



Melvin Brown Hayden

July 31, 1935 - December 17, 2015

Dr. Melvin Brown Hayden, Major (US Army retired), age 80, died peacefully on Thursday, December 17, 2015 at Ansley Park Health & Rehabilitation Center, Newnan, GA.

He was born in Altavista, VA on July 31, 1935 to the late Ralph W. and Rhoda Miller Hayden and grew up on a cotton mill village working in the weave room. He graduated from Ford High School, Laurens, SC, attended Clemson University, and then enlisted in the US Army (1954). His five years of enlisted service included duty as a Military Policeman and Photographer with the US Army Security Agency. Following completion of Officer Candidate School (Ft. Benning, GA, 1959), Hayden completed Airborne and Ranger Schools, Special Forces Training (1961). During three tours of duty in Vietnam he served as an advisor, Special Forces A Team Commander, and Adjutant, 11th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. Between Viet Nam tours, he was on active duty in Panama, the Dominican Republic and Bolivia. Hayden retired from active duty in 1974 with the rank of Major. A few of the many honors awarded during 20 years of military service include The Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Clusters, Meritorious Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with Four Starts, and Senior Parachute Badge. Hayden spent the next twenty years working with the US Office of Personnel Management and US Treasury Department. He retired in 1995 having attained the civilian grade level of GS-14.

Mel and Lucy married in 1992. He moved to Newnan, GA in 1996, and it was

then that Mel Hayden began his incredible journey of volunteerism and community service. He joined the White Oak Golden K--Kiwanis Club and was an active member for over 19 years. He served with distinction twice as its President and as Division Lt. Governor for the GA District of Kiwanis. Mel was instrumental in organizing several Kiwanis Club including the Old Campbell and Wesley Woods Clubs, as well as the Kiwanis Club Satellite at Wesley Woods. Kiwanis accolades included induction into the Kiwanis International (KI) Heritage Society, KI Ruby K(10) Award, George Hixson Medallion, GA Leadership Medallion, Henry Heinz Award, and most recently, the prestigious KI TABLET OF HONOR. He often said that through Kiwanis he realized the true meaning of life-long learning and servant leadership.

Dr Hayden was appointed as the first Executive Director of CLICK—Certified Literate is Coweta's Key (1998-2003). During this time he led the process that resulted in Coweta County being declared a 'Certified Literate Community' by the GA Department of Adult and Technical Education.

Mel actively devoted his time and resources to support military veterans, too: Life Member, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 27; The American Legion, Alvin Hugh Harris/Post 57; active alumni of OCS CLASS 2-59; and frequent participant in the VET-CONNECT Program with Newnan High School students.

Mel laughingly said it only took him 19 years to complete an undergraduate degree! He earned a Bachelor in Business Administration, Campbell University, NC (1972); Masters Degree in Adult Education, NC State University (1975); and from Georgia State University-College of Education, a Specialist Degree in Career Development (1982) and Doctorate in Human Resource Development (1989).

Lifelong learning, especially using all types of technology, avid reading, and fishing off the pier at St. Simons, GA were among his avocations in later life. Surviving him are his wife of twenty three years Dr. Lucille W. Hayden, sons Melvin D. (Angie) Hayden, Tallahassee, FL and Douglas M. Hayden, Atlanta,

daughter Dana W. (Brett) Mitchell, Newnan; sister Virginia M. Ashmore and her son Michael, Laurens, SC; grandchildren James C. Hayden, Teresa Hayden, Christina (Ryan) Weaver, Mattlyn Mitchell; great grand-children Carly Spradlin and Austin Kunz; and many nieces, nephews and cousins. Preceding him in death are brothers Clyde Miller, Ralph Hayden, Leonard Hayden, and sister Thelma Miller.

Dr. Hayden will be remembered during a service of celebration beginning at 11 am on Monday, December 21, 2015 in the chapel of McKoon Funeral Home, Newnan. Friends may visit with the family that morning beginning at 10am. Cremains will be interred with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

Condolences can be expressed online at www.mckoon.com

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to support lifelong learning.

