



Johnny Creel

April 3, 1919 - June 18, 2011

Conway...Johnny Samuel Creel, eighth child of John Harlie and Bessie Sessions Creel, passed away on Saturday, June 18, 2011, at his home in Conway. Born in the Four Mile Section of Horry County on April 3, 1919, he spent most of his life in Conway and Myrtle Beach. He served during World War II with the 7th Port of Embarkation, which played a major role in preparing for and supporting the June 6, 1944, "D-Day" invasion of Europe. The division also served in the Pacific. Mr. Creel was well known in local business and government circles. He was Horry County's first full-time Civil Defense Director and developed the original emergency preparedness plans for natural and man-made disasters in Horry County. He also developed and implemented the first county-wide ambulance service which evolved into today's EMS. He was instrumental in establishing Horry County's first drug court and retired from the County as Chief Summary Court Judge. For many years he was general manager of Apache Family Campground in Myrtle Beach and served several terms on the Myrtle Beach Accommodations Board. Mr. Creel was active in Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs during his Career. He was also a member of Masonic Lodge #65 and Sons of Confederate Veterans. He was a charter member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Conway where he remained active until the last days of his life.

He is survived by his daughter Cindy (Dan) Epps of Matthews, NC. One son John (Rebekah) Creel of North Myrtle Beach and Charlotte, NC. Three

grandsons Jason (Katie) Epps of Greenville, SC, Alex (Julie Lufkin) Epps of Tacoma, WA and Robert Creel of North Myrtle Beach. He is also survived by two great granddaughters, Abigail and Mary Frances Epps of Greenville, SC; and two sisters, Blu (Gil) Turner of Salisbury, MD and Wyoma (Bill) Bean of Myrtle Beach.

Mr. Creel was predeceased by his wife of 68 years, LaVerne Houk Creel and a daughter Sandra Creel.

Funeral services will be held 11:00 AM Tuesday at Trinity United Methodist Church with Rev. Dr. Sandra Stevens Poirel officiating. Burial will follow in Hillcrest Cemetery with Military Honors and Masonic Rites.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 PM Monday at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that contributions be made to the Bessie Creel Endowment at Conway Medical Center, 300 Singleton Ridge Road, Conway, SC 29526 or Trinity United Methodist Church, 198 Long Ave, Conway, SC 29526.

Online memorial messages may be sent to www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Hillcrest Cemetery

1000 Hwy 544
Conway, SC 29526
(843) 347-4909
<https://www.hillcrestcemetery.com/>

Previous Events

Service

JUN 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

Trinity United Methodist Church
198 Long Avenue
Conway, SC 29526

Tribute Wall

JS

“ Johnny Creel was our great uncle (we are the grandchildren of his sister Bernice). We did not grow up in Horry County but anytime we visited (whether for family vacations or funerals), Uncle Johnny was always available for a conversation or to help in any way he could. He and Aunt LaVerne were those kinds of folks. Someone mentioned in an earlier comment, that Conway will never have another couple like them. So true.

I pray the Creel legacy will live on and strong in Horry County. Our prayers are with our family for grieving, for healing, for blessings.

Jeanette (Jordan) Lashare Spees

Jeanette Lashare Spees - June 24, 2011 at 11:32 AM

RJ

“ I have fond memories when this " Yankee " Ree Johnson moved into Apache Family Campground.A nicer man I never met.Always ready to help me and my husband in any way that he could.Always a smile and a sympathetic ear.Had wonderful stories about the early years in Myrtle Beach.He will be truly missed.

Rose Marie A (REE) Johnson - June 20, 2011 at 05:44 PM

CF

“ We did not know Mr. Creel personally but he sounded like a delight as Blu's older brother and had a remarkable memory and a wonderful life. Our Sympathy to the Creel family and friends.
Fondly, Carolyn & Wayne Foltz

Clyde Wayne Foltz - June 20, 2011 at 05:12 PM

DP

“ To the Creel Family,
I was honored to meet Mr. Creel a little over a year ago. We were both excited to discover that we were family. From that moment of discovery, he treated me as though we had known each other forever. I regret not having more time to share with him. I have gained a great love for Mr. Johnny and I will miss him.



Diana Parker Daughter of J.C. and Annie (Sessions) Graham

Diana G. Parker - June 20, 2011 at 09:50 AM



“ To the Creel family,

We have lost another World War II Soldier. I have lost a good friend. He was one of the finest men I have ever known and I will miss him. May God bless you and comfort you at this time of sorrow.

*W. E. "Ed" Thompson
Conway, SC*

W. "Ed" Thompson - June 19, 2011 at 02:55 PM

DP

We have truly lost a wonderful man. Johnny was the epitome of a gentleman. I considered him a great friend. He always had a kind word to say about everyone. And the stories he could tell. You could listen to him for ever. He loved his family, especially his grandchildren. And when the great grandchildren came along, he was on cloud nine. He was so proud of all of his family. Conway will never have another Johnny and LaVerne Creel. They were a unique couple. God bless the Creel family. You have some mighty big shoes to fill.

De Lis M. Polatty - June 23, 2011 at 01:52 PM