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Melvin H. Taylor

April 12, 1928 - Dec. 17, 2022

Melvin H. Taylor, 94, of Morganton, NC, died peacefully at his home on Saturday, December 17, 2022.

Born in Burke County, NC on April 12, 1928, he was the son of the late Cordie Lillian Taylor Allen. Melvin was a member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church. He was a US Army veteran of the Korean War and was a prisoner of war for 27 months. The retired from Great Lakes Carbon after 42 years and owned and operated Taylor Saw Mill.

Melvin is survived by his wife, Lena Watts Taylor; daughter, Vicki Leonard (Mark); son, Mike Taylor (Peggy); grandchildren, Tiffany Taylor and Lauren Cabell (Dustin); and great-grandchild, Clarke Cabell.

In addition to his mother, Melvin was preceded in death by his sister, Carolyn Allen.

Melvin H Taylor (94) of Morganton, NC died peacefully at his home on Saturday, December 17, 2022. Fifteen days later Sunday, January 1, 2023, his wife Lena W Taylor (87) of Morganton died peacefully in her home.

Melvin and Lena were both born in Burke County to the late Cordie and Ben Allen (his

Melvin and Lena were both born in Burke County to the late Cordie and Ben Allen (his parents) and Tommy and Callie Watts (her parents).

Melvin and Lena are survived by their daughter, Vicki Leonard (Mark); son, Michael Taylor (Peggy); grandchildren, Tiffany Taylor (Jesse) and Lauren Cabell (Dustin); and great-granddaughter, Clarke Cabell.

Melvin and Lena were married on June 15, 1956, and both were members of Mt. Olive Baptist church. Melvin served as a Deacon and Lena as the music director and Sunday school teacher for 50 plus years.

Melvin was a US Army Veteran of the Korean War and a prisoner of war for 27 months. He retired from Great Lakes Carbon after 42 years and owned and operated his own sawmill. Melvin was also a member of the DAV for 40 plus years.

Lena graduated with her master's degree from Appalachian State Teacher College and started teaching in 1956 at Valdese High School. She went on to teach English at Glen Alpine High in 1960, where she taught for 14 years. It was well known that if you didn't pass Mrs. Taylor's Senior English class, you would not graduate. (IYKYK) From there, Lena went on to teach English at Freedom High School from 1974-1986 where she retired.

She was a sponsor of the Anchor Club and also served on the board for DSS for many years. Lena was active in painting, drawing, ceramics, and doll making classes; with Melvin complimenting her with his many talents and skills.

Lena and Melvin both were active members in Wheels of Time Car Club, where Lena was the secretary for 20 plus years. They were also both active in Brendletown Dance Club over the years where they learned and perfected many ballroom-style and line dances. They both belonged to Marion Lake Golf Club. Lena hit 2 holes in one and Melvin hit one (she never let him live that down).

They both led very busy lives serving others, but during their "quiet time" one could find Lena in her flower garden, and Melvin (always working on a project) in his shop garage where he and his son, Michael, restored and remodeled over 20 cars, tractors, and they even modified a race car together. Melvin would always say "to take it easy", and that is something that took some longer to learn than others.

Lena and Melvin also had a knack for traveling which they did worldwide; with some of their best of friends, Ben and Francis Morrison, and Eldorador and Dallas Norman to name a just a few. They visited most of the 50 United States, five continents, and over 25 countries. Lena shared that her favorite trip was to the Holy Lands, (where it

was shared later that Lena wore her heels while touring the Holy Lands) Lena was always dressed to impress, and made sure Melvin was dressed to compliment.

Melvin at 94 yrs. and Lena at 87 yrs., truly LIVED a full life, with a solid relationship with our Heavenly Father, and to each other.

Each of our human houses that we call our bodies is going to break down and is eventually going to die… but the good, good news for Melvin, Lena, and for all believers is that the Bible tells us death has no sting as it is not the end.

This memorial was simply to lay them to rest together until Jesus comes again. Lena and Melvin would discuss and joke about who would go first, and Melvin joked while saying “he married a younger lady, so she could take care of him”, and they would both just laugh. This is when Lena mentioned that they would just GO together, and thankfully that was God’s will.

Written by their grand daughter, Tiffany Taylor, who loved and adored both Nana and Pa.

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

Tribute Wall



47 years is how long Melvin was a member of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter #43 in Morganton. Wishing peace and comfort for the family in this hard time.

–David Tubergen

Taylor family you are in our thoughts and prayers. He will be missed by all of his fiends and anyone who has meet him.

–Douglas Duckworth

Melvin was dearly loved by many. He opened his heart to those close to him. I always have felt close to him and his family so I to have lost a friend that I respected, admired for his bravery, for his sacrifices for country and family. He now resides in heaven with God where he belongs. Melvin will be missed in so many ways. My condolences to the family.

–Violet Koutroubas

–Judy S. Norville

I am so saddened to hear of the passing of my friend, Melvin Taylor. I worked at GLCC many years and had the great pleasure of knowing Melvin. I also knew Melvin as the husband of my most favorite school teacher, Mrs. Lena Taylor. So

very sorry for your loss. Loving thoughts and prayers for Melvin’s family as you go through this difficult time.

—Elaine Edney Orders



Melvin was a very kind man and will be missed. My prayers are with the family. May God give you comfort and peace.

—Carla Lane

So sorry to hear of your Dad's passing, I will keep all of you family in my thoughts and prayers

—Ozelle Sotelo