



John W Combs Jr

February 21, 1948 - December 28, 2016

Combs, John W. Jr., 68, husband of Darrylyn Callaway Combs, died Wednesday, December 28, 2016 at Baptist Health Lexington. He was born February 21, 1948 in Hazard, KY to the late John W. Combs Sr. and Mary Florence Combs and was a faithful member of the Pleasant Green Baptist Church. Mr. Combs retired as Human Resources Branch Manager with the Commonwealth of Kentucky and as Personnel Director at Kentucky State University. In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sons, John W. (Jennifer) Combs III, Lexington, KY and Richard (Eva) Combs, Florence, KY; grandchildren Chelsea Perdue and John W. Combs IV both of Lexington, KY; siblings Monica (Harrison, deceased) Walker, Temple Hill, MD; Josephine (Howard) Primous, Palm Beach Gardens, FL; Byron Combs, Louisville, KY; Mary Walker and Lenora Combs, Lexington, KY; and Victor (Dorothy) Combs, Conroe, TX; countless nieces, nephews, cousins and in-laws; and a host of friends including Anthony Walker and Marvin Thomas. Visitation begins at 10am with Homegoing services at 12pm on Friday, January 6, 2017 at the Historic Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church. Rev. Dr. T.H. Peoples, Jr. officiating. Guestbook online at smithandsmith@windstream.net

Cemetery Details

Lexington Cemetery

Tribute Wall



“ *John W Combs Jr*

February 01, 2023 at 11:02 AM

WC

“ J.W. Combs, Jr. or "Booney" , as a lot of us called him, was my friend and he was my fishing buddy. We got to know each other through my mother(Agnes Cornett) and his grandmother. What we had in common, even at an early age, was our love of fishing. During the summer, we would go 2-3 times a week, usually not catching much, but it was so much fun. We knew both sides of the river in Hazard from the Yard bridge to the Woodlawn Park bridge. One of my favorite stories of our childhood is about a fish basket. We found a wire basket one day in the river and it was full of fish. So, we thought we could make one too and catch lots of fish! We went home and built one. The next day, we went walking down main street with this huge fish basket over our shoulders. A man said "Boys, don't you know that is illegal?" We were young and very proud of what we just made, so we kept on walking and put it in the river. The next day, we could hardly wait to go back to see how many fish we caught. Well, the basket was gone! Someone had stolen the illegal basket. It's probably a good thing, but we were so disappointed. We would go along the bank searching for crawdads and salamanders for bait. Every now and then we would catch a small water snake. One day we got to the river and noticed a dead snake. It was about 6 ft. long and 6-8 in. around. Someone told us it was a cottonmouth water moccasin - a poisonous snake ! Well, we decided that was enough of wading the river. We were young and adventurous, but we weren't stupid. We attended high school and were on the track team. Believe it or not, Booney was a pole vaulter. I'll just leave it at that.

We both attended KY State in Frankfort and I was a couple years older, so we went our separate ways. Through the years we would sometimes see each other at the famous Cornett Reunions held at Buckhorn Lake or in Hazard every August. In 2013, I moved back to Kentucky to be close to family. About 2 years ago, we ran into each other at my niece's funeral. He said he was retired and I asked if he still fished. He said - "every chance I get ! ". We got together with Kenneth Knowles and we fished primarily in the spring for crappie and white bass.

Last year, J.W. invited us over to his house for a fish fry. His brothers and sisters were all there for a visit also. And several friends from Hazard were there. One of those friends teased him that he needed to learn how to clean fish better to get rid of all the bones. However, we noticed there was nothing left on their plates. It was a good time for all !

During our time on the water and on the phone, we caught up and it was as if all the time apart didn't matter. The things I will remember most about our conversations was how much he loved his family and how much he loved his church.

I will always remember that scraggly beard and that smile. J. W. "Booney", my friend and my fishing buddy. I will miss you. We all will miss you.

William Cornett

William Cornett - January 06, 2017 at 03:41 PM

JS

“*Hey Haz, finally got you to join us on Norris Lake, with Brothers Charles Combs and Ragmuffin back in November, and was looking forward to many more times, now we must say goodbye, but we will never forget you as we continue on, when we do go back we will miss you dearly, rest my Brother, rest, we will add a plaque in your memory, so as you will always be a part of our fishing crew, to all the family, my deepest sympathies, from Hotlanta, Ga., Jesse and Christina Olinger Sr.*

Jesse Olinger Sr. - January 05, 2017 at 12:06 PM

LB

“*Linda Blair-Jenkins lit a candle in memory of John W Combs Jr*



Linda Blair-Jenkins - January 04, 2017 at 04:47 PM

BT

“ I grew up in Cardinal Valley, not far from The Combs Family. I'm proud to say that I was one of John III's childhood friends. He and I spent countless hours playing at the park, just across the street from his home. And his dad was always gracious enough to welcome me into their home. I spent as much time by John's house in the summer as I did my own.

My family moved out of CV after high school, but I'd still see Mr. Combs at the grocery or at a U.K. Basketball game. Each time I saw him John would have a smile on his face, reminding me of those summer days in Cardinal Valley.

Once my own son began playing baseball at South Lexington, John IV just so happened to be on the same team. I don't think Mr. Combs missed a game.

A great man, a great family.
You will be missed

BT - January 03, 2017 at 07:13 PM