

Wilbur with Grandfather Heatwole's dog, Brownie.



Celebration of Life Wilbur Clement Layman June 24, 1928–January 24, 2022



Saturday, January 29, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. Harrisonburg Mennonite Church

Order of Service

Prelude	Wilbur's Life In Pictures
Welcome & Prayer	Pastor Craig Maven
VT #84 To God Be the Glory VT #435 Blessed Assurance	Bernard Martin
Wilbur's Life In Pictures Valerie Rhodes Platt, Granddaughter	
VT #100 Praise Him, Praise Him	Bernard Martin
Scripture & Meditation	Pastor Craig Maven
VT #436 How Great Thou Art	Bernard Martin
Benediction	Pastor Craig Maven

The family wishes to thank everyone for the many prayers and expressions of love at this time. Close friends and family are invited to the Fellowship Hall.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the VMRC Compassion Fund, 1491 Virginia Ave., Harrisonburg, VA 22802.

Wilbur Clement Layman

Wilbur Clement Layman, 93, of VMRC in Harrisonburg, passed away and went to be with the Lord on January 24, 2022. He was born in Harrisonburg in 1928 to the late C. Weaver and Nina Heatwole Layman.

The Layman family moved to Denbigh, Va. for several years for employment in the Mennonite community near Newport News. Wilbur took his first years of schooling in Denbigh and continued to remember childhood friends there. After returning to the Valley, the Laymans lived near Mole Hill. Wilbur attended Dale Enterprise School and graduated from Eastern Mennonite School. While in high school he especially enjoyed playing basketball.

Just a little too young to be drafted in World War II, Wilbur volunteered with UNRRA as a "sea-going cowboy" soon after the war. He helped care for shiploads of horses sent to replenish livestock in Europe. Wilbur liked to talk about his trips to Greece and Poland.

Mr. Layman worked for most of his adult life as a residential building contractor, including some time in partnership with Abe Hershberger. For many years, he was in used cars sales with West Side Motors and Layman Auto Enterprise. In later years, he shuttled vehicles for car dealers and drove cars through the Harrisonburg Auto Auction.

Mr. Layman took his front-end loader to Nelson County in 1969 to help with clean-up after the devastation of Hurricane Camille. He volunteered with Mennonite Disaster Service, Habitat for Humanity, Gift and Thrift, and Tried and True.

Mr. Layman was a member of Harrisonburg Mennonite Church. Wilbur enjoyed camping, deer hunting, researching family history, and playing card and board games.

Wilbur was married 73 years to Helen Wenger, daughter of Oliver and Goldie Heatwole Wenger. He is survived by his wife and their four children: Richard Layman and wife, Donna, of McGaheysville, Edith Layman Rhodes and husband, Gene, of Johnson City, Tenn., Glen Layman and wife, Kitty, of Harrisonburg, and Kenneth Layman and wife, Debbie, of Harrisonburg.

Also surviving are five grandchildren: Michael Layman and wife, Angela, of Chesterfield, Valerie Rhodes Platt and husband, Adam, of Nashville, Tenn., Kevin Rhodes of Johnson City, Tenn., Matthew Layman and wife, Gwen, of Oak Lawn, Ill., and Jonathan Layman of Harrisonburg; and five great-grandchildren: Justin Layman and wife, Madison, of Bridgewater, Olivia Layman, Alexander Platt, Shannon Platt, and Abigail Platt.

Wilbur was preceded in death by his sister, Ruth Yost; foster brother, Charles Comer; and grandson, Jeffrey Layman.