White Oak Golden K-Kiwanis Club

P.O. Box 73283, Newnan, GA 30271

Dr. Mel Hayden--Adult Education Scholarship for local GED and/or technical college adults

Georgia State University/College of Education & Human Development

Please designate your gift to The Hayden-Waltz Doctoral Dissertation Award.

Send by mail to: Georgia State University Foundation; P.O. Box 2668; Atlanta, Georgia 30301-2668.

Or, make online at www.giving.gsu.edu/college-of-education-human-development

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory (770) 253-4580

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

1 Memorial Avenue
Arlington, VA 22211
<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.org>

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **21**. 10:00 AM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com

Service

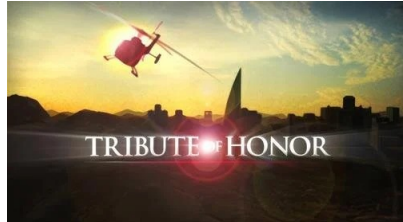
DEC **21**. 11:00 AM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home Chapel
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com
<http://www.mckoon.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Melvin Brown Hayden*



McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory - December 20, 2015 at 01:50 PM

CW

“ *As one of Lucy's Northern cousins, I was only in Mel's company about eight times starting with his wedding to Lucy. After reading all these posted tributes, I realize how humble and self-effacing he was. He never talked about himself or his past history in the military or with the Kiwanis activities, and yet he did so much to help others in so many ways. I do know that from the moment I met him, I knew that he loved my cousin and would be a wonderful, supportive husband. I am grateful that my last time with Mel and Lucy was this past September when they drove to Baltimore for Lucy's 50th Reunion at Towson University. We shared steamed crabs and lots of stories about our families. It will always be a special memory for me. Love you, Lucy*

Celia Wrisk - January 04, 2016 at 06:14 PM

KL

“ Me Melvin was good friends with both of my grandparents Alton Reeves and Al Lewis. He was also a patient at our practice and would always stop in and say hello with some pecans and some vidella onions. Such a sweet sweet soul. Mr Melvin you will be missed.

Katey Lewis - December 23, 2015 at 09:41 PM

DI

“ Shocked to find when I returned from a trip that Mel died. He was a fine example to all of us and a positive force in our community.
David Ingram

David H. Ingram - December 23, 2015 at 06:08 PM

VT

“ Words cannot begin to share the love and admiration I have for Mel Hayden. I am so glad to have told him so on many occasions. A friend, patriot and Kiwanian. He will be missed - Semper Fi

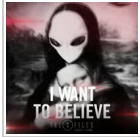


Victoria Turney - December 23, 2015 at 10:26 AM

EC

“ Tom and I were so sad to learn of Mel's passing. I got to know him through his efforts with local literacy efforts and civic work with Golden K Kiwanis. Ge will truly be missed.
Ellen and Tom Corker

Ellen Corker - December 22, 2015 at 08:30 PM



“ *I never had the pleasure of meeting this great man, but my lifelong extremely close friend is his son, Doug. My condolences go out to all of the family and friends that lost this man.*

Gay Bailey Treat

Gay Treat - December 22, 2015 at 05:12 PM

DG

“ *We have lost a dear friend and traveling partner. Mel was a great American who loved and served his country, the people of Newnan and the State of Georgia through his numerous service organizations. We will always remember our many trips together, the endless jokes (most of which were repeated numerous times), and the fellowship we shared. We are thankful that Mel was a part of our life - He will be missed.*

Diane and Jim Garbo

Diane Garbo - December 22, 2015 at 05:10 PM

IH

“ *Lucy and Family,
Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers. Mel was an incredibly positive and inspiring person. He leaves a legacy of service, love and learning.*

Inez Hawkins

Inez Hawkins - December 21, 2015 at 07:32 AM

SO

“ Steve O'Hearn purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Melvin Brown Hayden.



