



Paul Erskine "Pappy" Reagan

April 23, 1923 - April 23, 2013

Paul Erskine "Pappy" Reagan, 90, of Kingston, Tenn. passed away on Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at his home. He was born on June 9, 1922 in Jamestown, Tenn. Mr. Reagan was a graduate of York Institute in Jamestown, Tenn. and Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, TN, where he earned a degree in physics. He worked for more than 30 years as a nuclear engineer for the X-10 and Y-12 Department of Energy facilities in Oak Ridge, TN, where he received numerous patents for his work. He retired in 1988 then filling his time with bluegrass and raising his famous tomatoes taking great pride in sharing them. Mr. Reagan served in the Army Air Corps (now the U.S. Air Force) during World War II, where he operated radar as part of the 14th Air Corp Flying Tigers B-25 bomber crew out of Kunming, China. He participated in the Burma Road Campaign. Mr. Reagan's greatest passion was bluegrass music. From the age of 13, Mr. Reagan began to teach himself how to play the guitar and later the mandolin. "The mandolin is my favorite instrument --- I've only got nine of them," he joked in a 2012 interview. Mr. Reagan was well known as a frequent player and attendee at bluegrass festivals across Tennessee for decades. His musical influences were Dick Burnett and Bill Monroe. Perhaps the greatest demonstration of his musical passion was seen in his devotion to the Bradbury Community Center in Kingston. Mr. Reagan was one of the co-founders of the community center's weekly and monthly bluegrass "jam sessions" which began in 1980. Some of his best times at Bradbury included playing with his family band, the Harvesters. A prolific

writer, Mr. Reagan also contributed to several bluegrass publications. Mr. Reagan was always active in his community serving on the Roane County Farm Bureau Board for many years. In 2011, Mr. Reagan was named as a Roane County Treasure, and was honored as such with a resolution by the Tennessee State Senate. Mr. Reagan was a longtime member of Cedar Grove Baptist Church and Central Baptist Church in Kingston. He is preceded in death by his father, Joel Gaudin Reagan, and mother, Rhoda Sewell Reagan; his daughter, Janie Reagan Monroe; four brothers and sisters, Elva Reagan Turner, Edna Reagan Copley, Joel Kermit Reagan and Lela Reagan Stockton. Mr. Reagan is survived by his wife of 64 years, Billie Grimes Reagan of Kingston; his sister, Charlene Reagan Hill of Crossville; three daughters, Judy Bensey of Kingston, Joyce Nall of Kingston, Jennifer Burnett of Flowery Branch, Ga.; two sons, Joel Reagan of Knoxville and Jason Reagan of Boone, N.C.; two sons-in-law, Earl Nall of Kingston and Ray Burnett of Flowery Branch, Ga.; two daughters-in-law, Andre'a Reagan of Knoxville and Stacy Reagan of Boone, N.C.; 11 grandchildren; Todd Carriger of Kingston, Paula Fross of Rockwood, Jeremy Carriger of Iga Ueno, Japan; Emily Thomas of Oak Ridge, Sara Nall of Buford, Ga. Addison and Kelsey Reagan of Knoxville, Tyler and Corey Burnett of Flowery Branch, Ga., and Justin and Shelby Reagan of Boone, N.C. and numerous great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends on Friday, April 26 from 5-7 p.m. at Kyker Funeral Home in Kingston with funeral services immediately following in the chapel. A private burial will follow on Saturday, April 27. The Rev. Tim Shelton will officiate. Mr. Reagan will receive Masonic honors at the funeral as he was a Mason of more than 50 years. He will also receive military honors at his burial, including a 21-gun salute. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital (www.stjude.org).

Tribute Wall

AF

“ *I have just heard about your loss. I do remember all the times we had at your home and the fun we had cooking together for our Mom's birthday's, walking, reading and just having fun together. My thoughts are with you all and know that we care.*

Alice Smith Mullenix - Madison, AL - Friend - May 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ Dear Family,

It's taken me a week to be able to let you know how much Paul meant to me and my wife Cindy. Through our good friend Susan Turner I met Paul around 2003. He joined our small trio to play music for the special needs children at the Michael Dunn Center every Thursday. Never asking for pay but accepting a small can of Dr. Pepper and the occasional meal following special gigs. Wonderful songs, jokes and stories and always a plug for Bradbury's room 4 always followed. Eventually it was Paul who came up with the name for our group- the Dunn Hadits . We played together almost 9 years. The Dunn Hadlts even played at our wedding in 2003.

Paul, and the Dunn Hadlts, was also a featured speaker for at a 7th grade Roane County History class at Harriman Middle School on two occasions and gave a remarkable recollection of Roane county music in history along with his own career following World War 2.

Room 4 at Bradbury was always fun for me ,as I knew i'd always have the best seat sitting to Paul's right, so he could see my chord changes. He was so proud of his little museum and tried very hard to talk me out of a Kuwaiti lute I had aquired from a distant friend. I never gave in but that didn't stop him from trying to " horse trade" it away from me.

To keep this short, Paul was a good friend and teacher. I shall never look at or play a mandolin again with out first thinking of him and the wonderful little song's " Joy of Quebec " or " Black Mountain" that he taught me to play..

" Save a seat for me Paul

*Love,
Ray and Cindy Gouge*

Ray Gouge - Harriman, TN - Friend's - April 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ *Our condolences to Mr. Reagan's family.*

Don and Una Coffman - April 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ *I'll never forget the first time I met Paul, it was at the Museum of Appalachia I believe in 1991 during the Fall Homecoming. Back then they had band competitions and I put together a little group consisting of myself, Peter Cohan, some lady I don't remember her name and Paul who I had just met that day. We won 2nd place in the competition, pretty good for a group who had never played together before. We became good friends from that day on, I jammed with him many times there at Bradbury and I am very thankful that Paul worked with me on one of my field recordings back in 2002. I will always cherish these wonderful music memories. I know in my heart that we'll pick again in a better place one day. Rest in peace my friend.*

Tony Thomas - Clinton, TN - Friend - April 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *I know Paul for over 20 years playing bluegrass music at Bradbury Community Center. A good man and will be missed by many. My prays are with you all.*

Betty Lay - Powell, TN - Friend and fellow musician - April 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *The 30 years of story's and bluegrass music at Bradbury Community Center with Paul
Will miss you dear friend*

Bill And Linda Bunch and Roger Lay - Knoxville , TN - friends of bluegrass music - April 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ I had the priveleged of meeting pappy at the Roan County Highway dept. saw him on Wednesdays, when he came to take Judy and Joyce to lunch on my sales visit to the highway Department, always loved talking to him and enjoyed all the stories, he was a wonderful man and will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Loved to hear him talk about his music.pappy you will be missed.

Martha Reynolds

Martha Reynolds - Hazard, KY - Acquaintance - April 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AJ

“ Thinking of you Jason and your family at this time. May you find comfort in your days ahead.

Amy Witt - Kingston, TN - Schoolmate with Jason - April 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ What a great man. I enjoyed playing in The Harvesters with him.

Moe Miller - Kingston, TN - friend - April 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM