



Michael Dean "Peanut" Brown

July 21, 1955 - September 24, 2018

Michael Dean "Peanut" Brown died on Monday, September 24, 2018, after a courageous battle with cancer. Peanut was born on July 21, 1955 in Bristol, VA, a son of the late Albert and Wilbie Rush Brown. He is also preceded in death by a sister, Teresa Gail Hamby.

He was a gifted handyman, and for the past 14 years he had served as custodian of State Street United Methodist Church, where he was paid to care for the building and he chose to care for the people. Each day, he arrived long before sunrise to prepare the building and to make coffee strong enough "to walk the dog." Then he greeted everyone with a smile and usually with a nickname he had given.

He was particularly beloved among the children of Spring Garden Preschool, who called him "Mr. Peanut." He loved to visit their classrooms, to kneel for hugs in the hallway, to play Santa's elf at their Christmas celebrations, and to give a silver dollar to each child who graduated.

Peanut could not or would not say no, especially to people in need. He went many extra miles for his co-workers and fellow church members. He cared for senior adults in the congregation by making repairs in their homes, providing rides to their appointments, and by making visits to their residential care facilities.

He lived out his faith in Jesus Christ through the church's ministries that most intentionally reach out to care for people in need. His heart was even bigger than his enormous bundle of keys, and his customary parting words "love you," might have been the only expressions of love some who knew him ever received.

Away from the church, Peanut loved making a deal for a vehicle or visiting a flea market, where he was most likely to buy a gift for a friend or a t-shirt that he could ruin while doing a repair job in someone's home. Otherwise, he was probably buying yet another pocket knife with a story or yet another tool for his collection, since he often said, "The right tools make a job so much easier."

He is survived by sister, Reba Hess; two brothers, Robert and Steve Brown; several nieces and nephews; a loving church family; and the many preschool children whose lives he brightened. His love and legacy will live on in them for many years.

“Peace plus love equals joy” was more than just a saying to Peanut. It was his way of life. May he rest in peace, surrounded by love, to rise in eternal joy.

A memorial service will be held at 7:00 PM on Thursday, September 27, 2018 at State Street United Methodist Church in Bristol, VA with Rev. Jonathan Jonas and Dr. Mark Hicks officiating. A reception will follow the service for friends to fellowship and share memories of Peanut and his life.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Spring Garden Preschool, 300 W. Valley Drive, Bristol, VA 24201.

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

Events

SEP **Memorial Service** 07:00PM
27

State Street United Methodist Church
300 W. Valley Drive, Bristol, VA, US

Comments



“ Peanut was such a kind and caring soul who did his best to make people smile and forget about their problems. His legacy will not be forgotten nor will his sweet spirit. Rest in peace dear one.
Carolyn Sue Blevins

Carolyn Blevins - September 29, 2018 at 02:09 PM



“ Darryl Rush lit a candle in memory of Michael Dean "Peanut" Brown



Darryl Rush - September 28, 2018 at 11:50 AM



“ I had three kids attend spring garden pre school and each one had a different nickname. They looked forward to seeing peanut every day. Thanks for always being there and always with smile. Couldn't ask for a better person. Will be missed.

Justin senter - September 27, 2018 at 07:20 PM



“ I have not seen P-nut since the death of my best and beloved friend Susie Wiles. I have thought of him over the years and am so touched to read this beautiful obituary honoring a wonderful man who led a life of service. Looking forward to seeing him again one day.



Beth Rush Schold - September 27, 2018 at 06:35 PM



“ Ronnie Oliver lit a candle in memory of Michael Dean "Peanut" Brown



Ronnie Oliver - September 27, 2018 at 03:14 PM



“ Having known Peanut and his family for 45 years or longer I am saddened by his passing but rejoicing in knowing where he now abides..Didn't see him much but when I did he always had a warm smile and a hug...When I read his obituary I cried, whoever wrote this paid him a great tribute...My heart and prayers are with his family in the days ahead..

Pam Hayden Stanton - September 27, 2018 at 12:30 PM



“ Evelyn Dixon-Pickel lit a candle in memory of Michael Dean "Peanut" Brown



Evelyn Dixon-Pickel - September 27, 2018 at 11:49 AM



“ Peanut was always there for both Boy Scout Troop 8 and Cub Scout Pack 8, who meet and are chartered by the church. He would do anything he could to help us. We will miss him greatly!!! We are sending love and prayers to his family.



