



Shirley Mason Poole

May 24, 1929 - February 26, 2019

Mr. Shirley Mason Poole, 89, of Pulaski died February 26, 2019 at Hewitt House / Keystone Assisted Living Facility.

Born May 24, 1929 in Diana, Tennessee, he was the son of the late Burriss A. Poole and Mary Margie Poarch Poole.

Mr. Poole graduated from Beech Hill High School in 1947 as Valedictorian of his class. He attended Martin Junior College in Pulaski after high school and later earned his Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Middle Tennessee State College in 1951.

In 1952 he was inducted into the United States Army after a brief teaching job in Collinwood, Tennessee. While on leave from the Army in September of 1952 he married Frances Faulkenberry of the Pisgah Community.

Upon being Honorably Discharged from the Army he taught one year in Savannah, Georgia before moving back to Giles County, where he became Biology and Chemistry teacher at Elkton High School. He later became principal and coach of both women's and men's basketball teams and was a well-known and respected basketball referee for Giles County and surrounding district.

He continued his lifelong pursuit of learning by earning his Master's Degree and Education Specialist (EDS), also from Middle Tennessee State University.

In 1962 Mr. Poole accepted the position of Supervisor of Instruction for the Giles County School System, also serving as Assistant Superintendent until his retirement in June of 1994.

He was an active member of the Pulaski Exchange Club, serving that organization in various capacities. He was a member and officer of the Tennessee Association of School Supervisors, a member and advisor to the local education television station in Nashville, he spearheaded the accreditation of all Giles County schools and the Central School Office by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), providing local systems recognition by the United States Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education and became an advisor and mentor to other Tennessee school systems in their pursuit of accreditation.

Mr. Poole was a member of Mt. Pisgah United Methodist Church, holding office in several capacities with the church.

He is preceded in death by his parents and his wife of 54 years.

Mr. Poole's sister-in-law, Brownie Faulkenberry West of Pulaski, a confidant and friend for over 50 years survives.

He is further survived by three children: Debra Poole (Don) Tillman, Mary Ann Poole (Johnny) Bass and Dennis Poole. His grandchildren include Christian Grepperud of McMinnville, Tennessee, Erik Grepperud of Pulaski, Chad Long and wife Lauren of Hendersonville, Rebecca Virula and husband Elliott of Nashville, Seletha Periman and husband Loren of New Jersey, and Sarah Poole of Knoxville.

Great grandchildren are Hunter Grepperud, Shelby Long, Addison Long, Hayden Long, Mason Virula and Ofelia Virula.

Visitation for Shirley Mason Poole was to be Wednesday, February 27, 2019, from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Bennett-May & Pierce Funeral Home and Crematory. Funeral service, also at Bennett-May & Pierce, were too be held on Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. with Paul McKinney officiating and attended by Caroline Farmer, Pastor of Mt. Pisgah United Methodist Church. Burial was to be in Pisgah Cemetery beside his loving wife.

He loved his God, his family and his friends. He was a remarkable man and he will be missed.

Bennett-May & Pierce Funeral Home and Crematory in charge of arrangements for Mr. Shirley Poole.

Tribute Wall

CM

“ I am so sorry to hear of Mr. Poole passing. He was always my favorite principal at Elkton. Your parents were two special people. Thinking of you during this time of sorrow. Carolyn Mansfield Morgan

Carolyn Mansfield Morgan - February 09, 2019 at 02:31 PM

RW

“ Dennis, Debra and Mary Ann, i am so sorry to hear of your dad's passing. I too spent a lot of my growing up years in Diana,Tn. Your dad from what i remember was a pretty awesome guy, i remember him as quiet, a man of few words, but when he spoke it would leave you really thinking or in stiches with laughter. You are in my thoughts and prayers. I too have felt the loss of both parents. My heart is with you all. May the Lord hold you up in this hour, Jesus is King and we will see your daddy again.

Rickey Williams - February 09, 2019 at 02:31 PM

AC

“ Mary Ann and family....I am truly sorry for your loss, and our loss, in the passing of Mr. Poole. In my 40 years as a K-12 educator, I never saw another person that was more professional and more sincere in doing what was best for the students. If Mr. Poole gave you information, or advice, you could bank on it being the best. He had a great sense of humor and helped me in my early days on the hill. He will truly be missed by everyone who knew him.

Andy & Pam Chunn

Andy Chunn - February 09, 2019 at 02:31 PM

TS

“ *Lit a candle in memory of Shirley Mason Poole*

Tom Sumners - February 09, 2019 at 02:31 PM

SF

“ *Sent a gift in memory of Shirley Mason Poole*

Sandi Fralix - February 09, 2019 at 02:31 PM

MH

“ *So sorry , Mr.Poole was my principle at Elkton School .*

Mary Medley Holley - February 09, 2019 at 02:31 PM

SF

“ *I am so very sorry for the loss of Mr. Poole!!!! I will always remember him & Mrs. Poole!!!! I loved them both so very much!!! I got to know them when I was a student at Bridgeforth!!! He was always keeping me out of trouble!!! Mrs. Poole would always pick me to help her out in the office, just to keep me from getting in trouble!! I will keep you all in my prayers during this difficult time, may God bless each and every one of you!!!!*

Sandi Fralix - February 09, 2019 at 02:31 PM

MG

“ *My brother, Nelson and I send our sympathy to you: Debra, Mary Ann, and Dennis. Mr. Poole was our principal at Elkton; he was so professional and so caring at the same time. He was second to none in the biology classroom! We will always remember his almost mischievous smile and your mother's beautiful smile. We loved our days at Elkton High School and your dad made them all the more memorable. Nelson Rogers, class of 1960 and Mary Frances Rogers Gordon of 1962!*

Mary F Gordon - February 09, 2019 at 02:31 PM