



Mr. Ellis Haywood Parsons

October 11, 1916 - May 19, 2023

Funeral services for Ellis Haywood Parsons Sr., 106, will be held at 1 PM on Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at the First Baptist Church Sanctuary. Burial will follow at Magnolia Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home on Tuesday, May 30 from 4-6 PM.

Ellis was the fourth of five sons born to John B. Parsons and Minnie Florence Haywood Parsons in Candor, NC. At age 19 he was recruited by Sonoco Products to come to work at the Rockingham, NC plant and after a series of promotions was moved to Hartsville, SC. He met Annie Cole Thomas while working in Rockingham, NC, and they were married on September 3, 1942 at First Methodist Church in Rockingham. They were married for six weeks short of 70 years until Annie Cole's death on July 23, 2012. Ellis' career with Sonoco Products was interrupted with the outbreak of World War Two, entering the U.S. Army in 1942. After several training periods he was certified as a Century Division Ranger. In August 1944 he was shipped to Marseilles, France. His unit served with the 100th Division during the invasion of Southern France and fought on into Germany. He received a battlefield commission in Sarrebourg, France in January 1945. Ellis was a "certified member of the Sons of Bitche" for his part in the "storm and capture of the proud Citadel in the Maginot Line on March 16, 1945". He was transferred to the 45th Infantry Division as a platoon leader. In April, after entering Bavaria, he and his captain were wounded in battle. He was evacuated to Reims,

France for recovery. He returned to his unit in Dachau, Germany and was there until he returned to the U.S. in September, 1945. While serving in World War, Ellis received the Bronze Star for valor and the Purple Heart with two clusters.

Ellis returned to work in January 1946 and continued his employment at Sonoco for 46 years. He retired in 1982 after serving in several supervisory and management positions. He was instrumental in the development of the Plastics Division at Sonoco and held several patents during his career there. Since 1947 he was a member of the Lion's Club, past club president, Lion of the Year, Melvin Jones Fellow, and member of the South Carolina Lion Hall of Fame. He was an active member of the First Baptist Church and was Chairman of the Board of Deacons in the past. He served on the Board of Visitors, Coker College. Ellis was recognized by the National Commander of the American Legion in 2023 for 75 years of continuous service for being an outstanding contributor to the programs of the American Legion.

On the occasion of his 106 birthday, he greatly appreciated being recognized by the mayor of Hartsville by giving him the "Key to the City" of Hartsville and then declaring the day "Ellis Parsons Day".

In 2022 The governor of South Carolina recognized Ellis with the "Order of the Palmetto" in "grateful recognition for his friendship and contributions to the state of South Carolina and her people".

Ellis was the proud parent of three sons: Ellis Haywood Parsons, Jr, William Thomas Parsons, MD, (Mary Leslie Hudson), Edmund Cole Parsons, MD. (Michelle Dianne Snipes); Grandchildren: Thomas Cole Parsons (Kristyn Ann Gordy), Maryann Brodie Parsons, Robert Ellis Parsons, Edmund Cole Parsons, Jr, Samuel Brian Snipes; Great grandchildren: Thomas Cole Parsons II, Weston Joseph Parsons, Ellis Ann Parsons, and August William

Parsons. Additionally, Ellis will be fondly remembered by numerous extended family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Baptist Church, 104 East Home Ave., Hartsville, SC 29550 or to a charity of your choice.

We would like to thank Dr. T. James Bell, Dr. Mac Chapman, and Dr. Wallace Vaught, Jr, for their excellent medical care as well as Agape Hospice for their compassionate care. Also we would like to thank Willie Hough for his indispensable help on short notice.

