

Mack Leslie Walls

(/obituaries/mack-leslie-walls)



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Spring Grove, VA

09.08.1950 - 08.26.2020

Birthplace: Saltville, Virginia

Mack Leslie Walls, 69, died on Wednesday, Aug. 26. He was a beloved husband, father, grandpa (MackDaddy), brother, uncle and friend. He died doing what he loved – working outdoors.

He was born on Sept. 8, 1950, in Saltville, Virginia, growing up with his parents Evelyn and Glinford Walls, and siblings Janice, Gilda and Jeff. He graduated from R.B. Worthy High School in 1968 and left Saltville to further his education at Virginia Tech. There, he earned his undergraduate degree in Forestry and graduate degree in Wildlife Biology.

After a time in Indiana, he returned to Virginia and enjoyed a long career with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, retiring in 2006.

Bob Duncan, Mack's long-time friend and Department of Wildlife Resources leader describes his service: "Mack Walls was beloved and highly respected by his fellow wildlife professionals at the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, now the Department of Wildlife Resources. He was admired by his colleagues, sportsmen and women of Virginia; and a wide variety of conservation-minded organizations. Mack was a remarkable individual with the requisite scientific/academic training and adept at working with people of all backgrounds and interest. He was caring of others and a mentor for many of his co-workers. His 'can do' attitude inspired his co-workers and his friends in other state and federal agencies. Among his contributions to wildlife management and conservation in Virginia, his leadership establishing and management of the deer-hunting program at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant attracted attention from sportsmen and women from across the Commonwealth. This program was recognized as one of the 10 best deer hunting programs in the Nation! Mack's contributions to wildlife management will benefit future generations of Virginians and serve as an extraordinary example for aspiring future conservationists."

Mack's academic and wildlife conservation accomplishments pale in comparison to his love of family and friends! His love is remembered through fishing and camping trips to Lake Moomaw in Bath County with his sons, Stephen and Jason. Teaching them how to waterski on South Holston Lake. And, their countless trips to Laurel Bed Lake and Big Tumbling Creek - where he had spent time with his father.

Mack had deep love and devotion to his daughter, Jordan, and was always willing to jump in and help with whatever was needed at College Run Farms or with the family. Their bond was special and strong.

In later years, he transferred that love of family to his grandchildren, Pete (16), Ethan (15), Jake (14), Emi (13), Nicholas (12), Marley (11) and Henry (11) and He loved his grandkids, launching the most epic summer camp of all time: "Camp Grandpa." Fishing, camping, tubing, hiking, water fights, amazing food and memories that will never be lost.

Whether in person or from afar, he was a cheerleader for their activities: dancing, lacrosse, rock climbing, hunting, fishing, baseball, gaming, tae kwon do, marching band and scouts.

And, the annual ski trips to Wintergreen, with his white ski jacket and blaze orange ski hat, where he taught his grandchildren how to ski – each a precious and special moment.

And, then there was his beloved wife Catherine. They met by chance at Chippokes State Park in 1996 and married in 1998. They made an incredible life together and loved each other deeply. Their life together was devoted to their children and grandchildren.

For the man who could give life with a hug, warm your heart with smile and make a connection in an instant – we love you and we will miss you forever!

The service will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Museum of Middle Appalachians, in memory of Mack's mother, Evelyn Walls Herndon, Post Office Box 910, Saltville, Virginia 24370.

Guestbook

Gail Seay

**Mon, 08/31/2020 -
01:04pm**

I am so sorry for your loss. Prayers and thinking of the whole family. Mack will live forever in each if your hearts and minds.

Gail Seay

Dale Fuss

**Mon, 08/31/2020 -
01:15pm**

My since heartfelt condolences to you and your family. Mack was a great person and will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Dale Fuss

Turner Johnson

**Mon, 08/31/2020 -
01:38pm**

So sorry for your sudden loss□□□□□□

Turner Johnson

**Wayne and Susan
Godley**

**Mon, 08/31/2020 -
02:26pm**

We are so sorry to hear of Mack leaving this earth too soon. He was a larger than life individual and will be missed by friends and family. And when he shall die, place him among the stars, and he will make the face of heaven so beautiful that all will be in love with the night. I believe Mack makes heaven a more beautiful place.

