

Edwin Thea Hardy



Mr. Edwin Thea Hardy, 91 entered eternal rest on Tuesday, December 23, 2025, at the Chase City Health and Rehab Center in Chase City, VA. Known by many as “Brown”, given that nickname by a first cousin Garrett Wood, when he first saw him as a baby and said, “What a pretty little brown baby!” He was the second of nine children born to the late Casey and Theora Wood Hardy on April 16, 1934. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Kelsey L. Hardy and sister, Estell H. Carter.

Brown was educated in the public schools of Mecklenburg County and graduated from West End High School in 1954. Shortly after graduation, he entered the military and served in the U.S. Army for 4 years. Upon returning home, he worked on the family tobacco farm and at his father’s sawmill with his two brothers.

Brown married the former Annie Pearl Green in June of 1961 and moved to Willow Grove, PA in the same year. He later moved to Roslyn, PA. From this union, two children were born, Tony V. Hardy and April H. Bettelli.

While living in Pennsylvania, he worked for the Abington School District as a bus driver, for daily and special events. He was a no-nonsense driver but loved each one of the many kids he drove over the years. He worked for the district for many years, until he retired. In 2005, he moved back to Chase City to enjoy his retirement.

Confessing his faith in Christ at an early age, Brown was baptized and joined Concord Baptist Church in Chase City. Upon his relocation to Pennsylvania, he joined the fellowship of First Baptist Church of Crestmont in Willow Grove, where he was an active member. Upon his retirement, he moved back to Chase City, where he reconnected with Concord Baptist Church. He served as a member of the Male Chorus and assisted in grass cutting, other maintenance around the church and special projects.

Brown was always willing to lend a helping hand, whether it was a neighbor, family, friend or stranger. He loved tinkering with things, whether he fixed them or not. Being the patriarch of the family, he loved telling family stories and could remember details like no one else could. He often started his stories with, “Did you know...?” He loved working on his cars and kept them spotless. Never keeping one for long, he has owned over 30 vehicles.

Edwin loved his family. He leaves to cherish his memory: son, Tony V. Hardy (Stacey); daughter, April Bettelli (Aldo); three grandsons, Marlon Coward (Shawanda) Justin Coward, and Steven Coward (YaVasha); three great granddaughters, YaVasha Coward, Azalea Coward and YaZasha Coward; brother, Alfred J. Hardy (Annie); five sisters, Joan H. Gee, Claudette H. Hutcheson (Nathaniel), Hilda H. Terry (Marshall), Wanda H. Royster (John) and Alice H. Miller; brother-in-law, Garland V. Carter; sister-in-law, Shirley E. Hardy; nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews, and a host of other relatives and friends.

A funeral service was conducted on Sunday, December 28, 1:00 P.M. at Concord Baptist Church, Chase City, VA with Rev. Raleigh M. Bagley, II delivering the eulogy.

Arrangements by Giles-Harris Funeral Home and Cremations Service, Chase City, VA.