



## Reed J. Vassar, Sr

May 17, 1921 - December 19, 2015

Reed J. Vassar, Sr., age 94, peacefully departed his earthly life and entered his new life with his Heavenly Father, on December 19, 2015.

He was best known as a loving husband, adoring father, and doting grandfather. Within our community, he will be remembered as the founder and owner of R.J. Vassar and Sons Plumbing founded in 1967. A successful company, which is now operated by his family, continues to serve Newport, Cocke County, and surrounding areas with the same excellent quality. Prior to founding his business, he worked at American Enka as a pipefitter. He was an honest and trustworthy businessman a patriot in the truest sense of the word, a friend to all, and one who possessed a true Christian spirit.

A native of Lake Placid, New York, Reed was a veteran of World War II, proudly serving his country from April 1941 until he was discharged with the ranking of Sergeant E6 in June 1945 with 34 months, served overseas. He was a member of the 9th Infantry in the U.S. Army, serving in 9 campaigns, including the invasion of Normandy, and in many countries, including France, Sicily, Germany, Belgium and Africa. He received two bronze stars and several other commendations. While on military leave in Washington DC, he had business to do in the Western Union Office, There he greeted by Lenola Gray, who was to become the love of his life and adoring wife of 73 years, The Vassars were faithful members of the First Christian Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Reed Leon and Minerva Vassar; grandparents, Henry and Emma Schnitzer of Hamburg, Germany; brother,

Donald of Lake Placid, New York; daughter, Sally Shelton; and grandson, Eric McCoig.

He is survived by his wife, Lenola; children, R.J. (Brenda) Vassar, Jr., Patricia (Harold) Wright, Marguerite Vassar, Mike (Vickie), Betsy Huff, and Rick (Cindy); twelve grand-children; eighteen great-grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; sister, Gertrude Sears of Lake Placid, New York and very special sister-in-law, Nannie Hale.

Reed would end each day with a prayer taught to him by his mother. The prayer is written in German; the name of the prayer is "I am Small." He said the prayer in German; the American translation says, " I am Small, My heart is pure. Nobody may dwell in here but Jesus." This was always followed by his wife reciting "The Lord's Prayer."

Services will be held at the Manes Funeral Home Chapel on Tuesday, December 22nd at 12:00 noon. The family will receive friends from 11:00 am until 12 noon prior to the funeral service. With Rev. Martin Stump officiating. Burial will follow at Union Cemetery with full military honors. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to First Christian Church in Newport.

Lovely and respectfully submitted by Janice L. Buda.

Family and friends may sign the guest register online at [www.manesfuneralhome.com](http://www.manesfuneralhome.com).

Arrangements by Manes Funeral Home.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Reed J. Vassar, Sr*

November 17, 2022 at 06:00 PM



“ *Sorry to hear about Reeds passing. He and my father were good friends and loved telling old war stories together. You and all the family will be in our thoughts and prayers.*

**Jeff & Teresa Blackman** - December 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Chuck & Richard McMahan, Regina & Macy James, Shirley & Teresa Williams*

**Teresa Williams** - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Reed and Rick were two of the first people we met when we moved to Newport. They have saved our 'necks' numerous times. I am sorry we didn't know about Reed's passing until now. He was a friend as is Rick. We cherish that friendship and are keeping the fa*

**Fletcher and Penny Ervin** - December 23, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Reed J. Vassar, Sr*

**Jerrod Gorman** - December 23, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Reed J. Vassar, Sr*

**Tim & Tammy Gray** - December 23, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ *My condolences to all the family.*

-----  
**Sandy Webb** - December 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ *Your in our thoughts and prayers . Mary Helen Allen & KATHY RAMSEY HUFF*

-----  
**Kathy Ramsey Huff** - December 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ *You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

-----  
**Richard and Kim Baxter** - December 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ *Reed J. Vassar, Sr*

-----  
**Marjorie Rader Mathes** - December 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

