



Wayne C. Mills

September 20, 1939 - October 19, 2020

Wayne Mills, age 81, of Leesburg, VA, passed away peacefully Monday, October 19, 2020, at his home.

He was born, September 20, 1939 in Charlestown, West Virginia. Wayne was the son of the late Paul D. and Virginia M. (Hindman) Mills.

Wayne is survived by his only son, Jeffrey (wife Tina) Mills of Fort Ashby, WV, grandchildren: Joseph Mills of Sterling, VA and Sarah Mills of Sterling VA, step grandchildren: Shayla (husband Matthew) Fazenbaker of Lonaconing, MD and Greg Edens of Hagerstown, MD.

Wayne graduated from Harpers Ferry High School in 1957. He then obtained his Bachelor's degree in Physical Education from Shepherd College in 1962. Wayne completed his education with his Masters Degree in Administration and Supervision from the University of Virginia in 1968. He began his teaching career at Moorefield High School and 1 year later joined the educational team of Loudoun County. He served Loudoun County as a principal, opening multiple schools during his career. Wayne spent the next 40 years doing what he loved most as part of the dedicated educational team of Loudoun County. In 1998, Wayne received The Washington Post Distinguished Leadership Award.

Since retirement, Wayne enjoyed woodworking, yard work, spending time with his beloved wife Susan, dear friends, former co-worker's and his family. He will forever be remembered for his kindness and inspiration in the many lives he's touched.

A memorial service will be held at a future date due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in honor of his late wife to the Loudoun breast Health Network, P.O. Box 6154, Leesburg, VA 20178 or a charity of your choosing.

Comments



“ Mr. Mills was also my 6th grade teacher at Lovettsville Elementary. I was a little apprehensive about having a male teacher. But it ended up being a very good year. I remember winning the spelling bee that year. He gave me a silver dollar which I still have. I saw him several times over the years. He always remembered me. I will always remember his impact. I am so sorry for your loss.

Peggy Dinterman

Peggy Dinterman - October 29, 2020 at 12:19 PM



“ Wayne was one of the most respected colleagues in LCPS. I taught 4th grade at Sully under his leadership, and he was always supportive and caring of students, staff, and parents. In his own quiet way, he conveyed wisdom and leadership for countless educators, many of whom went on to be administrators. His influence lives on, and he will be missed by us all.

Carol Shackleford - October 28, 2020 at 09:19 AM



“ In 1992, I was hired by Mr. Mills and spent the next ten wonderful years of my teaching career under his guidance. I appreciated his support, care and love for all his teachers and students who passed through the walls of Rolling Ridge. I will always keep these cherished memories in my heart and look upon them often with warmth and kindness. This decade was a magical time in my professional career where learning was "fun" and "creative". Mr. Mills was always the last one to leave the building to make sure all of his staff members got home safe and secure. He was there for my marriage and new born son. He was a second father figure to me and earned the well deserved title of "papa Mills". He was highly respected to all in the community and amongst all his staff and students. Mr.Mills is loved and will be missed dearly. My heart is saddened by his passing and I will always look back on my memories of him with great fondness. Rest in peace Mr.Mills.

Gwendolyn Hawkins - October 25, 2020 at 03:39 PM



“ I worked with Wayne Mills for 23 years and he was such a gentle, kind and patient man.

Loretta Koontz - October 25, 2020 at 10:52 AM



“ Rolling Ridge Elementary and Wayne C Mills have meant so much to me and my family. We respected Mr. Mills' guidance regarding the education of our sons. He was intuitive and knew what was right not only for our children but for the children under his watch.

The Ridge was a place of learning for sure but it was also a place where the staff was like family. Lifelong friendships were made in an environment that was nurtured along by a principal that was a gentle and firm leader. After Mr. Mills retirement, he made the comment that now he could be friends with all his staff. He said it was the one thing that he didn't like about his job. He had to remain professional and stand back and watch the fun and get-togethers.

When he and I worked on the Wegmans Wednesday Group together, after his retirement, he enjoyed spending time with former staff that were his friends. Our monthly get togethers were a highlight for us all when Wayne would join us. His dry sense of humor and conversation were a source of many rounds of laughter!

In recent years, the get togethers came to a halt but we revived them for his 80th birthday surprise in September 2019. It was a very special Wegmans Wednesday and he was truly surprised. People came from far and wide for this special day. If it hadn't been for the pandemic and the untimely passing of his dear wife Susan, the group would still be getting together.

I'm just heartbroken that Mr. Mills has left us. He was a gentle giant that enjoyed being around his students. They respected him and his authority. I believe he cared about each and every student that came through the doors of Rolling Ridge and all the staff the he hired over the years...from the day the doors opened! He was one of a kind!

Rest in Peace Mr. Mills. I'll miss you.

Teresa Tipton - October 24, 2020 at 11:12 AM



“ Mr. Wayne C. Mills, Where do I start? When I graduated May 8, 1974 from college, I started at Sully on July 1, 1974. This was then the last year of year around schooling in Loudoun. In his humorist way he told me we already had a Jeff on staff and two in the kitchen may be one too many. For those of you who did not know Jeff Bull was our assistant principal.

Mr. Mills came to me and told me he was going to open the new school Rolling Ridge and he was taking me with him. I asked if I could do 1/2 day at Sully and 1/2 day at Rolling Ridge and he said no, Thus end of story.

We had such fun at the Book Barn sale for many years and the conversations that came up as people came to the barn to purchase books. You could not make up some of these things. One of our biggest laugh was when I was explaining to him how one day Mrs. Roberts our librarian at Sully asked me where I ate lunch because I did not eat in the teachers lounge. I told her I went out to Jack-in-the-box right down the street. Mrs. Roberts response was we can not leave campus. I explained to Mrs. Roberts and Mr. Mills that I thought that we as teachers were professionals and other professionals got to go out to lunch. See how much I knew. He laughed so hard tears started to run down his face.

There are many, many more stories like these but to tell the truth, it's been difficult writing what I had done thus far. We know he is in a better place, RIP Mr. Wayne C. Mills

Jeff Jackson

Jeffery Jackson - October 24, 2020 at 10:41 AM



“ LLHoff is following this tribute.

LLHoff - October 23, 2020 at 09:50 PM



“ Mr. Mills was the kind of man who was a thinker. He always had your back. I remember asking him for a computer in the art room back when they were just coming into the classrooms. Kiddingly, he said”What do you need a computer for in art? Are you just going to play games on it all day long . I explained seriously what I wanted to do. He said no he didn't think so. The next day I had a brand new computer in my classroom. I was so happy I co- wrote a grant with another teacher. We were awarded 2 grants and we used the computer:)
He is the best leader I have ever worked under and I would follow him anywhere. I have a nice photo of him holding my newborn daughter in 1995. I brought her to Rolling Ridge for everyone to meet. She is now 25 and working on her Ph.D. We all love you Mr. Mills and have such good memories. The respect is sincere. You will be missed and remembered.



Deanna LaLonde - October 23, 2020 at 07:48 PM



“ So grateful to have taught under such an amazing principal. I will always remember his humor and smiles at the lunch table. He had a lasting impact on so many people, especially me. He will be missed greatly! My sincerest sympathy to his family.

Jodi Benedict - October 23, 2020 at 06:20 PM



“ Wayne Mills was one of those rare individuals who walk into your life and never leave. His gift of seeing the best in every person he ever encountered made such an impression on me! His love to teach the young people in Loudoun County was so evident and he always took time to listen to someone when they wanted to talk, be it a student, parent, educator, or anyone he crossed paths with. I know he is happy to be reunited with his lovely wife who we also miss so much. Help light our way when we need it.

Roberta Pifer - October 23, 2020 at 02:11 PM



“ Mr. Mills- you made a huge impression on me at Rolling Ridge. You were a caring principal. Now you are with your wife watching down on the kids you had a chance to help along the way!

