



Pleas Lawson

April 26, 1936 - December 6, 2025

Pleas Lawson, 89, of Blackwater, VA, went to be with his Lord and Savior on Saturday, December 6, at his home.

He was born on April 26, 1936 to the late Harmon and Bessie Lawson. Pleas was deeply proud of his family name and never missed an opportunity to trace kinship with anyone he met. He said he was kin to everyone. He never met a stranger and loved to talk. He was rich in family history and could recount stories and lineage that spanned generations. He always said, "I love my people."

Pleas was of the Baptist faith and attended various churches. He loved his Lord and was always quick to tell you how good the Lord had been to him and, "You better make it right with the Lord, for He is coming back!"

He was a hard-working man all his life. Pleas was employed in various states before settling in Blackwater. Working as a foreman for Powell Valley Electric, he oversaw crews responsible for cutting electric lines clear of trees. Dedicated and steadfast, he continued working his farm until his health no longer allowed.

He married the love of his life, Zelma "Zel" Arrington Lawson, and together they spent 40 happy years. After her passing, he spent his days longing for

her and remained in their home until his passing. He was cared for well by his nephews, Brett and Bobby Lawson.

Pleas was a founding member of Blackwater Volunteer Fire Department, where he served as the Chief at one point, giving his time and leadership to serve and protect his community.

Together with Zel, he opened their home to countless foster children, offering them love, guidance and a place of belonging. They wanted to make a difference in their life. Many who came through there found the Lord as their Savior and a deeper relationship with God during their time in their home.

In addition to his parents, Harmon and Bessie Lawson, he was preceded in death by his wife, Zelma, two brothers, Harmon James Lawson and Guy Scalf, and three sisters, Venus Scalf Osborne, Doyln Scalf Mullinax and Zelda Lawson Wilkerson.

Pleas is survived by a step-son, Michael Olinger, of Duffield, VA; two brothers, Leroy Lawson, of Indiana, and Ralph Lawson and wife, Anna, of Blackwater; two sisters, Madge Lawson, of Jonesville, VA, and Dorothy Monroe and husband, Dick, of Indiana; brother-in-law, Harold Lawson and wife, Judy, of Hiltons, VA; two sisters-in-law, Lil Pendleton and Irene Lampkins, both of Kingsport, TN; and a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews as well as other extended family and friends.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 9:00 p.m. on Monday, December 8, at Robinette Funeral Home in Blackwater. The funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 9, in the funeral home chapel with Carl Ray Cope and Phil Crittenden officiating. Music will be provided by Ronald and Louisa Hill and Matthew and Sherry Vanzant. Graveside services will follow in the Osborne Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be his nephews and great-nephews. Honorary Pallbearers will be Brett and Bobby Lawson.

Online condolences may be sent by visiting, www.RobinetteFuneralHomes.com. Robinette Funeral Home of Blackwater is serving the Lawson family.

Cemetery Details

Osborne Cemetery

Hickory Hill Road
Blackwater, VA 24221

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 8. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Robinette Funeral Home (Blackwater)
696 A.J.Osborne Hwy
Blackwater, VA 24221
(276) 346-2636

Funeral Service

DEC 9. 2:00 PM (ET)

Robinette Funeral Home (Blackwater)
696 A.J.Osborne Hwy
Blackwater, VA 24221
(276) 346-2636

Tribute Wall

DR

“ *Sending love and prayers to all his family and friends. We are kin and he's right I think we are kin to everyone. L.* ”



Debra Rhea - December 08, 2025 at 12:45 PM

BW

“ *R.I.P. ole friend.
Thoughts and prayers to the family..* ”

Bill Williams - December 07, 2025 at 08:33 PM