WD

“ *Mr. Vassar was a wonderful Christian Gentleman, he always had a smile on his face, he was our plumber for many years, until his retirement. He is now walking the "Streets of Gold with Jesus". With deepest sympathy and love to the family. Wilma Drinnon*

-----  
**Wilma Drinnon** - December 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *So sorry for your loss. Thinking of you !*

-----  
**Janie Campbell** - December 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ Reed J. Vassar, Sr

Betty Harrison - December 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Lenola and family: You are in our thoughts and prayers. May God's healing touch heal you of your pain. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Bill and Myra Fowler - December 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ So sorry for your loss, he was a wonderful man.

Kathy Holt - December 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ I pray for the comfort of God in your time of sorrow and loss. Your loved one served his time here on earth and now we along with him rejoice as he embarks upon his life eternal. While our loved one is with us we love from the outside in. When our loved o

pauline cooper - December 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ So Sorry for your loss. Roger and Karen Butler

Karen Butler - December 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ Reed J. Vassar, Sr

Paul & Edith Hudgens - December 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ Reed J. Vassar, Sr

Mackey Winter - December 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

HF

“ Greg, Melanie and the Vassar family, praying for you all during this sad time. May God bless you all and give you strength in the days ahead.

Hilda Coggins and family - December 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Reed J. Vassar, Sr

mansfield mcmahan - December 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PL

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Keeping all of you in prayers now and in the days ahead.

Parker, Nanette Wilds,& Jeanette Lankford - December 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TJ

“ Reed J. Vassar, Sr

Tommye Dene Jones - December 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PT

“ So sorry for your loss, we will keep you in our prayers.

Pat & Patricia Mathis Taylor - December 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

FM

“ Reed J. Vassar, Sr

Freddie and Norma Myers - December 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ Reed J. Vassar, Sr

Andy and Nicole Chrisman - December 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ Reed J. Vassar, Sr

Ricky and Angela Ball - December 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Charles, Sandy & Josh Brady - December 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DO

“ Rick, so sorry for your loss. You and your family are in my prayers.

Darryl Ownby - December 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Reed J. Vassar, Sr

Jay & Mary Ann Chrisman - December 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Reed J. Vassar, Sr

Melissia R. Ball - December 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ So sorry for your loss. My prayers are with the family. Love you, Betsy...God bless

Marilyn Austin - December 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ So sorry to hear this especially at this time of the year. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

-----  
**Jeff & Julie Kyker** - December 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ Thoughts and prayers to all the family. Mr. Vassar was a kind man who took care of so many people! Grateful for his service--military, work and community!

-----  
**Tommy and Karen Smith** - December 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ Our deepest sympathies in the passing of Mr. Vassar. I, Todd, deeply respected and trusted him for many years. He did a lot of work for me when I worked at Bush Brothers as Water Department Manager. He was an awesome plumber, businessman and person. I am

-----  
**Todd & Brenda Cummings** - December 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ What a wonderful life Mr. Vasser lived and what a wonderful journey he's on now! May you and yours find peace and comfort knowing what a time he's having now and who he's spending it with.

-----  
**Jan and Mike Putna** - December 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Very sorry for your loss. My deepest condolences.

-----  
**Jim Rule** - December 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ *May the eternal promise of Jesus bring you comfort, strength and peace during this difficult time. Prayers & Deepest Sympathy, Jabo, Tammy & Montana*

Tammy Francis - December 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ *Sorry for your loss. Patti and I will keep you in our thoughts and prayers.*

Charles Seehorn - December 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ *Our Sincere Condolences.*

Bud & Linda Dawson - December 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ *Reed J. Vassar, Sr*

Dale and Nancy Raines - December 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *Sorry for your loss. The family will be in our thoughts and prayers.*

Jerry & Aliene Huff - December 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ *Reed J. Vassar, Sr*

Danny and Gwen Dover - December 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM