



## Ira Early

April 7, 2018

Ira Clyde “Bits” Early, 90, a lifelong resident of Portsmouth, Virginia, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on April 7, 2018, in Charlottesville, Virginia. He was born in Portsmouth, Virginia.

He was a veteran of the US Merchant Marine and US Army. He was employed by the Norfolk and Portsmouth Belt Line Railroad for 39 years. He was a proud member of the United Transportation Union and a lifelong Methodist and member of the Broad Street United Methodist Church.

After retirement from the Railroad, he volunteered for over 20 years at Maryview Hospital. He was also a Member of the Walter Gardner Coffee Club.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Evelyn Crowder Early, of 71 years, his daughter Linda Early Tolon of Baytown, Texas, two sons, John Hilton Early of Charlottesville, Virginia, and Mark Thomas Early of Arlington, Virginia, four grandchildren, five great grandchildren, one niece and four nephews.

Graveside service will be held on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 1:30 pm at Meadowbrook Memorial Gardens in Suffolk, Virginia, and will be officiated by Rev. Linda Early Tolon. In lieu of flowers the family has requested that memorial contributions be made to the Broad Street United Methodist Church, 300 Broad Street, Portsmouth, VA 23707; or the EVMS Strelitz Diabetes

Institute, EVMS Foundation, P.O. Box 5, Norfolk, Virginia 23501-0005.

# Cemetery Details

## Meadowbrook Memorial Gardens

4569 Shoulders Hill Rd.  
Suffolk, VA

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

APR 11. 1:30 PM (ET)

Meadowbrook Memorial Gardens  
4569 Shoulders Hill Rd.  
Suffolk, VA

# Tribute Wall

FR

“ *I remember our conversations at your home. You were both so welcoming and graceful. I enjoyed talking with Bits during worship. He will be missed.*

*Evelyn I know you are grieving and I wish I could give you a hug and let you know how much I loved you both.*

*Pastor Fred*

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**Fred** - April 19, 2018 at 08:36 AM

JE

“ *Dear Evelyn,*

*My heart goes out to you and your family. We have been life long friends.*

*Joyce Thomason Eskey*

*The Thomason and Walton Families*

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**Joyce T. Eskey** - April 11, 2018 at 12:55 PM