Cemetery Details

Magnolia Cemetery

140 South Cedar Lane
Hartsville, SC 29550
(843) 383-3004

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 30. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Brown Pennington Atkins Funeral Home
306 West Home Avenue
Hartsville, SC 29550
info@bpafuneralhome.com
<http://www.bpafuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

MAY 31. 1:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church
104 E. Home Ave.
Hartsville, SC

Tribute Wall

SH

“ Ellis, we extend our heartfelt sympathy to you and your family and continue to keep all of you in our prayers. Sarah Alice and Herbert House



Sarah House - May 30, 2023 at 05:56 PM

KR

“ sorry for your loss ya'll are in my prayers

Krystian Rogers - May 29, 2023 at 01:55 PM

KR

“ Krystian Rogers lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ellis Haywood Parsons



Krystian Rogers - May 29, 2023 at 01:54 PM

LL

“ I am honored and blessed to have known Mr. Parsons. He was a “True Southern Gentleman”. Please accept my sincerest condolences. 🇺🇸



Lori Sims Lowe - May 25, 2023 at 09:20 PM

GC

“ Richard and I were very fond of Mr. Parsons and sad to learn of his death. He and I grew up in the Candor, NC, area and we enjoyed talking about that part of the state. We were always amazed by his remarkable memory. He had a wonderful sense of humor and enjoyed having company. We will miss him and will be remembering his family in our prayers.

Gail and Richard Culyer - May 24, 2023 at 10:41 AM

JM

“ John McKinnon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ellis Haywood Parsons



John McKinnon - May 24, 2023 at 02:35 AM

JM

I remember Mrs. Parsons as our Den Leader in cub scouts. Mr. and Mrs. Parsons were always so welcoming in their home. Chester, Law, Green St. and Woodland Dr. were great streets to have been brought up living on. I look back on those times growing up and feel blessed to have had so many good friends and their parents to teach us such good values that at least, helped me through life. Thinking of you boys and the times we had together. John McKinnon, Sarasota, Fla.

John McKinnon - May 24, 2023 at 02:53 AM

CL

“ Would that all men could be as much of a Gentleman as Mr. Parsons. Ours would be a peaceful, loving world. Chuck and Kathi Luther

Chuck Luther - May 23, 2023 at 09:25 AM

MC

“ Manda Campbell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ellis Haywood Parsons



Manda Campbell - May 22, 2023 at 06:06 PM

JM

“ I had the pleasure of meeting Mr.Parsons in 2021. I enjoyed hours of detailed stories of his army ranger days and his life there after. He was a real pleasure to listen to so much you could learn from a life well lived! A great man and very proud veteran.



Joan McCoy - May 22, 2023 at 05:18 PM

SP

“ I had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Parsons for 10 years. He was the highlight of my day when I saw him. Such a sweet, smart, and encouraging man! He will be missed! To the Parsons family, I would like you to know that all of you are in my thoughts and prayers!

Dr. Sharla Price

Sharla Price - May 22, 2023 at 09:20 AM

JS

“ Jerry Sumner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ellis Haywood Parsons



Jerry Sumner - May 21, 2023 at 10:19 PM

JS

I had the pleasure of working with Ellis for many years, handling his Accounting for Foam and Molded Plastics and involvement in trying to improve operations at the plant in Union, SC. He was a capable and smart man, a brave soldier and a dear friend.

Jerry Sumner - May 21, 2023 at 10:26 PM

GR

“ *Gay Martin Rose lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ellis Haywood Parsons*



Gay Martin Rose - May 21, 2023 at 07:51 PM

LR

“ *Lester And Lori Reynolds lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ellis Haywood Parsons*



Lester and Lori Reynolds - May 21, 2023 at 06:16 PM

SE

“ *Ellis,
Sad to read of your dad's passing, but, oh, my, what a long, productive, meaningful and wonderful life he had! You were blessed to have him as an example of a good and faithful servant. My prayers are with you and your family during this period of adjustment.*
Stephanie Easterling

Stephanie Easterling - May 21, 2023 at 05:31 PM

JB

“ 1 file added to the album Ellis Parsons photo memories



John F Benjamin - May 21, 2023 at 02:49 PM

JB

American Legion Post 53 presented Ellis with a 75-year continuous membership award on March 30, 2023. Legion members present were John Benjamin, Curtis Tyner, Larry Stegner, and David Carlton. It was an honor to meet a great man.