Tera Money - October 23, 2020 at 12:11 PM



“ I worked with Wayne in the Park View cluster when he was principal of Rolling Ridge. He was insightful and on point when it came to issues in that cluster. I enjoyed his dry sense of humor and quiet demeanor. After he retired I ran into him so often at Home Depot that I told him he should work part time for them...he found that quite amusing. He will be missed by many. My sympathies to the family.

Ellen Fein - October 22, 2020 at 09:12 PM



“ Wayne was the first principal at Sully Elementary for whom I worked after college in '69. He was a guiding person for the years before leaving to open Rolling Ridge, We worked with Susan at the hospital rummage sale for years in the Book Barn. He was a outstanding person and will be greatly missed. May God bless and give comfort to all that he meant so much to during his years in Loudoun.



Connie Welke - October 22, 2020 at 06:15 PM



“ Loved working with Wayne at the book barn! He was a trooper.

Ellen bawiec - October 22, 2020 at 08:04 PM



“ My first counseling job in LCPS started in 1999 because Mr.Mills hired me, even after I was late to the interview because of a flat tire. He didn't care about my portfolio or transcripts, he wanted to know his staff personally. We had the best staff because of that and we remain close 22 years later. RIP to our legend. I will miss my Christmas cards. Fondly,
Casey Smith

Casey Smith - October 23, 2020 at 06:11 PM



“ I worked with Wayne Mills for 23 years! When I retired we decided it was like a divorce and he got the kids! He was such a special person and I will miss his dear face

Loretta Koontz - October 22, 2020 at 11:31 AM



“ I worked with Mr. Mills both at Sully and Rolling Ridge. we had 25 very good years together. He was a caring person and always had time to listen. I retired and I have to say it hurt to leave as it was like family.

Connie Wright

Connie Wright - October 23, 2020 at 11:06 AM



“ Wayne Mills was my principal when I attended Aldie Elementary School. I was able to reconnect with him and Susan many years later and because friends with these two wonderful people. Wayne, you will be missed by so many people. My prayers are with your family.

Bonnie Flippo

Bonnie Flippo - October 23, 2020 at 04:50 PM



“ I was a secretary in the LCPS Personnel Department. Wayne was a wonderful principal who was so dedicated and was always doing his very best for his students and teachers. I always enjoyed his visits to our office and our many telephone conversations. Many times his quiet sense of humor simply made my day. I'm sure that he will be missed by all who knew him. My prayers and sympathy are with his family.

Inez Peebles

Inez Peebles - October 24, 2020 at 01:14 PM



“ I had the pleasure of serving as Wayne's assistant principal for five years at Rolling Ridge. It was such a fine, fine school due to Wayne's leadership, the amazing staff he nurtured, and the students and parents whose love and respect he earned on a daily basis. I learned a lot from him and have such fond memories of those years and the laughter and work we shared. My thoughts are with his son Jeffrey and family.

Patricia Freeh - October 26, 2020 at 09:58 AM



“ Mr. Mills was the best principal any one could have had. He allowed his excellent staff to teach. He had a great sense of humor and had a beautiful smile when he would share a funny incident with us. He truly is planted in my memory as a kind and respected man. I was blessed having him as my principal for most of my 25 years in Loudoun County Public Schools.

Susan Denniston - October 26, 2020 at 10:40 AM



“ Wayne was a great advocate for education. He loved working with students and always looked for the best teachers to keep the students challenged. He was respected. I loved his sense of humor and humility.

Rhonda Greene Phillip - October 26, 2020 at 12:17 PM



“ Mr. Mills was my 6th grade teacher in the 1963-1964 school year at Lovettsville Elementary. He was the first male teacher I ever had. He was a big guy who walked around the classroom swinging a meter stick as he talked to us on whatever subject we were

studying. It appears he made a positive impact on many students, teachers and friends throughout the years. I feel that I was lucky to have had him for a teacher as well.

Cindy (Brady) Thomas - Wendell, NC

Cindy (Brady) Thomas - October 29, 2020 at 12:21 AM