



Howard Wesley Everhart

May 6, 2020

Howard Wesley Everhart, 87, entered the Church Triumphant on May 6, 2020. He was at the beach with his beloved wife and good friends. After having set the table for breakfast, he left us quietly and without fanfare, the way he would have chosen.

The son of the late George Raymond and Bessie Sink Everhart, Howard lived his entire life in Spencer. He was the youngest of six siblings, all of whom preceded him in death. His brothers were G.R., Eugene, Donald, and Joe, all of whom lived in Spencer, and his sister, Geneva Everhart Creech, who lived in Greensboro. He was also preceded in death by his son-in-law, Eric Lentz.

Howard graduated from Spencer High School in 1951 and took classes at Rowan Technical Institute. He worked for Southern Railway for a year before joining the U.S. Navy, serving in Saipan during the Korean War. He retired from the U.S. Postal Service after 34 years of service, walking 17 miles a day for his entire career. He worked with his brothers at Everhart Electric for many years. He was proud of his service with the Spencer Fire Department, where he retired as chief.

Howard was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Salisbury, where he and his wife were faithful members of the Martin Luther Sunday School class. He was a former member of Central United Methodist Church, Spencer. He volunteered for many years with Meals on Wheels and Habitat for Humanity. Skilled at any type of construction work, he went on church mission trips. At St. John's, he enjoyed going on the men's beach retreat each spring.

Howard loved the town of Spencer, where his grandson-in-law Jonathan Williams serves as mayor; the N.C. Transportation Museum; and he was a huge supporter of North Rowan High School, where his granddaughter, Meredith Williams, serves as principal.

Howard and his wife have lived across the street from the school since 1965, in a tidy brick house with an immaculate yard. A couple of years ago, during a school event at

Christmastime, Howard was the lone figure in the school's front yard, likely unnoticed by many, patiently raking leaves onto a giant tarp. No one had asked him to do it, and he went about his work quietly and without fanfare.

"We're all just one big family at North Rowan," he said at the time.

Howard and his wife, Diane, were married on Nov. 22, 1956. They had three children, Kimberly Lentz and T. Kelly Everhart (Carol) of Spencer, and Kenneth Everhart (Marilyn) of Raleigh. Their grandchildren are Meredith Williams (Jonathan), Nicholas Lentz (Mariah), Abby Everhart, Kyle Everhart, Hunter Everhart, Spencer Everhart, and Anna Everhart. Their great-grandchildren are Ashton Williams, Jackson Williams, and Charlotte Williams. Howard is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews and a sister-in-law, Barbara C. Everhart, of Spencer.

Howard was an avid hunter and instilled a love of hunting in his sons, grandchildren and great-grandsons. He was delighted to be in the field with four generations of his family on the first day of dove hunting season, a family tradition. They also went deer hunting together. One year, on Thanksgiving Day, the hunting party stayed out too late, way past the time the meal had been served. That was the last time Diane cooked Thanksgiving dinner.

"I don't remember that," Howard said, when the story was recounted years later.

Howard was smart in more ways than one.

Because of current public health concerns, the family will gather for a private service, with a memorial service at a later date.

Memorials may be sent to St. John's Lutheran Church, G2G Campaign, 200 W. Innes St., Salisbury, NC 28144.

If you knew Howard, he'd always greet you with a hearty "Hey Shug!" and either a handshake, hug, or kiss, or a combination of the three. Years later, you might learn that "Shug" was short for "Sugar," and the reason he called people that was so he wouldn't have to keep up with names.

You may not remember the last time you saw Howard, but you can be sure his last words to you were, "Love you, Shug." Because that's how he always ended every conversation.

As we begin to live our lives without Howard, let's remember the fine person he was, and endeavor to emulate his words and deeds. As Howard would say, "Don't you worry about me, Shug, I'm fine!"

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Everhart family. Online condolences may be made at www.summersettfuneralhome.com.

Comments



“ We have lost a treasure. Mr. Everhart made each of us feel so special - his best friend. I'm so grateful to have known you, Howard. And I know you'll stay busy greeting everyone at heaven's gate with a big smile, a strong handshake and a "Welcome Home"!



Becky Lippard - May 12, 2020 at 07:58 PM



“ Well done Howard! Your tree was and is in full bloom with the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Gal 5:22-23) Got to know Howard many moons ago thru Kelly, and what I remember most is his smile, laughter, and hospitality. To his core he was kind which was self evident to anyone whoever met him. You always felt better about life after spending time with Howard (and Diane) and the Everharts - there was always an undercurrent of profound joy in their home. Thoughts and prayers are with the entire family.

I can still hear that laughter ... and anyone whoever met him can too!

Jerome Harrison - May 10, 2020 at 11:23 AM



“ A Finer gentleman I have never known. I met him when my children were at North Rowan. He was the biggest school supporter.His enthusiasm was contagious. I send my deepest sympathy to his family and may he rest in peace after his well-lived life.

