Sossoman
Funeral Home & Crematory Center
5th Generation Family Owned & Operated Since 1949.



Edward "Russell" Messer, Jr.

Dec. 25, 1958 - Nov. 7, 2026

Edward "Russell" Messer, Jr., 67, of Morganton, NC, passed away Saturday, November 7, 2026.

Born in Haywood County, NC on December 25, 1958, he was the son of the late Edward Russell Messer, Sr. and Emma Jean Rogers Messer.

Russell loved spending time with his family, whether it was having dinner or spending time on the lake in his boat. He retired from the maintenance department at SAFT, and he enjoyed tinkering with things.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife of 49 years, Ellen Ann Stewart Messer; son, Edward Nathaniel Messer; daughters, Christel Ann Malloy (Christopher) and Adrienne Annette Messer; grandchildren, Verity Conley, Grace Kincaid, Emma Kincaid, and Sophia Malloy; two great-grandchildren; half-brothers, David Lee Messer and Gene Messer; sisters, Deborah Coleman and Sherri Black; half-sister, Gail Griffey; aunt, Faye Rathbone; and numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family.

In addition to his parents, Russell was preceded in death by two brothers, Ernest and Joey Messer; and a sister, Melba Messer.

The family will receive friends from 1 to 2 p.m., Thursday, December 3, 2026 at

Sossoman Funeral Home.

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

Tribute Wall



We love you and your family so much. I pray they get through the holidays with wonderful memories. In Christ's Love. Uncle Claude Aunt Berni Kenny, Charlie, and Jimmy

—Bernadette Robinson

So sorry to hear this Ellen sending prayers for you and your fanily Lisa Crane

—Lisa Korte



you were like a uncle to me rest in peace I loveyou all

—shirley hager

very sorry hewa like a uncle to love you all my family I am praying daily

—beverly moffitt

In Loving Memory of My Uncle Russell Messer My uncle, Russell Messer, was a true inspiration in my life, especially in my walk with Jesus Christ. His faith, his example, and his love and devotion to God touched my heart and left a lasting impression on me. Through the way he lived, Uncle Russell showed me that

being a Christian is about more than just words. It is about how we live each day, how we love others, and how we let the light of Christ shine through us. His example encouraged me to draw closer to the Lord, grow stronger in my faith, and strive to live a life that honors Jesus Christ. I will always be thankful for the memories we shared and the spiritual influence he had on my life. Although he is

no longer here with us, the lessons he taught me and the faith he lived out will forever have a special place in my heart. I thank God for blessing my life with Uncle Russell. His life was a blessing, his memory will always be precious to me, and the example he set will continue to live on through the lives of those he touched and inspired. “Well done, thou good and faithful servant…” — Matthew 25:21, KJV

–Danny Boyd Messer