Wayne and Susan Godley

Budi and Lynn Sheckler

**Mon, 08/31/2020 -
02:40pm**

Catherine, Budi and I are so very saddened by your loss, all of our loss, and want you to know you are in our thoughts

I so looked forward to that carismatic smile whenever I saw Mac and get never disappointed.

Life is a journey and Mac has completed his on this Earth. On to another exciting journey where he will wait for you.

Please know you are in our hearts and we are here if you should need us for any reason. When needed, lean on family and friends as they will always hold you up. Peace and God bless.

Budi and Lynn Sheckler

Bill & Joyce Subjack

**Mon, 08/31/2020 -
03:28pm**

Our love and prayers for you at this time of heartache and loss. ☹️

Bill & Joyce Subjack

**Mary and W. H.
Goodwyn,III**

**Mon, 08/31/2020 -
04:29pm**

We were shocked to learn of Mac's death, and we send our condolences to the entire family.

We will keep all of you in our prayers during this time of sorrow. If we can be of any assistance, please let us know.

Mary and W. H. Goodwyn,III

Indira Everett

**Mon, 08/31/2020 -
04:43pm**

I offer my sincerest condolences for my colleague, Jason Walls, and your family. I pray that God gives you all the strength to get through this difficult time. I will keep you in my prayers.

Indira Everett

Indira Everett

Mike Hughes

**Mon, 08/31/2020 -
05:31pm**

Jason, I am so sorry to hear of your Dad's tragic passing. You have always spoken so highly of him, and it's easy to see why. The good news is, so many of the fine qualities enumerated in his tribute were clearly passed on to you. Know that you're in our thoughts and prayers. May you and your family take comfort in happy memories of a rich life.

Mike Hughes

David and Vicki Brown

**Mon, 08/31/2020 -
08:04pm**

Our deepest sympathies to you all. Mack was such a strong force within our family and will be missed greatly. Love to all of the family.

David and Vicki

David and Vicki Brown

Anna Vernon Bowman

**Mon, 08/31/2020 -
09:41pm**

So sorry for your loss. Your family is in our prayers.

Anna Vernon Bowman

Sondra A Harris

**Mon, 08/31/2020 -
10:29pm**

Mack was a wonderful person. He had such a love for nature and loved teaching his family and loved ones so many skills and a love for nature and life. He was the most rounded, loveable person I know. My prayers are for the entire family for their loss. Oh, the memories he gave us all that knew him, but especially for his entire family. What a great man!

Sondra A Harris

John Pound

**Wed, 09/02/2020 -
04:23pm**

I worked with Mack in Bath County when he was the Regional Biologist. He was a hard worker, knew what he was doing and always fun to work with. We had some really good times especially when we built the shooting Range on the Gathright Wildlife Management Area. I always looked forward to seeing Mack and will miss a lot. He loved his Family and talked about them frequently.

John Pound

Rebecca Griffin

**Wed, 09/02/2020 -
10:04pm**

Catherine, I am so sorry to hear of the death of your husband. He obviously was a terrific person and loved by all who knew him. I never had the pleasure of meeting him. I know you are going to miss him terribly. Always remember your good times and the beautiful memories you made together with each other and with your children and grandchildren. Your memories will sustain you and help you get through this trust me. Take care ♥

Rebecca Griffin

Mike Lane

**Thu, 09/03/2020 -
10:56am**

I was saddened to hear of Mack's passing and offer the family my deep-felt condolences. Years ago I had a number of opportunities to work with him trapping nuisance bears around Dismal Swamp, and enjoyed running into him on occasion in the years since. He was highly respected by all in his field, and among the public with whom he worked as well.

Mike Lane

Ray Powell, Chap. Pres.

**Thu, 09/03/2020 -
11:03am**

We at the Suffolk-Nansemond Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America were saddened to hear of Mack's recent passing. A few years back, he shared with us his valuable expertise when we redesigned the small shooting range at our Chapter's park, and we were able to greatly improve its safety and utility. He was quite a person and surely will be missed by all. We offer our sincerest sympathy.

Ray Powell, Chap. Pres.

Bruce Mitchell

**Sun, 09/06/2020 -
06:01pm**

Catherine, I am deeply sorry for your loss. Mack was a kind and compassionate man whom I admired and was privileged to call him my friend. He will be missed by many. I pray for you and your family that God will provide peace and calm and fill your hearts with joyful memories and hope for tomorrow. We are praying for all of you.

Bruce, Sarah and Sam Mitchell

Bruce Mitchell

