



Robert Rowell,

March 5, 1929 - February 12, 2009

ROBERT "SONNY" ROWELL, SR., age 79 of Bristow, Virginia died Thursday, February 12, 2009.

Mr. Rowell was born March 5, 1929 in Detroit, Michigan son of the late Melvin L. and Helen Overbeck Rowell. He was a U.S. Army and Korean War veteran and a retired principal for Prince William County Schools.

He was also preceded in death by his wife, Joyce B. Rowell.

Survivors include two children, Betty Rowell Hadden and husband Bill of Amissville, Virginia and Robert E. Rowell, Jr. and wife Sue of Alexandria, Virginia; two grandchildren, Adam Clark and Jeremy Clark and two great grandchildren, Jacob Clark and Amelia Joyce Clark.

A memorial service will be held 11:00 A.M. Thursday, February 19, 2009 at Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas, Virginia with Rev. Carrie Evans officiating with a reception to follow at Dunbarton Clubhouse, 9600 Craighill Drive, Bristow, Virginia. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may take the form of contributions to the charity of your choice.

Condolences may be sent to www.piercefh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *My deepest sympathy to the family. Sonny will be missed by many people. I had the pleasure of working with him at Tyler Elementary for 10 years and he was the best principal!!! We've stayed in touch over the years and I will truly miss him!!!*

March 29, 2013 at 02:02 PM



“ *I knew Sonny as principal at both Bennett and at Tyler. He was, from all I hear, a great man to work with. He did a lot for the children of Prince William County. He passing is the passing of a great educator.*

Dave Button - March 29, 2013 at 02:02 PM



“ *I met Sonny and Joyce when they first visited Dunbarton to purchase a home. We instantly bonded and shared a common interest in yellow labs. Sonny and Joyce were members of our Ambassador Program and traveled to other new communities to share his positive experience. In the early years he worked hard to establish a woodworking group at Dunbarton. I felt that his appreciation and kindness were genuine and sincere. Thoughts of him make me smile. May he find the peace that he truly deserves. My sympathy to his family.*

Dottie Harper - March 29, 2013 at 02:02 PM

GI

“ I am deeply saddened to learn of Mr. Rowell's passing. "Sunshine Sonny" could light up any room. I have particularly fond memories of visiting my grandmother, the secretary at Bennett Elementary, and the fun I had with Mr. Rowell. He will remain in my thoughts each Christmas when I put the wooden Santa ornament he made on our tree. He will missed by many.

Ginger - March 29, 2013 at 02:02 PM

AM

“ I attended Tyler Elementary school with Mr. Rowell as the principal. He was the best principal I have ever had. He will greatly missed

Allison Merker - March 29, 2013 at 02:02 PM

PR

“ The Rowells were one of the first couples I met when I began working at Dunbarton. Sonny always had a smile and a hug. He made you feel better having been around him. He and Joyce were quite a team! Though this is a sad time for all of us I feel they are now together, looking down at us smiling.

penny risdon - March 29, 2013 at 02:02 PM

WR

“ To the family of Mr. Rowell, my family and I extend our sincere sympathy. Mr. Rowell had a profound impact on many children in his life, including my own four children. It was a pleasure to have known and worked with Mr. Rowell at Tyler Elementary School and to have a common past-time interest in crafts. He was a wonderful person.

I recently received these beautiful words that I would like to share with you:

"Don't think of him as gone away - his journey's just begun, life holds so many facets - this earth is only one.

Just think of him as resting from the sorrows and the tears in a place of warmth and comfort where there are no days and years.

Think how he must be wishing that we could know today how nothing but our sadness can really pass away.

*And think of him as living in the hearts of those he touched...for nothing loved is ever lost - and he was loved so much."
(written by E. Brenneman)*

Wileen Richardson - March 29, 2013 at 02:02 PM

CS

“ Dear Bob,

Over the years, I feel like I knew your Dad through all your stories and tales. He truly was a special man. Your sister's tribute today was beautiful and I feel like I could laugh along with many of your Dad's situations because I heard them through you. He sure raised a wonderful son. Treasure your memories of him, keep them close to your heart and he will always be with you.

You're in my thoughts, Bob.

Love, Cheryl

Cheryl Stacey - March 29, 2013 at 02:02 PM

MB

“ *My Uncle Sonny was truly "Sunshine Sonny." He always had a smile on his face, and never a harsh word came from his mouth. He is at rest now, and it is comforting to hope that he is with his dear Joyce. I miss them both, and even though I live many miles away, I still feel close to them because of all the good times we shared those many years ago. We were all fortunate to have him in our lives, and my heartfelt sympathy goes out to Betty and Bob - and to all those who love him and will surely miss him.*

Mark S. Beard - March 29, 2013 at 02:02 PM

BD

“ *Sonny Rowell was one of the "good guys", and a fabulous principal. He cared so much about the students and teachers at his schools, and it was truly a blessing to be a part of his world. There is a little less "son"shine today. Betsy Davis*

Betsy Davis - March 29, 2013 at 02:02 PM