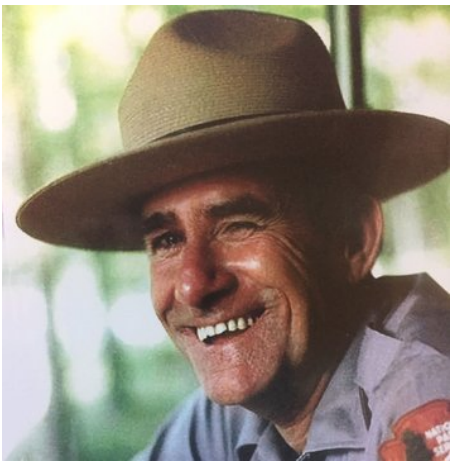
Sossoman
Funeral Home & Crematory Center
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John Robert "Bob" Hewat

May 23, 1924 - Aug. 11, 2024

John Robert "Bob" Hewat was born in Simcoe, Ontario, Canada on May 23rd, 1924 and passed away on August 11, 2024. He was the son of the late John Andrew and Myrtle Winnifred Messecar Hewat.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Yvonne Lail Hewat; his daughter, Susan Hewat Parker; and his second wife, Mary Walton Hewat.

Bob is survived by his sons John R. Hewat, Jr and wife, Tania of Morganton; Bill Hewat and wife, Angie, of Goshen, Arkansas; his son-in law, Gary Parker, of Fuquay-Varina, NC; and his brother Harold Hewat of Hickory. In addition, he is survived by grandchildren Lauren McLamb (Brian), and Katie Walker (Waylon) both from the Raleigh area; Bailey Buchanan (Trevor) from Morganton; Will Hewat of Charleston, SC; Emma Hewat of Charlotte, NC; and Gracie Hewat of Clarksville, AR. Pop also is a great-grandfather to Raylee and Case Buchanan; Will and Maggie Walker; and Brayden, Lena and Ella Parker.

Bob taught his sons the value of hard work and frugality through leading by example. His life during the Great Depression fashioned an unparalleled work ethic that coursed his entire life. Bob was a US Army veteran of World War II and served in the Middle Eastern Theater, on the Persian Corridor, protecting ally supply lines destined

to the fight on the Eastern Front. Bob taught High School at Gamewell, Valdese and Freedom High Schools and refereed high school sports during his teaching tenure. Of particular interest, Bob was known for his love of the Blue Ridge Parkway where he served over 50 years as a seasonal park ranger and naturalist. Smokey, as he was lovingly called, met many friends, and provided help for many park visitors over his

career. After his retirement from teaching, he was known to get in his truck and drive across the country visiting any national park, monument, preserve, or historic site. One of the highlights of his Parkway career was tracking the construction of the Lynn Cove Viaduct around Grandfather Mountain. He was a devout member of the First Presbyterian Church of Morganton.

John Robert Hewat's life is a reminder that humility, honesty, and frugality are traits that remain incredibly important today. In his 100 years on this Earth, Bob saw many changes. However, his wholesomeness, wit, and chivalry never wavered. He was truly one of the last of the Greatest Generation. To know Bob was to love him, and those who love him understand what a privilege that was.

The memorial service will be held at 3 p.m., Thursday, August 15, 2024 at First Presbyterian Church with Rev. Lyndsay Beaulieu officiating. The family will greet friends following the service.

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

Tribute Wall

What a treasure he was. I was lucky enough to meet him when working as a wilderness ranger in the Linville Gorge. Years later I came across him again while working on the Gillespie Gap district of the parkway. He was a walking museum and happy to tell his stories. If anyone deserved to have an overlook bearing their name, it was this man. The NPS was truly lucky to have him as an employee and volunteer. He is missed by all who knew him.

–John Barrett



Our thoughts and prayers are with you guys as you celebrate a life well lived. Our deepest sympathies, The Reynolds family

–The Reynolds family

I remember Mr. Hewat being at Drexel School probably in the 1960's or 70's. Everyone liked him as well as his sweet wife Mary. A long life well lived. My condolences to his family and friends.

–Janet Kirby

–Jack McCrea





—Sheila



John, Bill and family, Our thoughts and prayers are with you all as you mourn the loss of Bob and celebrate his wonderful life. The whole Crouch family has such wonderful memories that go way back to the 60's when we were all kids. He was always a good neighbor to Mom and Dad all throughout the years. Debbie says she'll never forget how supportive he was for her during a very challenging time in high school. He was a special person indeed. Blessings to you all.

—David & Debbie Crouch

Rejoicing in a life well-lived. With heartfelt sympathy from the Boushelle family - Fayetteville, AR.

