



William M. Spears

March 3, 2008

On March 3, 2008, William M. Spears went home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He was born Feb. 24, 1938 in Atlanta. He was the endeared son of the late William K. Spears and Reba Lee Spears of Portsmouth. For 50 years, he was the loving husband to Sara Janrae Archer Spears. He was a kind and generous father to his four children and their spouses: William Kelley Spears of Portsmouth, Daniel Spears and significant other Debbie Lafontaine of Portsmouth, Christopher Lee Spears and Tammy Spears of Chesapeake, and Susan Spears Holloway and Christopher Holloway of Suffolk. He was also a devoted grandfather to Amanda Spears Hewitt, Christopher Sean Spears, Timothy Spears, Kayla Spears, Erin Holloway, and great-grandfather of Jonathan Hewitt. As well, he was the brother and brother-in-law to Anne Spears Bryan and Charles Bryan of Georgia and brother to the late Jerry Spears. He was an uncle to many nieces and nephews. And he was called friend and teacher by many. As a young man, Bill worked as a painter with his father. Later, he made a career in the Portsmouth fire department. While he worked in the fire department, he advanced his career by graduating with his bachelor's degree from Christopher Newport College and his master's degree from Golden Gate University. He was the first in our family to graduate with a college degree. And with this degree he became a battalion chief. As a battalion chief, he trained many firemen and taught EMT classes all over Virginia. After 29 years, he retired from the fire department and embarked on a new career. He

became the head of the Fire Science department for Tidewater Community College. For 12 years, he taught fireman how to equip themselves so that they could better protect and serve their communities. Today, you could stop and ask many firemen who Chief Spears was. He or she would tell you that Bill was their teacher and friend. However, Bill was not all about work. He loved to travel. He and Janrae went many different places in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean. When he was at home, he loved to go to the movies or watch television. During his life, he was a Shriner of the Khedive Temple. He was part of the Tidal Wave Masonic Lodge No. 273 of Portsmouth and he belonged to the Scottish Rite. When he retired, he learned how to play golf. He volunteered at the Portsmouth City Park Golf Course. He bowled duckpins at Victory Lanes and he spent much time at the VFW playing Texas holdem. Bill was also a member of Good News Baptist Church. He played an active role by cooking for prayer breakfasts. He helped support youth ministries by sending teens to the Wilds and he enjoyed his Sunday school classes. He made lifelong friends at Good News, where he will be missed. Bill, being the public speaker, loved to share his faith in Christ with many. Any time that he was given the opportunity, he would share his faith. Bill's ultimate joy was spending time with his wife and children. He loved to see them all together for holidays or birthdays. He loved his family very much. Others could tell because of the sacrifices that he made for his family. He will never be forgotten for that. Bill was a wonderful man. At the end of his life, his family could not tell him enough how much they loved him. We know that we will not be separated from him for long. Life is short and each day is precious. Take care Bill, father, grandfather and friend. We will see you again. A funeral will be held at 2 p.m. Friday in Good News Baptist Church by Pastor Walter Coles with burial in Greenlawn Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends in Loving Funeral Home, Churchland Chapel, today from 7 to 8 p.m.

Tribute Wall



“ To
Mrs Spears, Danny, Kelley, Chris, Susan
and to the rest of the Spears Family,

Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this most difficult time.

May Gods love give you all the comfort and strength needed to get through these tough times.

May God Bless you all and give you peace in knowing he is in a better place!!##imported-begin##Glenda, Kyla, Robbie, Richey, Krissi##imported-end##

March 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Danny, Am very sorry for the loss of your father. I was amazed of what he had done during his lifetime and wish I had the chance to meet him.

Bill & Sharon Munsey##imported-begin##Bill Munsey##imported-end##

March 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. You and your family are in my prayers.##imported-begin##Kevin Boffa##imported-end##

March 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *A life well-lived doesn't end
any more than music ends...
It echoes through time
with whispers of beauty and grace...
If we listen, we can hear the encore with our hearts,
for the song plays on,
Just as love lives on.*

*We have many wonderful memories which we will always cherish.
May you feel God's presence during the loss of a very special
person.##imported-begin##Bill & Sandra Baird##imported-end##*

March 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Chris,
May your family be at peace and know that you were and are loved.
My thoughts and prayers go out to each of you.##imported-
begin##Meg Laning##imported-end##*

March 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Spears family during
this difficult time.##imported-begin##Gary & LieghAnn
Crawford##imported-end##*

March 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Chris I read on line about the passing of your father. Our paths do not cross anymore because I live in Clayton, NC. I hope you and your family find peace and cherish your memories. My daughter was actually 5 last month on your fathers birthday. Take care and God Bless.

Chris Jennifer and Macie Mitchell##imported-begin##Chris Mitchell##imported-end##

March 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Our family would like to send our condolences to the Spears Family. We will miss you Bill.

A loved one that has finished their life on earth is not dead, there life has just began. They are still with us in spirt. That you must beleive.
by Jennifer Janiszewski##imported-begin##Curtis & Diane Large##imported-end##

March 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Bill Spears made a positive and profound influence in my choice of profession. I first met Bill when I was a first grade student at Westhaven Elementary School during a field trip visit to Grove Park firehouse. Upon the completion of that field trip I knew I wanted to be a firefighter thanks to Bill Spears. Years later I was fortunate again to experience his positive and profound influence as a student at Tidewater Community College when I enrolled in the Fire Science program. Bill is evidence that heroes are not just athletes and entertainers.

In our fathers house there are many mansionsâ? One of its newest has the shiniest brass pole you have ever seen and it belongs to Chief Bill Spears.##imported-begin##Billy Eubanks##imported-end##

March 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Jack and I are so sorry for your loss. Billy was a great guy and I have wonderful childhood memories of him.

May God keep you and your family close in His love.

Love

Pat##imported-begin##Pat Spears Wilson##imported-end##

March 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ My sincere sympathies and prayer for your peace as you send your loved one Home to God.##imported-begin##Taraleigh##imported-end##

March 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD AND DAYS GONE BY WILL NEVER
END. MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU AND
YOURS.##imported-begin##SUNSHINE##imported-end##

March 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM