



James Pinkney Trexler

March 6, 1921 - September 26, 2020

James Pinkney Trexler (1921–2020), the beloved legionnaire known for his “Pinky” dogs, died at the age of 99 on Saturday, September 26, 2020 at home with family.

Born on March 6, 1921 to Mr. James Pinkney Trexler, Sr. and Mrs. Maggie Chunn Trexler, Pinkey served the people of Rowan County his entire life. In 1940, nineteen-year-old Trexler joined the National Guard; he transferred into the Army when the United States entered WWII. Prior to leaving for the war, he married Mable Hutchinson, soon leaving his new bride to work with the Army Corps of Engineers as a member of the 10th Mountain Division. In 1945, the Division deployed to the Italian Theater of WWII, and Pinkey entered northern Italy where he helped to build a tram up Mount Belvedere to transport arms and soldiers. While in Italy, Staff Sargent Trexler led his platoon in clearing minefields. Under intense pressures, he committed to staying in the fields alongside the members of his platoon even under German fire. His actions earned him a Bronze Star from the United States Army. After spending over six months in Italy, Pinkey returned to the United States, leaving the army with honorable discharge on August 29, 1945.

Back in Rowan County, Trexler joined his wife, Mable Hutchinson, and his firstborn son, James Edward. He soon started working with Southern Bell telephone company, using his engineering skills to string phone lines and

improve communication in the county. He continued to do so for the next thirty-eight years. In addition to building his family, he took an active role in the American Legion, particularly serving in various officer positions with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, to support the veterans in Rowan County and around the country. Many will remember him in the kitchen, cooking barbeque for fundraisers, chopping cabbage for slaw, and serving meals to the community. In 1957, Pinkey started volunteering with the NC American Legion baseball team, taking his cooking skills to the ballpark where he served up 'Pinky' dogs to baseball fans. In 1958, the Legion turned the concession stand over to Pinkey. 'Pinkey's Joint' became a mainstay of Legion baseball games until he retired in 2002. In 1988, the NC American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame inducted Pinkey for his devotion and service. He loved hearing people shout out greetings and asking for a hotdog.

Trexler also worked with his community as a deacon at Calvary Baptist Church. For over fifty years, children in the church have called Pinkey the 'candy man,' as he always carried peppermints and candy bars in his pockets. He delighted in sharing candy with everyone. He said it offered him a chance to put more sweetness in the world. During Christmas, he donned a Santa suit to visit everyone in the Rowan Memorial Hospital on Christmas Eve, as well as bless children and adults in church and Legion functions alike throughout the Christmas season.

Pinkey leaves behind a beautiful legacy. He is preceded in death by his wife, Mable Hutchinson; son, James Edward; one grand-daughter, Reesa; one brother; and four sisters. He is survived by his daughter, Deana Trexler of Spencer, NC; his sons, Gary 'Pinkey' Trexler of Salisbury, NC and Rick Trexler (Joy) of Salem, VA; his brother, L.C. (Nancy); six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and ten great-great grandchildren. He will be deeply missed and yet his family takes solace in knowing he is home.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday morning, September 30 from 10-11 AM at the Summersett Funeral Home.

Services: Due to Covid19 conditions a memorial service for family and friends will be held outdoors at Summersett Funeral Home. The service will begin at 11 AM on Wednesday, September 30 with military honors by the Rowan County Veterans Honor Guard and the National Guard. The family requests anyone attending maintain social distancing and wear masks. Burial will be at a later date at the National Cemetery in Salisbury.

Memorials: Memorials may be made to Calvary Baptist Church, 2255 E. Ridge Road, Salisbury, NC 28144 or Trellis Supportive Care, 301 S. Main Street, Salisbury, NC 28144.