Shirley Wilks - May 10, 2020 at 03:58 AM



“ We will Treasure the Memories of Howard! One of the Best we have known! We will miss him Deeply.Roger and Pam Pinnix

Roger and Pam Pinnix - May 20, 2020 at 07:26 AM



“ Howard was a wonderful Christian gentleman and a loving and dedicated servant of God. He lived life to the fullest as a loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather and a true friend to all he met. I remember how many times my mother would call him and Diane to be sure to keep an eye out for me as I sat under the light after band practice waiting for my ride home. I always felt safe knowing they were watching out for me. That was them in all ways. Caring, loving, compassionate, and always thinking of others first. I will miss him always. my love and prayers for the family.

Lu Graham - May 09, 2020 at 08:06 PM



“ Howard was one of the best! Kind, caring, and so friendly! Our thoughts and prayers are with you all! Love, Carolyn, Jim and Chip Baker

Jim W Baker - May 09, 2020 at 10:52 AM



“ I am grateful to have known Howard Everhart. His life, and how he treated all whom he met are worthy of emulation.

David Hord - May 09, 2020 at 08:15 AM



“ Always, always such a sweet, gentle soul! What a rejoicing in heaven. My prayers are with all the family. RIP Shug!
Robin Shives Mashburn

Robin Mashburn - May 09, 2020 at 08:02 AM



“ This was etrue human being and always took time to have a word with you and never knew a nicer man.I am proud to have known him and the entire family
He will be missed but never forgotten

Randy Pless rpless@carolina.rr.com - May 09, 2020 at 06:56 PM



“ I got to know Howard while "running dogs" with Jim Stone and Daryl and Rick Raper. He was a fine Christian gentleman. He never called me "shug," since I am a pastor; but I enjoyed his company greatly. He will be greatly missed in this world. Look forward to seeing him in the next. I hope, if my grandchildren and his grandchildren ever meet, they will say, "Your paw-paw and my paw-paw ran dogs together." I would be very proud.

Dr. Dale Robertson - May 11, 2020 at 02:31 PM



“ We always loved seeing Howard at my grandparents (Dukelow's) and our home in Spencer with the mail. We were invited to their home for game night which was a huge treat. He and his family are icons of Spencer. Howard was the sweetest man. May God bless and comfort you all.

Crystal - May 09, 2020 at 07:05 AM



“ So sorry for the Everhart family loss. We moved away from the Spencer area in 1997, but whenever we think of Spencer, we have Howard Everhart on our minds. He was a very humble & loving man that was respected by all. Our mailman was a role model. I'll never forget as a young boy of six children, my mother had sent me to the A&P food store to buy something & I saw Howard in there & he said: Donnie they got this bag of sugar on sale & you need to get some for your mother. I said: Mr. Everhart, I only have enough money to get what my mother sent me here for & Mr. Everhart bought it & said you take that to your mother. That was just one of many kind acts that I remember Howard doing. Howard Everhart not only delivered the mail in Spencer, he delivered his Godly kindness & love for his community in Spencer NC. God rest your soul Mr. Everhart & Thank You for being a part of our family growing up in Spencer.

Donnie Leichman - May 09, 2020 at 06:57 AM



“ I'll miss Howard coming over to the ball fields to help or ask me to help me with mowing around the football/baseball fields. He was kind and gentle.

Jamie Troutman

Jamie Troutman - May 08, 2020 at 09:45 PM



“ Howard was such a fine gentleman. He was kind, cheerful, and caring. He has left us with fond memories. Our sympathy to his dear family- Lonnie & Ruth Brown

Ruth Brown - May 08, 2020 at 09:04 PM



“ I always called him Uncle Howard even though we weren't related. His smile was contagious and his love of family and friends was apparent in every thing he did. He will be missed by many. My love and prayers being sent to his family

Debbie Clary - May 08, 2020 at 06:26 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Susan Everhart - May 08, 2020 at 05:16 PM



“ There was not a better friend or family man than Howard. He truly loved his family and was so proud of them. After deer season closed, Howard and our rabbit hunting crew would start getting ready for rabbit- hunting season. I always looked forward to seeing Howard because of his sincere friendship and caring inquiries about my family and Lynn's siblings. Howard was no ordinary man. He will be truly missed by so many people. Rabbit hunting will never be the same without Howard. was truly a saint among people who knew him and if he was your friend, it was for life. Lynn and I send our sincere love and prayers to his family during this difficult time. Heaven is a better place because of Howard. We loved this man dearly. Donnie and Lynn Marsh



Donald and Lynn Marsh - May 08, 2020 at 05:16 PM



“ I am not sure what to say, except I love you Howard. You were the kindest man that I have ever known! You will be greatly missed and forever remembered!

