



William Earl Sears, III

January 20, 2013

William Earl (Bud) Sears, III, age 67, of Sugar Hill, GA passed away on Sunday, January 20, 2013. He was preceded in death by his son, William Earl (Wes) Sears, IV; parents, William E. (Earl) and Alma Roberts Sears; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Leonard and Hassie Miller; and brother-in-law, Verlon Southerland. He is survived by his wife of forty-six years, Beverly Miller Sears, Sugar Hill, GA; daughters and sons-in-law, Emily Sears Warlick and husband, Dr. Michael D. (Dave) Warlick, Flowery Branch, GA and Susan Sears Sharp and husband, Kevin Sharp, London, England; grandchildren, Jocelyn Elena (Jocey) Sears, William E. (Will) Sears, V, Madison Warlick, Camille Warlick, Olivia Sharp and Georgia Sharp; sisters and brothers-in-law, Sue Southerland, Buford, GA, Elinor and Herbie Wilson, Buford, GA, Lynne and Tommy Davis, Dacula, GA; and several nieces, nephews and cousins. Bud was born in Buford, Georgia and graduated Valedictorian from Buford High School. He earned his Bachelor of Electrical Engineering and Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology. Bud started working for Georgia Tech while still a student and continued for a 30-year career retiring as the Director of the Electronic Systems Laboratory at Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI). He was one of the early founders of the Peachtree Roost local chapter of the Association of Old Crows. He was instrumental in the growth of Electronic Warfare at GTRI and was a member of the Association of Old Crows Technology Hall of Fame. Bud was an active member at Suwanee United Methodist Church as current teacher of the Ken

McDaniel Adult Sunday School Class and past choir director for 33 years. He lived a life of service, completing the UMC License for Pastoral Ministry School and becoming certified as a UMC Men's Ministry Specialist. He was on the Board of Directors for Camp Wesley and was current president of the North Georgia Conference of United Methodist Men. As his children were growing up, Bud enjoyed many years of coaching basketball, softball, and baseball through the Buford area recreation league. Bud was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather who gave generously of his time and talents to all who knew him. He treasured his family and lived every day to the fullest. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, January 24, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. in the Chapel of Flanigan Funeral Home with Rev. Stephen Walters and Rev. Leah Cunningham officiating. Interment will follow at Hillcrest Cemetery in Buford, GA. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. and from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Flowers are accepted or donations may be made to the Suwanee United Methodist Church, 603 Scales Road, Suwanee, GA 30024 in memory of William Earl (Bud) Sears, III.

Tribute Wall



“ *William Earl Sears, III*

November 08, 2022 at 07:37 PM



“ *Both Susan and I will miss Bud a great deal. He was a wonderful person and a great listener. We could always share our concerns with him. He will be missed.*

Tom Lacher - January 31, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *I am sorry to hear of the passing of your love one; please accept my sincere sympathy. I hope knowing what Jesus says about all those who have fallen asleep in death, will bring you some comfort. He tells us that a small number of those who continued the preaching work that he began when he was on the earth will join him and his heavenly Father in heaven as joint heirs in his Kingdom, to rule over the paradise earth.-Revelation 14:1; 20:6; Matthew 10:7. But, the greatest joy will be when he resurrect and restore back to life those in the grave, to live forever on the paradise earth, what a wonderful blessing awaiting mankind.-John 5:28,29; Luke 23:43; Psalms 37:29. May Jehovah God bless your family, during your time of sorrow.-Isaiah 66:13.*

Mattie Jones - January 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ Our deepest sympathies and condolences to the Sears family from the Georgia Tech Professional Education office. We had the distinct pleasure of working with Bud for many years to assist him with his teaching short courses. He always had a smile on his face and a kind word to say and we will miss him. Best wishes to his family and friends during this difficult time.

Greg Stenzoski
Georgia Tech Professional Education

Greg Stenzoski - January 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Dear Beverly and Family, Bud hired me into GTRI back in the 1980s. He was a very kind and caring man. He will be greatly missed. May God strengthen and bless you and your family at this time.

Donna Favors - January 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SJ

“ BEVERLY AND FAMILY .I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE GOING THRU. IT IS NOT EASY BUT WITH THE FAITH YOU ALL HAVE YOU WILL GET THRU IT.BUD WAS A VERY SWEET MAN. I KNOW HE WILL BE MISSED BY ALL THAT KNEW HIM. MAY GOD BLESS EACH OF YOU IS MY PRAYER. GOD TAKES THE BEST AND GIVES THE REST TO GET READY TO MEET HIM. LOVE TO ALL SHIRLEY

SHIRLEY JONESs - January 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AE

“ I was deeply saddened to learn of Bud's passing. I first knew Bud when he joined my Lab at EES (now GTRI) as a young engineer. I'll always remember his energy and hard work in addressing all of his assignments. He distinguished himself with his accomplishments throughout his career at Georgia Tech.

