



Ben H. Essary

March 8, 1934 - May 24, 2018

Ben H. Essary, age 84, of Bristol, TN, passed away on Thursday, May 24, 2018 at Bristol Regional Medical Center. He was born in Claiborne County, Tennessee, son of the late Robert Sherman Essary and Maude Irene Johnson Essary. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one sister, Ruth Bruce; one brother-in-law, Jim Ed Bruce; and two twin nephews, Dan and Don Bruce.

Ben graduated from Lincoln Memorial University where he played basketball for four years and was inducted into the Hall of Fame. He married his sweet heart Madge on June 16, 1956 and they moved to the Bristol area in 1960. He worked as the Chief Medical Technologist at Bristol Memorial Hospital. He then went to work for Beecham Laboratories where he retired from in 1990. After retirement he went into business with Dr. Bob Vann and John Vann as a Co-Owner/Operator of C.T.M.S. Ben was a member of St. Luke United Methodist Church, the Bristol Country Club and The Virginian. He was an avid golfer.

He is survived by his wife of sixty-two years, Madge J. Essary; two daughters, Taisa Essary Novak and husband Steve, and Tanya Elaine Essary; his three grand dogs, Buffy, Kali, and Devin; and one niece, Judy Bruce Palmer and husband Roger.

The family will receive friends Sunday, May 27, 2018 from 2:00 PM until 4:00 PM at Oakley-Cook Funeral Home. The funeral service will follow at 4:00 PM with Rev. Caroline Hawthorne and Rev. Martin Jones officiating. A private burial will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to St. Luke United Methodist Church, 105 North Street, Bristol, VA 24201 or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Arrangements especially for Mr. Essary and his family have been made through Oakley-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory.

Events

MAY **Visitation** 02:00PM - 04:00PM

27

Oakley-Cook Funeral Home

2223 Volunteer Parkway, Bristol, TN, US, 37620

MAY **Funeral Service** 04:00PM

27

Oakley-Cook Funeral Home

2223 Volunteer Parkway, Bristol, TN, US, 37620

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Oakley-Cook Funeral Home - May 26, 2018 at 09:48 AM



“ Always a smile and a kind, happy word.

Donn Anderson - May 26, 2018 at 11:47 AM



“ Our sympathy to the Essary family as we remember all the fun times we had with Ben. So happy we were able to get together two years ago. Knowing Ben was a gift.

Dick and Barb Doxstader

Barbara Doxstader - May 27, 2018 at 10:36 AM



“ Gene and I had wonderful times with Ben and Madge. He was a joy to be with. Always a smile and an awesome sense of humor. Our deepest sympathies to Madge and the Essary family.

Gene and Donna Anderson

Donna Anderson - May 27, 2018 at 12:29 PM



“ Sure will miss going to UT games together. Ben and Brad loved talking about the Vols. Deepest sympathies to Madge and family. Linda and Brad

Linda Thompson. - May 29, 2018 at 11:17 AM



“ Tanya - so sorry about the passing of your Dad and that I couldn't be there for the service. Praying for you! - Kevin Harbin

Kevin Harbin - June 04, 2018 at 07:24 AM



“ 29 May, 2018

To: Mrs. Essary (Madge), Taisa and Tanya

My sincerest condolences for a loss so overwhelming. I pray the Lord may assuage your anguish of a love lost to life on earth and leave you with the cherished memories of a life lived so abundantly. A life evident by a legacy that was his, and yours, for who remains behind.

The Bible references life on earth as the blink of ones' eye. As Mr. Essary (Ben) awakens to his new life, in heaven, at the blink of his eye is the rest of our lives. He turns around, and sees us, all of us, standing behind him.

May God Bless all of the family for allowing me to have a small part in your lives.

Eric Spicer

Eric Spicer - May 29, 2018 at 10:03 PM



“ Madge and family, our condolences. It was a pleasure to know Ben and play golf with him at Heritage Palms. Beside being a great golfer, he was a good friend and he will be missed by all who knew him.
Joe and Cathy Foster

Joe Foster - May 28, 2018 at 01:52 PM



“ Denice and I send our heartfelt condolences to Madge and family. We enjoyed our times together at The Gang events and also the times Ben and I played golf together. He will be missed but certainly remembered...Bill Smith

Bill Smith - May 27, 2018 at 11:03 AM



“ My deepest sympathy to you all. He was one of the nicest men I have ever known and will be missed greatly.

Nina White



Nina White - May 26, 2018 at 08:35 PM



“ We go back a long time. I'm so glad I got to see you both at our 60th anniversary party, and we went to one of yours. I'm not sure which it was. You and Ben shared some wonderful times together golfing and traveling each year to Florida. I'm so sorry for Ben's passing. Hold on to your good memories and take care of yourself. We send sympathy to the girl's on the loss of their dad.



Betty Parise - May 26, 2018 at 04:15 PM



“ Dearest Madge and family, George and I wanted to express our deepest sympathy in the passing of Ben....What a wonderful life time partner you each have had. I think back of the many fun times at the Country Club having dinner and sharing lots of laughs. Please know our prayers and thoughts are with you. Take good care and sending you lots of hugs dear dear friend!

Love,

George and Becky McCloud

BEcky Mccloud - May 26, 2018 at 02:26 PM



“ I can't say enough about Ben. He will be sorely missed. Ben and Madge were one of the very first members to join The Virginian Golf Club back in 1992 and I have had the pleasure of knowing them ever since. Ben was one of those members that any club would love to have. He was a gentleman in every sense of the word. A golf purist. He simply loved the game. He played in numerous couples events with Madge and also loved to compete at the highest level, which were club championships, which he won many. I asked him one time, after he shot his age for the um-teenth time, if he knew how many times he had done it. He replied, "269 times." I was amazed and remarked that could be a Guinness Book of World Records. Should I check? "No, he said. There's a guy out there who has shot his age over 2,500 times." That's Ben. He always knew the competition going in and if he put himself in a position to win, he often did. The nice thing was, he was always a gentleman. He knew how to win and how to lose graciously and that is a wonderful legacy to leave behind. He will be missed by all of us who knew him and we will often think about him for years to come, especially come tournament time.

Jim Blackmore

Jim Blackmore - May 26, 2018 at 09:31 AM



“ Ben was a big man with a big heart. Always so nice and sweet. Our love and prayers go out to Madge and her girls.

Laverne Canter - May 27, 2018 at 02:16 PM



“ 31 files added to the album LifeTributes



Oakley-Cook Funeral Home - May 26, 2018 at 08:44 AM



“ Saddened to hear of Ben's passing. Ben took a chance on hiring me nearly 20 years ago into an industry I didn't know existed. Thanks to Ben, I have seen much success and have had opportunities to indirectly help many people. What a wonderful, witty person. I will lift Madge in my prayers and thoughts.

Niki McGrew - May 25, 2018 at 10:04 AM



“ What a good man! We came here about 12 years ago and I had the pleasure of meeting Ben in a golf tournament, on his team. I wanted to play well and was not...Ben helped me calm down and it was a wonderful day. He was a jewel and then I met Madge his beautiful wife who was an equal jewel. So many wonderful memories. We will miss you .

Betty Spencer - May 24, 2018 at 10:45 PM



“ We were so sorry to read of Ben's passing but he will be remembered for his funny antics and sense of humor. I loved looking at the photos and remembering the good times. Madge, you and the girls will be in our thoughts and prayers.

R. D. and Betty Dickenson - May 26, 2018 at 11:55 AM