John F Benjamin - May 21, 2023 at 02:54 PM

CT

A memory I will always treasure!! RIP.

Curtis Tyner - May 28, 2023 at 11:20 PM

NG

“ May perpetual light shine upon him.

Noelle Gyomory - May 21, 2023 at 02:12 PM

AG

“ Sending our condolences.
Amy & Dewayne Gibson



Amy Gibson - May 21, 2023 at 12:18 PM

DN

“ *Dan And Kathy Newsome lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ellis Haywood Parsons*



Dan and Kathy Newsome - May 21, 2023 at 09:33 AM

CH

“ *Cindy and William Harrell*



Cindy Harrell - May 21, 2023 at 08:30 AM

WR

“ *Warner And Paul Rogers lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ellis Haywood Parsons*



Warner and Paul Rogers - May 20, 2023 at 08:55 PM

BM

“ *Billie McManus lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ellis Haywood Parsons*



Billie McManus - May 20, 2023 at 07:08 PM

CT

“ Cheryl Cromer Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ellis Haywood Parsons



Cheryl Cromer Taylor - May 20, 2023 at 07:02 PM

CT

Billy,prayers are for you and your brothers.my parents always spoke of your parents as they had known each other from living in apartment building and all through the years.

Cheryl Cromer Taylor - May 20, 2023 at 07:07 PM

BP

“ Bill & Linda Price lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ellis Haywood Parsons



Bill & Linda Price - May 20, 2023 at 06:44 PM

RW

“ My heart and prayers go out to you. I remember him and the family from church. Becky Wadsworth Walker

Rebecca Walker - May 20, 2023 at 10:11 AM

PC

“ Paul Cannarella lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ellis Haywood Parsons



Paul Cannarella - May 20, 2023 at 08:44 AM

RD

“ Rosemary Turner Dixon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ellis Haywood Parsons



Rosemary Turner Dixon - May 20, 2023 at 07:52 AM



“ Will Walden lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ellis Haywood Parsons



Will Walden - May 20, 2023 at 06:59 AM

CT

“ I had the tremendous opportunity to be present when American Legion Post 53 presented Mr. Parsons with a resolution honoring his 75 consecutive years of membership in The American Legion. We gathered at his home with Ellis Jr. there also. He was so sharp and remembered I was in High School with son Billy. We've lost a wonderful man and a proud veteran.

Curtis A. Tyner - May 19, 2023 at 09:50 PM

EB

“ Eric Bradshaw lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ellis Haywood Parsons



Eric Bradshaw - May 19, 2023 at 09:35 PM

LT

“ Linda Thompson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ellis Haywood Parsons



Linda Thompson - May 19, 2023 at 09:19 PM

RM

“ The members of the Hartsville Lions Club send our condolences for the loss of our wonderful senior member. He had been a Lion member since 1949. He was a past Club president, Lion of the year, Melvin Jones Fellow, and member of the S. C. Lion Hall of Fame.



Robert C Mcwatty - May 19, 2023 at 09:08 PM

CH

“ A great man, hired me in the Plastics Division of Sonoco in 1963. Chuck Huckabee

Chuck Huckabee - May 19, 2023 at 08:59 PM

DT

“ Dave Thompson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ellis Haywood Parsons



Dave Thompson - May 19, 2023 at 08:29 PM

JE

“ *Jonnie Thomas Estermyer lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ellis Haywood Parsons*



Jonnie Thomas Estermyer - May 19, 2023 at 06:09 PM

TW

“ *A good man and a great friend.*



Travis and Marilyn Walters - May 19, 2023 at 05:09 PM

CG

“ *Connee Gamble Grantham lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ellis Haywood Parsons*



Connee Gamble Grantham - May 19, 2023 at 05:03 PM