Steve O'Hearn - December 21, 2015 at 04:30 AM

SO

“ To Lucy, to Mel, to Doug, and everyone -

I am devastated by Melvin's passing and my heart goes out to all of you. He was such an amazing man on so many levels. I think when I was a kid he seemed so impressive and invincible that I just assumed he would live forever. It's difficult to realize this time has come, and my heart breaks for myself and for you all.

I know he loved every one of you. We will never forget him.

- The O'Hearn family: Melvin's nephew Steve, and Steve's mother Joan

Steve O'Hearn - December 21, 2015 at 03:57 AM

SO

“ My cousin Doug -

Your father was one of the most impressive men I have ever known. His war hero status is legendary in my mind. He was literally the stuff of movies - were his life to ever be put on film - and it should be - I think people would find it remarkably inspiring and hard to believe that one man could be so impressive. He was always impressive to me, for those and many other reasons.

The reason I exist is because of your dad. My father was in ROTC with him, and after Melvin met your mom, he introduced my dad to her sister, they all fell in love and got married - and eventually we all showed up.

And of course whenever a Green Berets movie is on TV or the classic Barry Sadler song comes on the radio, I think only of your father.

I know he was immensely proud of both you and your brother. You are a terrific and worthy legacy to an amazing man.

His passing is a devastating loss to me personally and to my mom as well. They say that when a great person who has lived richly passes from this life, its like a library burning down. I think of all your father knew and experienced and can't help but think this thought today.

My mother and I both love you cousin with all of our hearts. Our deepest sympathies and may God bless you and your brother Mel, at this time especially, and always.

- Steve

Steve O'Hearn - December 21, 2015 at 03:17 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Melvin Brown Hayden.*



December 20, 2015 at 08:17 PM



“ *Curtis, Natalie, Teddy, Richard and Graham Kohlhaas purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Melvin Brown Hayden.*



Curtis, Natalie, Teddy, Richard and Graham Kohlhaas -
December 20, 2015 at 08:01 PM



“ *My condolences to Lucy and Family. Mel was very special. He will be missed.
I have been living in AR for awhile. I regret that I did not spend some time with Mel.
My prayers are with you.
Ray Walker*

Ray Walker - December 20, 2015 at 07:59 PM



“ *I only knew Mel for about three years but it was readily apparent that he was an extraordinary man among men. He was a leader, helper, doer and most importantly a really good man. We will all miss him ,his smile and get it done attitude. God Bless,
Mike Merget*

Mike Merget - December 20, 2015 at 01:54 PM



“ 185 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory - December 20, 2015 at 12:41 PM

CM

“ *I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. Please know that I am praying for you and your family. Much love.*

Cindy McCloud - December 20, 2015 at 06:41 AM

RM

“ *Lucy so sorry to hear about your loss, he was a great friend, leader & mentor*

Rodney Mowery - December 19, 2015 at 08:28 PM

WH

“ *Doug....what an amazing father you had! My prayers to you and your family.- Wendi Hays.*

Wendi Hays - December 19, 2015 at 02:32 PM

PM

“ We remember Mel's pecan pies at Thanksgiving, having the blessing of being in his and Lucy's home for Thanksgiving over the years. He could cook, too. We will miss him, a truly great man, not only in his career, but in his family life as well. Butch and I extend our deepest sympathy to Lucy, Mel, Angie, and Doug. We will miss Mel.....

Butch and Patricia Mitchell

Patricia Mitchell - December 19, 2015 at 01:25 PM



“ We visited St. Simons Island a few years ago and enjoyed spending time with Mel Sr.