Mary Stevens - September 27, 2018 at 06:01 AM



“ Lisa Price Mutter lit a candle in memory of Michael Dean "Peanut" Brown



Lisa Price Mutter - September 26, 2018 at 07:51 PM



“ Wendy Hughes Bowery lit a candle in memory of Michael Dean "Peanut" Brown



wendy hughes bowery - September 26, 2018 at 02:42 PM



“ Patty Hughes-moore lit a candle in memory of Michael Dean "Peanut" Brown



Patty Hughes-moore - September 26, 2018 at 02:34 PM



“ Melissa Fritts lit a candle in memory of Michael Dean "Peanut" Brown



Melissa Fritts - September 26, 2018 at 01:49 PM



“ Please be in prayer for this family....Peanut was a very good friend of our family for years and he was such a kindhearted, humble, and precious person....He had a heart of gold and would give you the shirt off of his back in a second if he knew you needed it....We will see you again someday soon in Heaven my friend but until then, you rest peacefully in the good Lord's arms

Melissa Fritts - September 26, 2018 at 01:47 PM



“ I have known Peanut since I was a little girl. He was funny, kind and loving. Would give you the shirt off of his back. He will be greatly missed. Prayers for the family.

Angie Bowman Burress - September 26, 2018 at 09:02 AM



“ To the person / persons that wrote this obituary. I read the obituaries from time to time and came across this obituary I never met or knew Peanut, but was very impressed with his obituary. I can not remember ever reading an obituary that was done better to honor a friend or love one. Peanut must have been a beautiful work of God to deserve that kind of love from all his friends. The man must have been a delight to be around. Sorry I missed knowing him.
Bro Chet

Glenn Benson - September 26, 2018 at 08:39 AM



“ Vada sent a virtual gift in memory of Michael Dean "Peanut" Brown



Vada - September 26, 2018 at 08:02 AM



“ Dinah Smith lit a candle in memory of Michael Dean "Peanut" Brown



Dinah Smith - September 26, 2018 at 07:12 AM



“ Cheryl Brewer lit a candle in memory of Michael Dean "Peanut" Brown



Cheryl Brewer - September 25, 2018 at 11:51 PM



“ Pam Musselwhite lit a candle in memory of Michael Dean "Peanut" Brown



pam musselwhite - September 25, 2018 at 08:17 PM



“ Love me some "P-nut"!! We have lost an awesome wonderful guy, he will be greatly missed! My heart breaks but I can still smile for knowing P-nut Brown. Thoughts & prayers to entire family...

Deb Johnson - September 25, 2018 at 07:19 PM



“ Peanut and I were friends for 43 years his smiling face will be missed by myself and my family. A few days before Christmas my Mom would find mistletoe and holly to help decorate for Christmas no note or nothing but we all knew who it was from. God bless you all prayers for your loss. Will be missed by myself love you all.

Revonda Nixon - September 25, 2018 at 07:08 PM



“ Peanut you were such an amazing person. When things were hard for me emotionally you were there with a hug and a smile. I am so thankful to have known you and to be able to call you a friend. Love you my friend till I see you again.

Lori Phillips - September 25, 2018 at 06:43 PM



“ Goodbye my friend, I will miss our Sunday morning conversations, your jokes, talking about your cars and knives. But most of all I will miss you as my friend.
Greg Cochran

Greg Cochran - September 25, 2018 at 06:17 PM



“ Vada Flannagan lit a candle in memory of Michael Dean "Peanut" Brown



Vada Flannagan - September 25, 2018 at 05:20 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Peanuts passing. I knew him when I worked for Spring Garden Pre School. He was a very outgoing man and everyone loved him. Prayers are with all of you.

patricia mcclure - September 25, 2018 at 04:15 PM



“ There are two individuals my son and I looked for every Sunday morning, Peanut was one of them. He always had a "buck" (\$1) to give Remington or jokingly asked Remington "hey man give me a "buck". I told him he was contributing to Remington's college fund. He gave Remington his first pocket knife (that wouldn't cut butter) but Remington cherishes that knife because it came from Peanut. Sundays will not be the same, we will miss Peanut more than words can express.

Robin, Blaine and Remington

Robin Wade - September 25, 2018 at 03:58 PM