



Darryl Edward Corley

Nov. 26, 1949 - May 15, 2023

Darryl Edward Corley, 73, of Connelly Springs, NC passed away on Monday, May 15, 2023. He was born on November 26, 1949 in Atlanta, GA, to the late Horace Edward Corley and Mary McCormick Corley.

Darryl was a graduate of Union High School in Union, SC where he was co-captain of the football team and ran track. He was inducted into the Union High School Hall of Fame in 2001. Darryl graduated from Gardner Webb University with a Bachelor of Science degree. He later earned a Master of Education degree from the University of SC and a second master's degree in school administration from Gardner Webb University. Darryl proudly played running back on the GWU Bulldogs football team. He enjoyed being an educator and retired from Burke County Public Schools after years of teaching and being a school administrator. In addition, Darryl was a realtor and served on the Burke County Board of Realtors. Darryl was in his element when surrounded by nature. He never met a mountain, cloud or tree that he couldn't appreciate. Darryl's pride and joy was the cabin he hand built overlooking his pond on his beloved farm at Attacoa Trace. An accomplished singer, songwriter, and self-taught musician, Darryl enjoyed performing with various bluegrass and Americana

bands over the years as well as performing as a solo artist.

Darryl is survived by his wife, Leslie Sides Corley; children, Bart Corley (Penney) of Sarasota, FL, Carrie Corley Brackett (Danny) of Drexel, NC and Caleb Corley of Connelly Springs; sister, Judy Corley Ackley (Todd) of Kirtland, New Mexico.

The family will receive friends from 2pm until 4pm, Sunday, May 21, 2023 at Sossoman Funeral Home. A celebration of Darryl's life will be held on May 27, 2023 from 3:00 to 5:00 at the White Family River Cabin at 5157 Powerhouse Rd, Morganton, NC. There will be an opportunity to share memories of Darryl during an informal service between 4:30 to 5:00. Everyone is welcome to attend.

In lieu of flowers, Darryl would encourage everyone to support their local musicians.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

Darryl was an extremely accomplished singer songwriter. He was also one of the nicest musicians I ever worked with. So sorry for the loss to his family and community. We are losing too many good folks too quickly.

—Bob Bell

I first met Darryl many years ago when his bluegrass band was playing at a friend's house party. I knew immediately he was a fine musician and person. We got together to hang out and play music many times, and I always loved to hear him sing. Nobody, including the the Eagles, could sing "Doolin-Dalton" and "Desperado" better than Darryl, and I would always ask him to sing these songs at his gigs. Our musical tastes were similar, and we loved many of the same Americana and bluegrass bands. Darryl encouraged me with my music and liked my band. The last time we talked he said that he would like to come up and play a gig with me, and I am sorry that we did not get a chance to do that. Darryl had a big heart and cared so much for his family, friends, colleagues and students. We will all miss him.

—Ellis "Sonny" Aycock

I was heartbroken to hear of Darryl's passing. He was my second big brother and I have years of memories spending time with him and Judy. He was a spectacular musician and educator. I sincerely hope that he is reunited with my brother Hank. My sincerest condolences to Leslie, Bart, Carrie, and Caleb. Love from cousin Cheryl.

—Cheryl Devore



My Condolences. I'm sorry for your loss.

—Mark Kazzi

I'm so sorry to hear about Darryl's passing. He was a great person and musician. I have fond memories of him and of the jokester that he was. He will be missed. RIP, friend.

—Melissa Russell



I worked with Darryl at Salem. He was our vice principal and he loved the children. He helped me so much when I had a tough school year. I don't think I would have survived the year without his help. I will always be grateful for his kindness. My condolences to his family.

—Jennifer Head

So sorry to learn about Darryl's passing. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Martha

—Martha Yoder Zimmerman

I was one of the many students fortunate enough to encounter "Mr. Corley" at Glen Alpine Jr. High. He was an excellent educator with a talent for making learning fun! I'll never forget the mischief that went on in the halls of GA Jr. High, mostly instigated by one Mr. Corley! It was also quite common to hear his guitar and songs drifting down the halls like "Dead Skunk in the Middle of the Road" or my favorite "Mr. Bojangles". Little did I know that one day he would sell real

estate with my future husband and share a song he wrote for his own sweet wife (thanks Leslie!) at our wedding. Darryl's wit, smile, and joy for life will be greatly missed!

—Lori Stock

Leslie, so sorry to hear of Darryl's passing. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

—Darlene Pritchard Buff

With a heavy heart, I want to pass my condolences to my cousin's family...Just wish we had all been a lot closer over the years..