You could sure see the love that he had for the Island and he had made wonderful memories over the years living in paradise there. Now he is in everlasting paradise. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Lucy, Mel & Angie, Doug and the rest of his family and friends at this sad time. Vickie and Doug Seifert

Vickie Seifert - December 19, 2015 at 11:45 AM

RP

Doug, Scott and I are so sorry for yours and your family's loss but we feel like we are at a loss because we never met this amazing man you were blessed to have as your dad! May your memories of him always stay clear and his legacy live on through you and your family. We know he had to be just as proud of you and your creative and brilliant mind as you were of him. Hugs and prayers for you at this sad and difficult time, Rosalie and Scott Pendarvis

Rosalie Pendarvis - December 20, 2015 at 01:11 AM

JW

Why is not Doug and Mel Jr. 's mother mentioned?

Jan Wisler - December 20, 2015 at 07:20 AM

JW

Wife of many years and mother to Melvin's children not mentioned.

Jan Wisler - December 20, 2015 at 09:45 AM

SN

“*Lucillie, I am praying for you and your family. I am so sorry to hear that loss of your husband. I know him well.*

Stacy Nalls - December 19, 2015 at 11:44 AM

SB

“*Lucy, Judy and I extend our deepest sympathy to you and the family. Mel was indeed a great man. We were honored to be friends with you and Mel. We had some great times with both of you on our frequent SACS trips and socials. Our prayers will continue for you in the future. We love you and miss seeing you!*

Steve & Judy Baker - December 19, 2015 at 09:41 AM

MB

“*Lucy, you're in our hearts and prayers. We treasured our friendship with Mel. He meant so much to so many and will be greatly missed.*
Tom and Mary Ann Beckham

Mary Ann Beckham - December 19, 2015 at 09:09 AM

MJ

Estelle and I send our most sincere condolences to Lucy, Doug and the Family. Mel has been a great Friend for the past several years and a very strong Kiwanis club worker and mentor to me and to many in our White Oak Golden K Kiwanis Club. He friendship and leadership will be truly missed.

Malcoilm Jackson - December 19, 2015 at 03:52 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Melvin Brown Hayden.*



December 18, 2015 at 01:02 PM



“ *Lucy, my thoughts and prayers are with you. I always enjoyed seeing Mel at Kiwanis events. He was a great Kiwanian and we will miss him dearly.*

David Simmons - December 18, 2015 at 11:14 AM



“ *Lucy, my prayers and love to you, as always. Love, Jan*

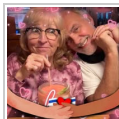
Jan Hackett - December 18, 2015 at 08:47 AM



“ *Tj & Ellie Deyette lit a candle in memory of Melvin Brown Hayden*



Tj & Ellie Deyette - December 18, 2015 at 08:35 AM



Lucy, Mel, Angie and family, our thoughts and prayers go out to you at this sad time. Mel Sr. was a kind man and we enjoyed spending time with him when we came to visit at St. Simons Island, where he loved so much! Vickie and Doug Seifert

Vickie Seifert - December 19, 2015 at 11:38 AM

JM

Lucy, I am so sorry for your loss.

Janet Moses - December 19, 2015 at 11:49 AM



“ 3 files added to the album New Album Name



Patrice Morrison - December 17, 2015 at 06:58 PM



“ We met Mel 23 years ago when he + Lucy married. We had heard a lot about him but had never met him in person. His vows to Lucy at their wedding, were the most beautiful words I have ever heard a groom say. We were fortunate to enjoy a few cruises with them + get together from time to time. They stayed at every house we had since they were married. Mel loved to fish; more often feeding the fish off of his hook and using catch and release to let those he caught go their way. Our friendship endured because all of us valued learning + education as a means to better oneself. We have known Mel to give graciously of his retirement time in the Adult Literacy program and most recently in the Kiwanis organization. As a veteran, he was a staunch supporter for those in the military + honoring past service. We salute you, Mel Hayden, for a life well lived and a life that gave back – over and over again.
Patrice + Fil

Patrice Morrison - December 17, 2015 at 06:21 PM

JM

“ *Rest in Peace old soldier , you will be fondly remembered as a trusted friend and honored OCS classmate . I'm glad I met you and you always made me laugh .*

J C McGinty - December 17, 2015 at 04:41 PM