

## Cottageville firefighter dies in farming accident

by Mary Childress  
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Larry Morrison, 63, was killed Monday. He was a longtime member of the Cottageville Volunteer Fire Department.

A longtime member of the Cottageville Volunteer Fire Department died in a bulldozer accident on his family's farm in Mount Alto, authorities said.

His funeral today was going to be an old-fashioned firefighter ceremony with 48 firetrucks and representatives from departments around the region.

Larry Morrison, 63, was killed Monday.

A graduate of Wahama High School, Morrison had been married for 44 years to Maxine Marie Wheeler Morrison.

She is executive assistant to BB&T West Virginia President Phyllis Arnold.

Morrison had been a firefighter for 42 years.

"You could call Larry at 2 in the morning and he'd drop whatever he was doing and come to your aid," said Captain Eddie Shinn of the Cottageville VFD.

Morrison was also a jack-of-all-trades.

"We congregated in his garage," said Shinn. "That's usually where you'd find him. He'd either be working on his car or someone else's vehicle, a motorcycle or helping someone else work on theirs."

"Anyone who needed to talk to Larry, they'd just drop in and he'd drop everything to listen," Shinn said. "There was so much to Larry that it's hard to put him into words. We all thought so much of him."

After graduating from high school, Morrison joined the Army and was stationed at Fort Sill in Oklahoma.

He was an equipment operator in the plate department at Alcan Rolled Products in Ravenswood for 42 years and was the senior man in the plant. He was a member of the United Steelworkers Union Local 5668, the Operating Engineers Union Local 132, and the Laborers Union.

Funeral services were at 11 a.m. today at the McCoy Conference Center in Ripley with burial at Hopewell Cemetery in Mount Alto.

Volunteer firefighters from Cottageville, along with more than 55 fire trucks and emergency service vehicles, were scheduled to be in the funeral procession. The HealthNet helicopter was to fly overhead.

"We just got a new ladder truck four months ago and we'll be ringing that bell to honor Larry," Shinn said.

The tribute is known as the firefighter's "last call," in which friends read a statement about the deceased and then bells and whistles ring out in his honor.

In addition to his wife, Morrison is survived by his two sons, Matthew Lee Morrison and Michael Drew Morrison, and daughters-in-law Rhonda Gayle Wines Morrison and Angela Marie Wheatcraft Morrison. Grandchildren include Megan Danylle Morrison, Caleb Lee Morrison, Alisha Michelle Morrison and Michele Marie Morrison.

In lieu of flowers, donations should be made to the Cottageville Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 155, Cottageville, WV 25239.