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

Previous Events

Gathering

SEP **30**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Summersett Funeral Home
1315 W. Innes St.
Salisbury, NC 28144
(704) 633-2111
<https://www.summersettfuneralhome.com>

Service

SEP **30**. 11:00 AM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

DA

“ J.P. was a wonderful friend to most of Rowan county. The entire T rexler family was a JOY, hard working, thoughtful family. Deana and I are North Rowan classmates. Pinkey is a dear friend. A true honor to know this fantastic family! It was peaceful to visit Mrs. T rexler. We shared a same health issue of having an immune system disease/M.S. Best common love for our God.. Last time talked to J.P. A few years ago, he said=next time I'll fix you a hot dog. Great picture of how he looked when meeting in the 1960's. The town of Spencer was BLESSED to have J.P. and Mable!



Donna Barnes Arey - October 10, 2020 at 09:23 PM

BC

“ Mr. Trexler was good person to all the Beta Sigma Phi group,he would let us use his bunny costume to go and visit the children's ward at Rowan hospital. He will be greatly missed. My thought and prayers with his family.

Brenda Carter - October 02, 2020 at 08:21 PM

WG

“ Such a great person and loved by many. Will be greatly missed. I know my Mom welcomed him to heaven with a big smile on her face for her dear friend. Much love to his family.

Winona Gilbert - September 29, 2020 at 09:06 PM

WL

“ We will miss you so very much. It has been a great honor to know you and be blessed to have you in our lives. We really had some great times. I love you. Winkie



Winkie Leonard - September 29, 2020 at 06:13 PM

AH

“ Deana, I was so sorry to hear about your loss of your Dad. You are in my thoughts and prayers. May our Lord and Savior give you and the family the comfort, strength, and peace you need during these difficult days ahead.

*Ann Toney Heard
Marion, NC. Formerly of Salisbury*

Ann Heard - September 29, 2020 at 02:41 PM

TK

“ We are sending virtual hugs to the family and thinking about each of you on the loss of a man that has touched so many lives. He will be missed. My God wrap each of you in his comforting love. Alan and Terrie Koontz

Terrie Koontz - September 29, 2020 at 12:51 PM

JA

“ Deana, I am so sorry to hear about Pinkey's passing. He was like a father to me and I loved him so very much. I will always remember him and me cooking for the Legion and VFW, Legion baseball cooking hot dogs and so much more. I have so many memories spending time with him and the family, He was a true friend and I will miss him.

May God Bless him and the rest of the family. With Love Jim

James Arnold - September 29, 2020 at 09:46 AM

LM

“ *Pinkey I am so very sorry for your loss I so remember him when going over to his house when we lived at Rock Garden..so remember sledding down the hill at his house with Ressa and all the rest of the gang! He was always was so nice. My deepest sympathy to you and your family.. Prayers for comfort.*



Lynn Miller - September 28, 2020 at 11:48 PM

VL

Gary, you are in my prayers, your dad was a very special man, he loved to cook and he alway made sure I knew when he made his red slaw(he even trusted me with his recipe). I have taken his slaw to FI. with me. I have pictures of him in his santa suite at the VFW where he would come after he had done his rounds at the hospital on Christmas Eve,,, God Bless, Vickie Plott Lapham

Vickie Lapham - October 01, 2020 at 06:35 AM

PB

“ *Deana, I am so very to hear of your and your family's loss. I always thought the world of your Dad. I don't remember ever seeing him without a big smile on his face! I know you devoted your life to taking care of both of your parents. Don't you know they are happy to be together again? Please let me know if I can do anything at all. You and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.*
Pat Brinegar

Pat Brinegar - September 28, 2020 at 07:57 PM

GS

Rick and family, sorry I missed the chance to be with you today. I only met Pinkey once and of course he served me food! But I see his faithful and serving heart in you Rick. That is also a wonderful testament to his life. My prayers for all this family in this time of celebration of such a life and the hard reality of goodbyes On this earth while we look forward to reunion there in his new reality! Gaylin

Gaylin Stewart - September 30, 2020 at 10:37 AM