



Ersel Wade Chidester, Sr.

November 29, 1935 - April 2, 2025

Ersel Wade Chidester, Sr., age 89, of the Gaines-Canaan community of southern Upshur County, passed away at his daughter's home on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, after a battle with Lewy body dementia and heart issues. He was born on November 29, 1935, in Canaan, WV, to the late Orval Clinton and Icie Mae Strader Chidester. On September 8, 1956, he was united in marriage to Norma Jean Bender; the couple celebrated 65 years together before her death on January 5, 2022. He is survived by one son Ersel Wade Chidester, Jr. (Mickey) and wife Linda of Buckhannon; four daughters: Sharon Cathaleen Chidester of Canaan, Starrleen G. Wooddell of Green Bank, WV, Ann Renee Wilson and husband Vernon Craig of Gaines-Canaan, Angela Marie Chidester of Shepherd, TX; one adopted daughter Shannon Richelle Bosley of Buckhannon; eight grandchildren: Misty Dawn and husband Frank Fuller, Eric Wade Chidester, Dylan Wade Chidester and wife Eva, Brandy Ann Hedrick and Josh Hedrick, Ashley Dawn Wooddell, Kathryn Grayson (Kat) and husband Frederick Scott Dixon, Ty Nickolas Bosley, and Cheyenne Madison Martin; and seven great grandchildren: Abigale Fuller, Kyndal Alderman, Hayden Chidester, Journey Phillips, Cedric Wooddell, Luke Belch, Halayna Belch, and Keiara Vandervender. He was looking forward to meeting his first great-great grandchild to be born in April to Cedric and Carmen Wooddell, Alice Wooddell. Also surviving are three siblings: John David Chidester of Rock Cave, Roger Clayton Chidester of Frederick, MD, and Lois Belle Arbogast of Buckhannon. In addition to his parents and wife, he was also

preceded in death by one son Tony Ross Chidester and five siblings: Virgie Violet Chidester, Bonnie Belle Chidester, Elmer Clinton Chidester, Wanda Mae Nethken, and Buford Burl Chidester. Three days before his own death, on March 30, 2025, he also lost a beloved son-in-law Forrest Clyde Wooddell of Green Bank, WV.

Our beloved father worked in many different occupations during his long life; he liked to say, "I'm a jack-of-all-trades, but a master at none." He worked as a machinist in Ohio in the 1950s, the Department of Highways, WV Tractor, Moore's Business Forms, Burr's Gravely Tractor, Long Brothers Construction, and retired from Breckenridge Corporation. He could fix anything and was always working on projects for himself or others in the community. He made beautiful furniture and a grandfather clock. He graduated from the University of Hard Knocks founded by the West Virginia Hillbilly and sponsored by Alderson-Broadus College in 1997, and proudly displayed his diploma on the wall. He was most proud of finding the Lord and turning his life around. He was a founding member of the Canaan Community Church when it was purchased from the Methodist Conference in 1977; there he served in several positions over the years including: Trustee from the beginning, Superintendent, Sunday School teacher, and cemetery trustee. Our father will be missed beyond measure, as will his knowledge and stories of the Gaines, Canaan, Goshen, and Eden areas.

A graveside service and interment will be held at the Canaan Community Church Cemetery on Monday, April 7, 2025, at 1:00 PM, and those who loved and wish to honor our father are invited to attend.

Cemetery Details

Canaan Cemetery

Previous Events

Graveside Service

APR 7. 1:00 PM.

Canaan Cemetery

Tribute Wall

BW

“ So sorry for your loss. Angel and Cheyenne you guys are in my thoughts and prayers.

Becky Wine - April 08, 2025 at 08:23 AM

MC

“ We are so sorry to hear the news of Uncle Ersel’s passing. Our thoughts are with his family. May Christ’s love give you peace in this time of grief.

Mark and Amy Chidester.

Mark Chidester - April 07, 2025 at 10:57 AM

SC

“ Ersel has been a staple of the Gaines/Canaan community for as long as I can remember. He was a.lways a good friend of our family. My condolences go out to the Chidester family during this difficult time. 🙏

Sam Cutright - April 07, 2025 at 10:49 AM

SM

“ Scotti Martin lit a candle in memory of Ersel Wade Chidester, Sr.



Scotti Martin - April 06, 2025 at 10:04 PM

CF

“ To the Chidester family, So sorry to read of Ersel's passing. He was a really good man and will be missed by many. I think of the old days and when he taught Sunday School and the good times we had. Starleen, so sorry for your loss of your husband and also for the loss of Buford as well. The Chidesters were well known and liked by our community. I was Margie's daughter from Canaan. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of you. Ersel is in a better place now with God, your Mom, and the rest of the family and not suffering any more. Think of all your good memories that you have of them. Rest in Peace, Ersel



Carolyn Sites Flory - April 05, 2025 at 09:39 PM

JN

“ Ersel was always so kind to me as a young man. He was my Great Uncle, but also the greatest Uncle a young man could ask for. I was a rowdy little fella but he always shown me nothing but love and kindness. I love ya and I'll miss you.
Jonny

Jonathon Nethken - April 05, 2025 at 03:59 PM

MB

“ So sorry for your loss praying for the family



Michael Brown - April 04, 2025 at 10:42 PM

MJ

“ Mickey and Linda Johnson purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Ersel Wade Chidester, Sr..



Mickey and Linda Johnson - April 04, 2025 at 08:25 PM

CW

“ To Ersel's families, so sorry for your loss.



Connie Wilson - April 04, 2025 at 07:24 PM

DP

“ Another cousin gone down the valley. We are going down the valley one by one. I had two phone conversations with Ersel in the past two years. I really enjoyed talking to him. And, Starlene, I may have met you when you were small, but don't know you now. But, you have my deepest sympathy. Losing your husband and your father within three days is heartbreaking. Will keep all the family in my prayers!

Donis Perry - April 04, 2025 at 05:13 PM

SF

“ A second dad in my late teenage years, he was. One thing I remember about him, is when he said you where to do something, you did it. No questions asked. I always enjoyed seeing him in town and getting my dad hug. Memories of this family is close to my heart. Now go and rest with mom.
Hugs, prayers and love to all of you guys. Sisters of mine

Sandy Martin Fultz - April 04, 2025 at 04:32 PM

TW

“ Craig, Ann, Kat & Scotty,
Sending you our heartfelt condolences on the loss of your Dad/Granddad. May you find comfort & peace in each other and in your memories.
Bob, Pam & Linzy

The Wilson's - April 04, 2025 at 04:29 PM

KC

“ Our prayers are with all your Family and Friends. May God comfort each of you.
Rest In Peace



Karen and Orville Collins - April 04, 2025 at 02:55 PM