



Benjamin Stephen Booth

September 4, 1934 - November 21, 2023

Benjamin Stephen “Ben” Booth, LL.D., D.Min., age 89, of Mentone, passed peacefully on November 21, 2023 surrounded by family and caregivers at his home in Mentone. Rev. Booth is survived by: his wife Susan, of almost 50 years; daughters Susan Anne Booth, Megan (Jay) Finkelstein and Rebecca (Michael) DeVasher; grandsons Zachary, Seth and Taylor Finkelstein and Benjamin and Jack DeVasher; sister Mary Booth McDowell and niece Terri McDowell; brother-in-law John B. (Peggy) St.Clair – “John was like a brother to him;” sister-in-law Michelle (Steven) Franklin and niece Vivian and among his many beloved cuddins (cousins) are Doug (Sue) Evans, Eleanor Layton (Tom) Evans Manus, and Thomas Evans – all who live in or near Concord, Virginia – the birthplace of Ben’s parents.

He was predeceased in death by his parents – Dewey Stephen Booth and Mary Josephine Evans Booth and his Uncle Hunter (Eleanor) Evans.

When Ben’s parents married they moved from Concord, Virginia to Leechburg, Pennsylvania and Ben was a 1952 graduate of Leechburg High School. During his early teen years he pursued the hobby of Amateur Radio, a community he served and enjoyed from his licensure in 1950 until earning the YL International Single Sideband Emeritus Award as W4CT in 2023. He applied this skill among others in service to the United States Army from 1954-1956, was a 1960 graduate of Grove City College (B.S. in Chemistry), a 1963 graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (M.Div.), a 1995 graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia (D.Min.) and a

recipient of an honorary doctorate from West Alabama University in Livingston, Alabama.

Ben had a strong interest in and connection to aviation which began in his childhood. Throughout his life, he logged 6,000 hours of flight time and earned several ratings including: CFII – Certified Flight Instructor Instrument, Multi-Engine Rating and finally his ATP – Airline Transport Pilot Certification. He truly enjoyed flying and sharing the joy of flight in his role as flight instructor at the Fort Payne Airport.

As a Presbyterian Minister PC(USA) he served pastorates in Illinois, Pennsylvania and Virginia. From 1978-1981 he served as Executive Director of the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands in Wytheville, Virginia and was President of the Presbyterian Home for Children from 1981 until his retirement in 2001. His calling to serve children and youth in need in a residential setting began when he worked as a houseparent at the Ward Home for Children in the 1960's.

The family is grateful for the compassionate care they received from the nurses and staff from Amedysis Hospice and also from the dedicated and loving caregivers: Mary Blevins, Angela Brown, Marilyn Slaton and Kathy Blalock Wheat.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the charity of your choice. Wilson Funeral Home and Crematory in Fort Payne, Alabama will be handling the arrangements.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at First Presbyterian Church, 300 Grand Avenue North, Fort Payne, AL 35967 on Saturday, December 2, 2023 with visitation in Harrelson (fellowship) Hall from 12:00 – 2:00 PM followed by the Service at 2:00 PM with officiants Rev. Jerry Davis, Rev. Theresa Martin and Rev. Tom Martin and pianist Connie Durham.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

DEC 2. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church - Fort Payne
300 Grand Avenue NW
Fort Payne, AL 35967

Memorial Service

DEC 2. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church - Fort Payne
300 Grand Avenue NW
Fort Payne, AL 35967

Tribute Wall

VF

“ Dear, dear, Susan. I am so saddened by Ben's death. He was always my buddy in the choir loft at St. Joseph's in Mentone. We shared many stories of our lives waiting for the service to begin. I miss you both so much! Love to you and your family.
Valerie Fleming

Valerie Fleming - December 01, 2023 at 12:28 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Benjamin Stephen Booth.



November 28, 2023 at 12:16 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Benjamin Stephen Booth.



November 28, 2023 at 09:17 AM

ED

“ Ben has been a lifelong friend. We first met in 1st grade in Leechburg, PA. I will miss him....Eddie DeWitt

Ed DeWitt - November 26, 2023 at 07:05 PM

NH

“ Dear Susan and Family,
I am so sorry to hear of Ben's passing. My heart goes out to you and your family. He was a wonderful person as are you. Love,
Nehlia Harper {from the waffle king)

Nehlia Harper - November 23, 2023 at 06:04 PM

TW

“ We were devastated to hear of Ben's passing. I know it leaves a great hole in your heart and in your life. But, today is Thanksgiving day. And so we give thanks for the brilliance, kindness and generosity of spirit that defined Ben. We give thanks we had the opportunity to know such a man and to know his loving wife Susan. We miss you and we mourn with you. All our love, Bill and Rita.

The Rev. Bill and Rita Winters - November 23, 2023 at 10:36 AM

CF

Thank you Bill+ for a beautiful tribute. We will indeed miss Ben dearly. He was special friend in so many ways.

Carl Ferguson - November 23, 2023 at 11:48 AM

HF

Dear Susan & Family,
I am heart-broken, to hear of Ben's passing. We all are blessed, for having known such a kind, gentle man. Ben kept us laughing during Choir & was a great story teller! He was an Angel on earth & now, one in Heaven! Susan, you & your family are in my heart & prayers. Love,
Beth Fontaine ❤️

H.Elizabeth Fontaine - November 24, 2023 at 12:51 AM

TB

You're call today left me saddened to learn that my good friend has passed. Thank you for the kindness of letting me know. That was typical of you and Ben.

He was my flight instructor at Ft Payne quite a few years ago. He was thorough but patient and came to be a good friend, as did you. My thoughts and prayers are with you and the family.

Talmadge Butler - November 27, 2023 at 02:26 PM

GJ

Dear Susan, Ben was such a beautiful gift to so many. So much I didn't know. I love you Susan and know the angels are cherishing his presence as you have these many years.

Gerry Johnson - November 27, 2023 at 04:26 PM

GG

I only learned of Ben's passing today. You all will remain in my thoughts and prayers. Greita J. Gibbs

Greita J. Gibbs - January 02, 2024 at 04:34 PM

LH

“ *Ben, Susan and I became friends over the years while running into each other at lunchtime at the Tiger's Inn. Although I would only show up every few months, they would both call out my name with a smile and want to know my latest news. I will miss my friend with the kind twinkle in his eye.*

Lucie Holland - November 23, 2023 at 06:05 AM

SA

“ *My defining memory of Ben was his recitation of the Nativity scripture on Christmas Eve. He spoke as if he had been a witness to the Miracle and made the story very immediate and personal. He was a delight to be around and I enjoyed the outings Hank and I shared with him and Susan. His kindness, optimism and nurturing spirit will be greatly missed.*

Susan Van Apeldoorn

Susan Van Apeldoorn - November 23, 2023 at 12:02 AM