Kathy Miller Hooper - May 08, 2020 at 04:22 PM



“ Uncle Howard was my special uncle. I loved him so much. Anytime I needed help, I would call on Uncle Howard and he always came. From my front porch, I could see him mowing his yard or hanging out clothes. He would come to sit with me on the porch if he saw me. He always brought me gardenias from his bush because he knew that I loved them and I couldn't get one to grow in my yard to save my life! Uncle Howard loved the Lord and he loved his family. In fact, he loved everyone and everyone loved him. This verse fits Uncle Howard("Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God." 1 John 4:7) I love you Uncle Howard! Susan

Susan Everhart - May 08, 2020 at 03:17 PM



“ There are certain people in the world that have such a way about them that they earn the love and respect of everyone they meet. Howard was such a person. We know that God opened his arms wide and gave him a hug as he entered heaven. Loved you Howard, may you rest in peace and may God give comfort to Diane and your children. Don and Anne

Anne Sebastian - May 08, 2020 at 02:35 PM



“ My dear sweet Uncle Howard, he was the best!!! Always such a joy to be with. I loved his smile and funny stories. He loved to reminisce about his growing up years with my Mom and his brothers. When I think of Uncle Howard I think of laughter, continuously thinking of and doing for others, his deep love for Aunt Diane and his children and family and his delicious popcorn! I also admired his beautiful faith and love for God and his country. Rest In Peace Uncle Howard, I will always think of you when it snows. May God bless and comfort Aunt Diane, Kim, Kenneth, Kelly and all their families.
Love you always,
Jane

Jane Buchanan - May 08, 2020 at 02:09 PM



“ Howard was such a kind and gentle man who always offered a friendly word. The world is a better place because of the words and works of Howard Everhart. Our thoughts and prayers are with Diane and the entire family.

Tim and Barbara Ludwig - May 08, 2020 at 09:56 AM



“ What a fine gentleman. I knew his son, Kenneth, very well. Mr. and Mrs. Everhart’s family are service oriented, high integrity, and a fun loving family. My condolences to all. Tyson Laney

Tyson Laney - May 08, 2020 at 09:16 AM



“ God bless the soul of this wonderful man! He has always been loved and respected by us.

The Maurice Sparger Family

Carol Sparger Chmielewski - May 08, 2020 at 08:49 AM



“ Kyle Huffman lit a candle in memory of Howard Wesley Everhart



Kyle Huffman - May 08, 2020 at 07:14 AM



“ Howard was an exceptional man. He will be greatly missed! Prayers for the family during this time.

Kyle Huffman - May 08, 2020 at 07:13 AM



“ Howard was one of the finest men I have ever known. Always concerned for others, would ask about me or family each and every time he would call. I will miss the greeting he had each time he called me, " Hello, Howard Everhart, How are you doing Tony"? Loved to watch him rabbit hunt carrying a stick more often then the old single shot .410 shotgun. He occasionally would shoot a rabbit whenever his hunting buddies couldn't get a shot. For years he wore the most chewed up, shredded, tattered old hunting coveralls/jacket while hunting. Even after his family had given him a new one, for a longtime he continued to use the old one.He always had some loaf bread and baloney for sandwiches during a lunch break when in the field. He took extra time with young people showing and teaching, giving advice on how to bag a rabbit or other things while he was with them hunting. Kindness, Integrity, faith in God, love of people, honesty, compassion, helping others without consideration of recognition, all of these words fail to adequately describe the kind of man Howard Everhart was. These same values were instilled into his family, which they in turn instilled into their families... Howard lives on in the hearts of each and every person that he touched. Thank you for being my friend, Howard Everhart.
Tony Sharum

Anthony Sharum - May 08, 2020 at 04:35 AM



“ So very sorry to hear of Mr. Howard's passing. I have so many memories of him delivering our mail. My dad and family thought the world of him. Please know that the family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Leslie Pridgen Deaver

Leslie Pridgen Deaver - May 08, 2020 at 12:02 AM



“ Remembering with gratitude many events with Howard and our younger years! My personal best wishes to Howard's and her family !

Terry Agner - May 07, 2020 at 09:44 PM



“ My family knows Howard as our Uncle Joe's brother ! Always such kind words to everyone!

Michael & Rebekah Tedder - May 07, 2020 at 09:32 PM



“ They did not come any finer than Howard Everhart, a true gentleman. He was always smiling, happy and positive. It is a great loss to his family and the community. My sympathies to all of his family.
With Love and Prayers, Trudy Gale

Trudy - May 07, 2020 at 09:23 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Marilyn Everhart - May 07, 2020 at 05:12 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Marilyn Everhart - May 07, 2020 at 04:32 PM



“ What can we say there are no words, but you Howard lived your life so that it mattered to a lot of people. You will be missed forever and loved always. Our love to you Dianne and your family. To you Howard we love you Shug and R.I.P.

Laura and Mike Deal

Laura Deal - May 07, 2020 at 04:11 PM



“ The Secreast family loved, admired, and respected Howard. He was such a big part of Spencer with his big smile and heart. He made the world, and our town, a better place. We love u Howard, and I know there was great rejoicing when u entered the heavenly kingdom !

Patti Secreast - May 08, 2020 at 06:52 PM