



Virlin Edward (Ed) Spivey

October 8, 1924 - April 20, 2025

Virlin Edward (Ed) Spivey, formerly of Vincennes, IN and St. Augustine, FL, passed away peacefully in Darlington, South Carolina on April 20, 2025. He was 100 years old. He led a long life, filled with love for his family and Christ-like service to his church, his community, and his country.

Born in Sikeston, Missouri on October 8, 1924, to Nancy Dona (Martin) and Elmes Hilton Spivey, he was preceded in death by his loving wife of 73 years, Wanda Gail (Richards) Spivey in 2020. He is survived by his three children, Virlin Edward (Tricia) Spivey Jr. of Washington D.C., Gail (John) Veale of Darlington, SC, and Richard (Nanette) Spivey of Florence, SC. “Pappaw” was also beloved by his seven grandchildren, Colleen (Adrian) Spivey, Christopher (Kelci) Veale, Kate (Damaso) Spivey, Sara (Brett) Hickman, Kyle (Megan) Spivey, Brent (Danielle) Spivey, Samuel (Cassy) Spivey, and 21 great-grandchildren.

Ed grew up in a large family during the depression, which shaped his resolve for the value of hard work, personal integrity, and caring for your fellow man. He worked many jobs as a youth to help the family—shined shoes, delivered newspapers, milked cows, delivered milk—and also learned carpentry from his father, a skill he applied throughout his life helping build homes for relatives and doing renovations at church.

Eager to serve his nation during World War II, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1943 at the age of 18, and was assigned to the original crew of the U.S.S. New Jersey. He was on board during the battleship’s commissioning in May of

that year, and served 27 months of continuous sea duty in the Pacific as a turret gunner. He was on board when the New Jersey sailed into Tokyo Harbor in September, 1945, shortly after the official end of the war with Japan. Before his death, he was one of his ship's oldest surviving "plank owners."

Ed married Wanda May 17, 1947 and began working at JCPenney in Sikeston, Missouri, starting as a shoe salesman. His enthusiasm for his new career in retail soon caught the attention of his supervisors and he quickly rose through management positions, transferring from small and medium-sized stores in Missouri to his final assignment in the much larger JCPenney in Vincennes, Indiana. In each of these communities Ed left his mark, helping build church congregations and investing in local development efforts. He was in leadership positions with Kiwanis, Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, Salvation Army, Red Cross, and the YMCA. Always full of energy, he worked hard, walked fast, and gave his all to running his stores and encouraging the best out of his employees. And they loved him for it. He retired after 36 years in 1984.

Through his years of civic engagement, he was known for bringing people together. Whether it was raising money to build a new YMCA, supporting the other local merchants, flipping pancakes for the annual Kiwanis pancake breakfast, delivering Wanda's homemade Christmas cookies to police and fire fighters, or opening his family's home to church fellowships, Ed was definitely Mr. Hospitality. And in every town he lived in he was an active member of his church, serving as a deacon, Sunday School teacher, choir member, and supporting the congregation during the week with his hands and his spirit. He and his wife were original members of Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Vincennes, and active in Anastasia Baptist Church, in St. Augustine, Florida, where he and Wanda lived for 22 years. In 2016 they moved to Bethea Retirement Community in Darlington, South Carolina. At Bethea, they were both members of the Bethea Baptist Church.

Ed always had a smile for everyone, a firm handshake, and his positive energy was contagious. If you asked him how he was, he would seldom fail to

answer, "Super!", even when he might not feel that way. This quickly led to his being known as "Mr. Super" at Bethea. A faithful Christian servant throughout his life, his joyful presence in this world will be deeply missed.

He is survived by his sister, Patricia Hooker. He was preceded in death by his sisters Marjorie Hopkins, Elsie Russell, Delcia Bagwell, Jenna Allen, and brothers James Spivey, Merlin Spivey and Richard Spivey.

A life remembrance service and military funeral will be held at a future date.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to a charity of one's choice.

The Directors of Kistler Hardee Funeral Home are honored to be serving the Spivey family.

Tribute Wall

BP

“ We met Ed and Wanda at Anastasia Baptist Church and attended the same life group for Bible study. Knowing Ed, this verse immediately came to mind- “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’”

Matthew 25:21 ESV

We are sorry for your loss, a great man is now in his heavenly home and with Wanda again. We are honored to have known them.

Sincerely,

Bill and Ellen Polaskey

Bill Polaskey - April 22, 2025 at 06:58 PM

DN

“ Both Ed and Wanda were absolutely overflowing with Jesus!!! They walked the walk were pure joy and an understanding and compassion to everyone around them. Anastasia Baptist Church (and me and my whole family) were soooooooo blessed by their tireless pursuit of teaching the gospel! I’m thanking our Lord for my sweet friends in heaven! I know that Wanda was right beside Jesus ready for the biggest hug and “welcome home” party ever! Well done, good and faithful servant!! You are deeply loved and missed!

Donna Nicolosi - April 22, 2025 at 06:16 PM

LH

“ Mr. Spivey was a hero to our Sunday School children’s department. He was one of the best examples of “The Greatest Generation” whom I’ve ever known. Condolences to his family. ❤️🙏

Laurie Hays - April 22, 2025 at 06:05 PM

BN

I agree with every word Laurie Hays said in her comment. I worked with Ed and Laurie and several other wonderful ladies in the children's department at Anastasia for many years. We called Ed our "doorman", letting parents in and out this big, heavy door every Sunday. Always smiling, setting the example for all the children coming and going. What a blessing he and Wanda were to all they met. God rest his soul and sincerest sympathy to all who loved him and Wanda.

Betty Neely - April 22, 2025 at 09:13 PM

EL

“ Gene and Elaine Hubbard



Elaine - April 22, 2025 at 03:41 PM

KO

“ *What a great tribute to an Amazing Man!! I just Love that man!!! We worked together a few times moving Rich n Nan & we had fun working!! Of course I didn't love moving them to Ohio because there went my Grandkids too but it was best for them. We then moved from the apt to their house! I have many memories of Ed n I will cherish them forever!! He finally got to HOME!!*

Katie Ott - April 21, 2025 at 05:30 PM

RS

“ 4 files added to the album Ed Spivey



Rich Spivey - April 21, 2025 at 05:29 PM

RK

I met the Spivey's at Anastasia Baptist Church in 1997 when I moved to St Augustine. Wanda was working in the church library when my roommate and I went in to sign up for library cards / check out some books. With my name being Robert Kennedy and my roommates being John Hancock, Wanda chuckled and said, " Those are great names boy's but I'm going to need to see your drivers licenses." LOL We laughed and have shared that story for years. My life is better having known both these amazing people. Sorry to hear of your loss and prayers to your family during this time. -Robert Kennedy

Robert Kennedy - April 23, 2025 at 11:36 AM