



Mr. William Merrill Brown

February 13, 1928 - May 4, 2023

William Merrill Brown, 95, passed from this life on Thursday, May 4, 2023. He was born in Plains, Georgia, on February 13, 1928, to R.A. and Irene Bowen Brown.

He attended school in Plains, Georgia and Alexandria, Virginia, then graduated high school from Gordon Military Academy of Barnesville, Georgia. He enlisted in the Marines and was sent to California on the way to Japan, but the war ended before he shipped out. After graduating from Clemson in 1949, he worked in Greenville, SC, in the mill industry. He married Bobbie Duffie and they had a daughter, Candy Brown Sullivan Krusa, both now deceased. He came to Bethune, SC, in 1956 to work at Kendall Mills, and eventually became the plant manager for over 20 years. During that time he earned an MBA degree from the University of South Carolina. After retiring from Kendall Mills, Merrill served on the Board of Directors of Sandills Telephone Cooperative for 24 years. He served in many various ways to better the community - as head of United Way of Kershaw County, as a member of the Town Council of Bethune, as a member of Kershaw County School Board, and as District Governor of the Lions Club just to name a few.

He married Martha Little Aiken in 1986, and they had a long happy life together. They have two sons, Lee Aiken (Patty) of Greensboro, NC, Michael Brown of Hopkins, SC; special friend, Edward "Blaze" Hayes of Greensboro, NC.

A memorial service to honor his life will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at the Bethune Presbyterian Church. Dr. Guy Oliver and The Rev. Sanders Read will officiate. The family will receive friends following the service at the church . An inurnment will take place in Woodlawn Memorial Park Mausoleum, Greenville, SC.

The Directors of Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

MAY 10. 2:00 PM (ET)

Bethune Presbyterian Church
204 Blackmon St N
Bethune, SC 29009

Visitation

MAY 10 (ET)

Bethune Presbyterian Church
204 Blackmon St N
Bethune, SC 29009

Tribute Wall

GH

“ *Merrill was my cousin, and such a nice one. I got into Genealogy over 46 years ago, and I shared with Merrill. He finally got more interest after he retired, and we shared etc. I visited he and Martha in SC and they visited me in Ga. His Father R A (Rodolphus Adolphus) was the family Historian before me, and Merrill had much to share. You will find it all on ancestry.*

GERRY HILL - February 16, 2024 at 07:01 PM

RS

“ *Merrill was a special friend and colleague while both of us worked at Kendall in Bethune. He was always positive, and was highly respected by all who worked with him. He loved his family and his community.*

Ralph E Sims - May 06, 2023 at 03:32 PM

MA

“ *Sending Condolences and Prayers to the Family*



Melanie Anthony - May 06, 2023 at 11:17 AM

FS

“ *Martha Bethune has lost a wonderful man and a great public servant. Prayers to you and your family. Fred and Lynn Stephens*

Fred and Lynn Stephens - May 05, 2023 at 09:22 PM

JK

“ *Jeanne Katranis lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Merrill Brown*



Jeanne Katranis - May 05, 2023 at 02:42 PM

AW

“ *Dear Martha, Merrill was a wonderful gentleman. A good friend for many years. We loved to talk golf. He was a great man. So many prayers for you and all of your family. Much love, Anna*



Anna Williams - May 05, 2023 at 01:23 PM

LC

“ *Merrill was a great friend to me over the years and someone I always looked up to. He will be remembered and greatly missed. Lee and Chrystie Chambers*



Lee Chambers - May 05, 2023 at 12:12 PM