



## James Hunter Owens

June 19, 1930 - August 2, 2024

James Hunter Owens, 94, passed away August 2, 2024. He was also known as Teeny, Puddin' Dog and the Candy Man. He was born in Winchester, VA to John W. and Pearl W. Owens on June 19, 1930. He leaves behind a daughter, Susan Wickline (Mitch), granddaughter Alayna Wickline Fox (Zachary), great grandson Colton, special in-laws Sandy Campbell and Terry & Donna Wolverton of Frederick County, numerous nieces and nephews in Virginia, West Virginia, family in Florida, as well as his dear friend Bill Stinson.

He was married to the former Jean Ritter for 56 years before she passed away in 2014. He was also preceded in death by his son, Gary (who passed away in 1978), and two sisters and four brothers.

James joined the Rouss Fire Company in May 1946, along side his brothers (Richard and Jack) and his father. During a 1949 monthly meeting, he (along with Donald Seabright and Louis Ebert) raised a motion to form a drum corp officially creating the Charley Rouss Drum and Bugle Corp. He was a member, marching with them for a number of years.

In 1951, James and his brother (Richard) were drafted into the army where they would spend two years side-by-side, having served in Europe.

James worked for Valley Food Company for 35 years, first as a route

salesman and then route supervisor. He then worked for J.C. Bly of Fredericksburg until his retirement. He also spent many years volunteering for the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival.

He was an associate member and supporter of: Virginia State Fireman's Association, Virginia State Fireman's Charitable Foundation, the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, the United Spinal Association, the National USO and Boys Town.

He never forgot his friends and loved to hunt with the good old boys. It didn't matter if you got any game, the fun was being with the gang, having coffee, donuts, cheese/crackers, butter beans and of course the famous puddin' dogs. His old truck was known as the chuck wagon – just help yourself.

He always looked for the good in people saying "it is there if you look deep enough." He cherished many friends over the years including: Robert Whitacer (childhood friend); Donald Seabright and Jimmy Boyd (friends from the fire hall); and Jim Milburn, Kirk Gordon, Bob Owens, Clarence Chrisman, and son-in-law Mitch, who were his hunting pals where they spent lots of good times together. He shared many memories with Joe (Papa) Manuel and Bill (Silver Fox) Jones. He hopes to see them again, to walk a wooded trail, see some game or count some cattle. Also James Hammond and Robert Dyke who he worked with for many years – they were great at their job and made his work a whole lot easier. A big thank you to the Yancey/Kitts family for their extreme kindness shown to his family. Last, but not least, he enjoyed time with the Coffee Club Boys (Ray Dubreuler, Louie Seekford, Jerry Allen, Chuck Miller and Bill) and Jenny for serving coffee with a smile and a hello. And a special thanks to Bill Stinson (and Kathy) for their compassion, advice and understanding. All true friends and comrades. He truly appreciated his friends and family who always offered assistance over the years. He hated to owe

anyone, and hopes all his debts were paid.

Additional thanks to all of the friends over the years that have not been listed, and to the men and women who have served in the armed forces for our country – James salutes you. If you see one of these heroes, please give them a pat on the back, a handshake, or a big hug.

P.S. He apologizes about the chocolate candy – saying it's pretty hot down there (haha)!

A graveside service will be Friday at 1:00 p.m. in Shenandoah Memorial Park with Pastor Ed Schraff officiating.

Friends will be received on Thursday from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in Phelps Funeral Chapel, 311 Hope Drive, Winchester.

Arrangements are by Phelps Funeral & Cremation Service, Winchester, VA.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 8. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Phelps Funeral & Cremation Service  
311 Hope Dr  
Winchester, VA 22601  
(540) 722-2424  
travislnesselrodt@gmail.com  
<https://phelpsfunerals.com>

## Service

AUG 9. 1:00 PM (ET)

Shenandoah Memorial Park  
1270 Front Royal Pike  
Winchester, VA 22602

# Tribute Wall

JS

“ Uncle teene was a great man, he inspired me to join the patriot guard riders who we supported our vets, i made him an honory member, he always sent cards for xmas, easter and birthdays, i sent them back to him as well especially st Patrick day. He will greatly be missed



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**John Schiller** - September 08, 2024 at 10:42 PM

KW

“ Uncle Tiny (as we knew him) was such a kind and giving man. He truly never forgot a Christmas or birthday card ♡ always to "the twins" as he called my sister and I. You'll truly be missed by so many.

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**Kerri Wood** - August 12, 2024 at 07:10 PM

CS

“ Susan, Mitch, Alayna and all friends and family, Eric and I are deeply saddened about your loss. He was a remarkable person and we know how much he meant to you all. We know that all cherished memories will forever hold a special place in your heart. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

*With deepest sympathy,  
Eric and Candy Swartz*

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**Candace Swartz** - August 08, 2024 at 03:10 PM

JE

“ Dear Alanya, Susan, and Mitch,

*I was deeply saddened to hear about the loss of Mr. Owens. My heartfelt condolences go out to you and your family during this difficult time. May you find comfort in the cherished memories you shared with him and in the love and support of those around you.*

*With deepest sympathy,  
Jennifer Moye*



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**Jennifer** - August 05, 2024 at 11:55 PM

TF

“ You couldn't have asked for a more caring, giving man who always thought of others and always had a smile on his face. You never left his house hungry, thirsty or empty handed. He never missed sending a holiday, anniversary or birthday card, we will miss those and you more than you know...

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**The Yancey/Kitts Family** - August 05, 2024 at 06:04 PM