Allen Ecker

Allen Ecker - January 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ To the family of Bud Sears,

Bud and I started at Georgia Tech EES (now GTRI) in the 60s and both of us retired from GTRI. It was evident that Bud was an excellent engineer and researcher. We worked in different fields but we had occasion to work together from time to time. It was a pleasure to work with Bud and to see his intellect, his zeal, and his principles. I considered him a friend and I will treasure my memories of him. May God grant peace and comfort to you who survive.

Richard Moss - January 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ Bud was leading United Methodist Men of the Atlanta Emory District in a training and team building event only a few weeks ago, so it is a real surprise to learn of his passing. He indeed died with his boots on, serving the Lord, doing his duty as a faithful soldier in God's army. Blessing to the family and to his friends.

Joe Kilpatrick - January 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

HM

“ *May the Word of God and His Holy Spirit bring you comfort in the days ahead*

Howard Turnipseed-Andrews Chapel UMC United Method - January 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *Bud and I went to Ga Tech together and worked together in the summers with the Buford Dam Corps of Engineers Maintenance Crew. He and I and Carl Whitley and Ronnie Brazil painted all the parking lot stripes at all the parks around Lake Lanier one summer. We also worked on the "Honey Wagon" or the trash truck picking up trash at the parks. Bud was one of the finest men I have ever met. Condolences to Beverly and the family. Bill Morrison Gainesville, georgia*

Bill Morrison - January 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ *With Deepest Sympathy from our family to yours. May you find comfort in knowing how many people loved and will miss Bud. Our hearts are saddened by his passing. No doubt his life is a testament to what a caring and loving family man he was and how successful a small town boy from Buford, Georgia can be in life. Our hope is all those sweet memories of him become your family's treasure to share and enjoy with each other for years to come.*

Beverly, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Brenda & James

Ginger, Andy, Kaylee & Marleigh

Kerry & Jessica

The West Family - January 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ *My friend and Sunday school teacher.*

Roy & Cecilia Goodwin - January 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *To the family -- I was delighted to see you, Beverly, and Bud at our BHS "64" luncheon back in August, and it seems impossible that so many years escaped while I was living away. Bud enriched our lives as BHS students and continued a lifetime of dedicated service throughout his career and life. My thoughts and prayers are with you as you begin the new chapter of your lives with Bud watching over you and probably "directing" from above. Love and blessings to you and the family.*

Joan (Holland) Crissman - January 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ *Dear Beverly, Emily & Susan,*

We are so saddened by Bud's passing. You will be in our prayers and thoughts.

God bless you all.

Loren & Earlena Miller - January 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

ER

“ I have known Bud since joining the GTRI Faculty in 1970. He contributed much to the Radar and EW fields and his work was valued by the US military R&D community. But perhaps more importantly, Bud was an outstanding person. I considered him a friend. Let me extend my condolences to his family on their loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

*Ed Reedy
GTRI Colleague and Friend*

Ed Reedy - January 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ I have known and respected Bud for over 30 years. I had the honor to work with him when I was in the Air Force and later at GTRI. Bud Sears was a true national asset in the EW field. He led his Laboratory with great skill! He trained young talent to the highest standard. I was also proud to be a friend. Respectfully, Jerry Carey

Maj Gen Jerry Carey (USAF Ret) - January 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ You all are in our prayers. Bud was a great guy, Christian leader, and friend. I was proud of his service in the church and of his later service to the Conference in the United Methodist Men. I was proud of his position as President of the Conference U.M.M. I still remember his heart-felt enthusiasm for Christ in his music ministry.

Randy, Jennifer, & Mary Beth Walworth - January 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RU

“ Dear Beverly, Emily, Susan, Bud was a good man with a heart for Christ. He will be sorely missed, however, our loss is heaven's gain. Rest assured that as brothers and sisters in Christ we will meet him again as we too discover the mysteries on the other side of the door we call death.

Prayers and Blessings, Michael

Rev. Michael Martin, Austell First UMC - January 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ Dear Beverly, Emily, and Susan,
I have known and worked with Bud at EES/GTRI from the late 70's up until his retirement. He was a mentor and teacher to so many of us engineers, and he was truly one of the kindest men I have ever known. He freely shared his faith, and I remember the days when he would wear a wooden cross and have a new bible verse at the top of on his white board at work each day. He always made time to talk to us when we needed help. He inspired us to do our best. He has my greatest respect. May God comfort you and the rest of your family.

*Wishing you the best,
Armand*

Armand Masse - January 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GH

“ My prayers are with all of you. Bud's maternal grandfather and my maternal grandmother, Gretchen Wigley were siblings. Have not seen him in many years but remember him fondly from the days when we were young. Gretchen

Gretchen Payne Hall - January 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

ER

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with Beverly and the family.*

*Love,
Elsie*

Elsie Bridges Roberts - January 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DY

“ *Beverly and family, I am so sorry to hear about Bud. Losing someone we love is never easy to accept, especially when it happens so suddenly. We find ourselves searching for a reason for what happened and struggling to make some sense of it all. God may not give us all the answers we seek, yet, if we have faith, He will give us the love, strength and courage we need to carry on. He will help us find peace of mind. Bud will be greatly missed by all.*