—Mary and Chris Boushelle



—James Jones

I worked with Bob between 2007-2014 when he was volunteering at Linville Falls for the maintenance division. Bob loved the Parkway more than life itself, and he was always concerned about the maintenance and upkeep of the grounds and facilities. I had many great times working with Bob. He was a dedicated and honest man through and through. I had the utmost respect and admiration for

him. I'm confident Bob is looking over the Parkway wearing his Ranger hat! My sincere condolences to his family and loved ones!

—James Jones

Sending our prayers and condolences from Greene County Pennsylvania to your family.

—Terry kenneally

Bob picked me up on my first day of work on the parkway. I never could handle a patrol vehicle like Bob could. Through the years we worked together nearly every day. He took me under his wing and taught me the art of rangering that would guide me for the rest of my career. Bob coached, counseled, guided and nurtured the rangers, volunteers, maintenance workers and park neighbors. We are better people because of Bob's example and guidance. I am fortunate to have known him. Through 38 years in the National Park Service he was always one of the best! He will live on imy my thoughts and gratitude.

—Russ Whitlock

I met Mr. Hewat many years when I had him as a teacher at Valdese High School. It was a privilege to get to know him and while I was employed in the school system I also became acquainted with Mary. They were 2 of my favorite people and I still think of them fondly. I will keep you in my prayers during this difficult time. Wow, 100 years! He had some awesome stories to tell. Debbie Pons Britt

—Deborah Pons Britt

I had Mr. Hewat as a seventh and eight grade teacher at Drexel Elementry School in 1959 and 1960, it doesn't exist any more It was there that he met his second wife Mary who also taught there. I visit him at his home in Morganton the last time about 20 years ago. To his family I am sorry for your lost. I will keep you in my prayer. He was more than a teacher he was friend and will miss him.

—Franklin B. Walker, Jr.

—Floyd (Skip) McCrea



Sorry to hear about bobs passing I worked him for a many of years he was a great person and a great friend.

—Randy harwood

He was my ICT teacher at Valdese around 67 to 68 I graduated in 68 he was a great guy don't know when he became a park ranger but when he and my daughter were up on park way one day I saw he dressed up in his ranger uniform and we talked a little while I introduced him to my daughter sometimes in the 80s he wasn't just a teacher he was a friend

—Earl Berry

Sending our prayers and condolences from Arkansas to the family. Much love to Bill, Angie, Will, Emma & Gracie.

—Hefley-Peay Family

John, Bill, and extended family. A most fitting posted photo of Bob in the uniform he loved to wear and was seen in for many decades. Bob had a good run and touched so many lives. This was especially true on the Blue Ridge Parkway and in the classroom. Peace and blessings to all of you!!

—Bo Cash

A beautiful life, a beautiful legacy! Mr. Hewat will forever be remembered by me and my husband Robert as a kind, congenial, nature loving soul. He left an impact on both of us. My Dad, Charles Moeller, thought the world of "Bob." They forged a friendship through a shared love of the mountains, the trails, and the beauty God blessed us with. We are sending sincere condolences. Heaven gained a great man. I hope he and Daddy can re- connect and explore the "trails" of heaven.

–Debra (Moeller) Martin

Extending deepest sympathy to the entire family in your loss of Bob. He was a kind and wonderful person. The beautifully written obituary accurately described him and his well-lived life along with the qualities that he passed down by example to John and Bill.

–Novah Pope

John and Family, So sorry to hear of your dad’s passing. Please accept my sincere condolences.

–Bruce Carpenter

Condolences to John, Bill and their families in the passing of Pop. As brothers, John and Bill are totally different individuals, but they both are truly their father’s sons who taught them to grow up to be strong, determined, honorable, hard working, goal oriented and most importantly to be two amazing fathers who always put their families first. Pop’s wonderful legacy lives on. Continued thoughts and prayers.

–Will McFarlin

Mr. Hewat was my teacher at Freedom High School. He was my favorite off all time. What a wonderful person. I have great memories of my high school days with him. He was a true treasure. He is an inspiration for all. May God bless you

with him. He was a true treasure. He is an inspiration for all. May God bless you during this time. Rest in Peace

–Rebecca Lingafelt

My family remembers fondly John Hewat when we would see him at Claude and

Vivian Davenports store right off the Blue Ridge Parkway as we stopped in to get bait and snacks when we went fishing.Mr.Hewat was a fine gentleman,so friendly and kind!

–Lonna Wilson

John Robert "Bob" Hewat, I'm sorry I never got to meet you, but I would like to wish you a wonderful 100th Birthday in Heaven, sir! Thank you for your service!

Your obituary caught my attention because my mother was born in 1924 and she would have been "100", as well. God bless you also for your "50" yrs dedicated to the Blue Ridge Parkway! Thank you kindly and I'm sure God welcomed you home!

–Judy Cannon

Thanks for being my hero! Bud

–Bud