM

SY

*May your wonderful memories sustain you Through your time of grieving ! May you know many are thinking of you and sending love and prayers. Dan, Sheri and Andy Yates*

**sheri yates** - October 21, 2020 at 05:58 PM

SH

*So sorry for your loss . Prayers for family. Sue Haynes and family.*

**Sue Haynes** - October 21, 2020 at 06:34 PM

JJ

“ *Wise man and a great teacher. He will definitely be missed.*



**Jesse Jones** - October 21, 2020 at 04:23 PM

TH

“ Ty And Kathy Harber lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin



Ty and Kathy Harber - October 21, 2020 at 04:22 PM

CH

“ Claudia Howard lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin



Claudia Howard - October 21, 2020 at 03:54 PM

RM

“ Rebecca Maggard lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin



Rebecca Maggard - October 21, 2020 at 03:27 PM

MS

“ My heartfelt love and prayers go out to Nats family. I am so sorry for this huge loss. He was a great boss and an even better teacher.

Marleana Spivey - October 21, 2020 at 03:02 PM

Rose  
Rose

“ I am very sorry to hear the news. I remember when he was several grades ahead of me in school. Prayers for the family.

Rose Rose - October 21, 2020 at 03:00 PM

SN

“ So sorry to hear this news. I have known Nat for years and remember his patience with me when he was giving a group of ladies golf lessons at the Country Club. He will be missed. Prayers for comfort during this time.  
Sandy Newman

Sandy Newman - October 21, 2020 at 02:57 PM

CL

“ Carolyn Tabor Linkous lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin



Carolyn Tabor Linkous - October 21, 2020 at 02:43 PM



“ Sending love to my extended family. May your memories of Nat be a blessing to you as you endure this sad time. ❤️ Tobi Neff

Tobi Athanas - October 21, 2020 at 01:35 PM

WM

“ *Wilma W. McNew lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin*



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**Wilma W. McNew** - October 21, 2020 at 12:06 PM

WM

*Tammy, so sorry for your loss.*

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**Wilma W. McNew** - October 21, 2020 at 12:07 PM

JC

“ *Joyce A. Clark (Class of 1978).*



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**Joyce A. Clark** - October 21, 2020 at 11:10 AM

JF

“ *Nat, was a great guy. He was our equipment manager for the girls basketball team years ago. We had some nice conversations on the bus to games. I enjoyed him very much at the Coon Club (years ago). He will be missed in Lee County Community. Prays for the family.*

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**Judy Hall Fee** - October 21, 2020 at 10:54 AM

JF

“ *Judy Hall Fee lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel "Nat" Cridlin*



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**Judy Hall Fee** - October 21, 2020 at 10:52 AM