—George Hughes Corley

So terribly sad to hear of Darryl's death. My thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time!

—Doug Hallyburton

Leslie, Thinking of you and your family at this most difficult time. I pray for strength and peace to each of you and that the memories you made will sustain you. My most deepest sympathies, Elaine

—Elaine Entzi Huffman



I was so very saddened to learn of Darryl's transition from this plain to the next. I have no doubt that he will be sitting with the rest of the Angels continuing to play good music. To the family I offer my sincere condolences.

—Ruth Roseboro

Prayers lifted for family and friends Definitely one of the best! Great teacher

Prayers lifted for family and friends. Definitely one of the best. Great teacher and encourager. Wonderful memories from Glen Alpine Jr. High. Loved hearing him sing

—Nancy McNeill Murphy



I'm so sorry to hear this..absolutely one of my favorite teachers from Glen Alpine...he made everyday fun and always a laugh in his class and he was so talented..he definitely made a difference in his students lives.Rest in peace Mr Corley

—Kelly Graybeal



—Pam Cowan McLellan



Darryl will be truly missed. Leslie and Caleb, if you need anything please let us know.

—Rhonda Huffman



My deepest condolences to you and your family. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Love you Karen Riley

—Karen Riley Riley

Wow-what a shock. He was easily one of my favorite teachers of all time. He was so personable to us students and made science so interesting. I used to love the back-and-forth good-natured ribbing between Mr. Corley and Mr. Bill Morgan at GA Junior High...like a floor show before all the classes. He tried his

best to teach me to play the guitar...alas to no avail given my clear lack of talent at that endeavor. The last time I saw him was when he did a "Back-porch" concert at CoMMA several years ago. Thank you Mr. Corley for the devotion to your students, thank you for your field trips, thank you for your humor, thank you for all you did for my era at GA. Condolences to the family...

—David Kiser

Leslie and family, So sorry to hear this. May God give you and your family comfort and peace during this difficult time. In my thoughts and prayers, Joyce McCall

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—Nice mcCall

Leslie and family I'm very sorry that Darryl has left this earth. His warm greetings and bright smile was always a welcome sight as was his zest for life. He wore many hats and owned even more talents. He was always encouraging and happy. He will be greatly missed not only by you, his family, but every person he had contact with. He was a very special person and I feel blessed to have known him. Peace to all of you. Janell

—Janell Wakefield



I'm so sorry to hear of the passing of Darryl. I know he will be missed by so many, especially Leslie, Bart, Carrie, Caleb and Luka. We love you all.

—Anna Oliver

—Rodney Hughes

I'm so sorry to hear of Darryl's passing. He was my football coach at Glen Alpine Jr. High and was a wonderful coach and encourager! One of my favorite albums has always been the first one he cut. I loved hearing him sing!

—Todd Carswell

Darryl was a very special person, he was like a brother to me, he was loved very much and will always be missed. Lislle, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

—Tom Frye



Darryl was not only my brother, he was my best friend, my confidant, my protector. He was always my hero. To Darryl—I don't even have to tell you how much I love you. I am certain you know. The world is an emptier, lonelier place without you in it. But, I will try my best to keep you in it with all the incredible memories you gifted your "Lil Sis". Spread your wings and soar, Big Brother, spread your wings and soar.

—Judy Corley Ackley

Leslie, family and friends, May our loving Lord wrap His arms around you at this time of grieving. What a joy it has been to hear Darryl play with passion over the years. Live on with hope and peace!

—Wayne Giese

So sad to see this. He was by far my most favorite person at Morganton Junior High. I loved to hear him sing. Prayers for his loved ones . I know he will be missed terribly.

—Jeanette T Brown

I first met Darryl in 1971, our junior year at Gardner Webb. We instantly bonded as both friends and musician friends. We played music together for our junior and senior years. After we graduated, we continued. Darryl moved back to his hometown of Union SC, and myself to Greer SC. We still played music in a band called Whistle Stop. Later we started a band together call Flint Hill. In the mid 80's we put together a group Dakota with musicians we hand picked. Darryl was the star, no once could sing like him, with a voice that would spell bund you. But more than his voice was our friendship. We never lost contact, even though we were in two different states. We talked on the phone at least several times a month, or more. We never hung up talking, without saying "I love you". He always called me "Big Steve", even when I was not big. I always called him "Corley". There will never be another " Corley". He was my best friend...

—Steve Campbell

Prayers for family and friends

—Frank Beam