Dianne Stephens Westray, Manlius, New York - January 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ *The Men of Grayson from Grayson United Methodist Church would like to express our sympathies to the family of Mr. Sears. Without the support and spiritual guidance of men like Mr. Sears our small group would not be a success.*

Men of Grayson - January 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ *I truly enjoyed working so long with such a great friend. We talked about each other's family so much that I feel like I know each of you much better better than our limited time together would allow. May The Lord Jesus comfort each of you at this time.
Larry.*

Larry Holland - January 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Dear Emily, Susan and Beverly,
I am so sorry to hear about Bud's passing. I have only just heard and wanted you to know how special he was to me. He treated me like a son for a few very important years in my life and it was a pleasure to feel like a part of your family, if only for a short period of time. Bud showed me what love and respect for your children should look like and you should all know I have modeled this with my kids. I will miss him and hope you all get through these next few very trying days well. With Love, Chris

Chris Sticher - January 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ My condolences to all of Bud's family. Bud was a blessing to so many as a servant of Christ in his work with the United Methodist Men of the North Georgia Conference, his community and his church, no to mention all he gave through his vocation. I had the privilege of knowing his mother, Alma when I served the 1st Baptist Church of Buford some years ago. I pray for all of his family and friends in your time of loss.
Rev. Doug Burrell, Blue Ridge, GA

Doug Burrell - January 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

WP

“ So sorry for your loss. You are in our thoughts.

Wayne and Sunya Peebles - January 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AV

“ We extend our deepest condolences to the family. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Alex Rubin and Louanne Vallee - January 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Our condolences to the family. I only new Bud for a short time as I started to work at GTRI in 1996, but he left a true legacy! A great guy that gave it all.

Regards,

Ron

GTRI Quantico Field Office

Quantico, VA

Ron Smith - January 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TP

“ I still remember him cheering on our softball team in high school. And I believe he and Ms Beverly bought us all a rose my senior year and gave them to us as we boarded the bus to Tifton to play the state tournament. He was always a source of encouragement to me. My deepest sympathies for his passing.

Terri Reeves Parker - January 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

ER

“ Bud was my best friend and next door neighbor for many of the years that I was growing up in Sugar Hill. Bud was a good boy and I'm sure he was also a very good man. I'm sorry he passed away so young and my sympathies go to his family.

Earl Roberts - January 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ May it comfort you to know we are thinking of you at this difficult time.

Tom and Linda

Linda Chapman - January 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Bud always greeted us with a smile and something nice to say. We will miss him greatly, and offer his family our heartfelt condolences.

David & Lucy Flowers - January 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ I have enjoyed working with Bud as Director of Lay Speaking Ministries of North Georgia. I will miss him and pray that God will fill your hearts with peace.

Janet Sligar - January 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PP

“ Dear Family and Friends of Bud Sears. Just a note to let you know that I love and miss Bud, and am praying for God's comfort for all of you during this time of loss. Bud and I have known each other through United Methodist Men, especially through Rock Eagle UMM Spiritual Retreat where both of us have led singing at different times. In Christian love, Pastor Glenn Parrish, Oakwood 1st UMC.

Pastor Glenn D Parrish - January 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Dear Beverly, Emily, Susan and Sears family,
I was saddened to hear of the recent passing of Bud. I worked with Bud at GTRI during the 1980's, and I have never had a better supervisor and manager. As a Yankee recently moved to Atlanta, I learned invaluable lessons from Bud about the modern South, his religious beliefs, his love of family, and his work ethic. When my life path diverged from that of GTRI, he supported my dream, and I will forever be grateful for that and for his friendship. I feel very fortunate to have known Bud. I send my sincerest condolences to you all.

With best wishes,
Joanne

Joanne Green - January 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ I owe a debt of gratitude to you, Mr. Bud. Without you I doubt if we'd ever have done "Narnia" in the new Buford Community Center. So, you are responsible for what has surely been one of the highlights of my life. I thank you, and Fifth Row Center is better for having known you.

Godspeed, Bud. May the One True Aslan keep you and guide you, enjoying you for all eternity as you worship Him finally face to face.

Donna & Scot Chalmers - January 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ My heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family in the loss of your loved one who was an outstanding leader and our friend. We will all miss Bud as he leaves a void in our hearts. Blessings, Jane Finley

Jane Finley - January 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *With Love & Blessings to Beverly, Emily, her 2 daughters, whom I met, and all the rest of Bud's family I didn't have a opportunity to meet. I so value the time I had getting to know Bud and Beverly, Emily, Madison and her sister while attending Suwanee United Methodist Church. I always appreciated how everyone reached out to me and the love Bud always seemed to have available for those he met. I know he will be very missed by many, many people. I am so glad, Beverly, that you are surrounded by such a loving family and church family. I pray that God's Loving Arms enfold each of you as you move through this transition and bring you His Peace. I know Bud has gone Home and is in a loving and peaceful place. I am sure he will be watching over each and everyone of you from this Higher Place. Bud was a very Blessed person, as well as a Blessing to those he met, including myself. Sending you My Love, Barbara*

Barbara McInturff - January 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM