



R. "Larry" Hinkle

March 26, 1932 - June 12, 2024

R. "Larry" Hinkle

Salem, South Carolina

Ralph "Larry" Hinkle, 92, loving husband of 58 years to Mary Williams Hinkle, passed away on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at his home.

Born March 26, 1932, in Oconee County, South Carolina, Larry was the son of the late Ralph Hinkle and Cleo Childress Hinkle. Larry was born in what is now Pat's Cash & Carry corner grocery store in Salem, and the original building is still standing and in operation today. Larry attended Salem Elementary until the 4th grade. Larry lived with his Aunt Nell and Uncle Hall Hinkle for two years in elementary then moved with his family to East Main Street in Pickens. He continued in the Pickens County Public School System until his senior year in high school. Thirty days before graduation, Larry was drafted into the U.S. Navy and was not able to graduate. Larry earned his GED while serving in the Navy.

Larry married Mary Francis Williams in 1965 after meeting her while changing the tire on the pulpwood truck she was driving for her father. Mary was born April 27, 1940, and lived in Table Rock after moving from the mountains of North Carolina. Mary quit school in the 8th grade to help support her family by working at Runnymede Mill in Pickens. Mary enlisted in the U.S. Navy and

served as a Navy Wave while working in the Federal Building in Manhattan, NY. Mary also received her GED while serving. Mary served four years, then moved back to Pickens. After Larry and Mary married, they lived in the shop on Shady Grove Road and slept on a sofa held up by four Jeep rims. Their son, Laramie Sterling Hinkle was born November 8, 1966. Larry picked up bottles and cans on the roadside every day and saved enough for their first house on Aniwaya View in Pickens. On February 27, 1968, they had a daughter, Camala Nanette Hinkle. Laramie and Camala attended and graduated from Easley Christian School in Easley. Laramie married Jarred Rene Keowen on November 26, 2007. They have two boys, Kaelin Jarred Hinkle and Brodyn Sterling Hinkle and reside in Salem, SC. Camala Hinkle has two boys, Dustin Alan Porter and David Lache Porter. Camala and her boyfriend, Jay Self reside in Greenwood, SC.

Larry was drafted into the U.S. Navy on February 28, 1951, stationed on the USS Hector during the Korean War, serving as a machinist mate under Captain Hudson. Larry worked in auxiliary repair, doing rigorous repairs to the damaged ships from Pearl Harbor. After repairs were made the ships were sent back to battle. After the war ended in 1953, Larry was transferred to the former U.S. Naval Station located in Treasure Island in San Francisco, California and a year later was discharged on January 18, 1955.

Larry's first job out of the service was with Jamie Stevens pulling cars back from Toledo, Ohio. They would restore all types of cars and resell them. In 1959, Larry started rebuilding used Jeeps on Shady Grove Road. The location is still standing today, and many Jeep enthusiasts know the original location as the home and shop of the late Weldon Haynes, Larry's lead Jeep mechanic for Hinkle's Jeep. Weldon was known to many as the Master of Jeep knowledge and repair. From that location in 1971 Larry built his new dealership on Hwy 183 west of Pickens, now the current Pickens County Maintenance Building. Larry ran the sales side of the company, while Mary

worked to oversee the day-to-day operations – but mainly in the shipping and receiving department, shipping parts and accessories all over the world. In 1973, he became, for the first time, AMC Jeep's World's Largest Jeep Dealer selling over 1000 Jeeps in one year. Larry then ran, consecutively, as the largest Jeep dealer in the world until his retirement in 1983 when he liquidated Hinkle's Jeep. AMC Jeep asked Larry to start carrying Renault, Larry only believed in the Jeep brand. Larry and his wife, Mary, after much discussion, decided to close Hinkle's Jeep and start spending more time with their family. There was only one Jeep sent back to AMC on the day Hinkle's Jeep was closed. During this time Larry also ran the largest fleet wrecker service in the Upstate. Larry's had wreckers on Jeep trucks, up to the largest wrecker in the tri-state area, "MIGHTY MOE". Mighty Moe was used to pull dozers out of Keowee and Jocassee for Duke Power or Law Enforcement, emergency services, you would know when it was on the move because roads would be shut down to drive it from one emergency to another. It was also the hit of all parades in the upstate, the kids loved Mighty Moe. It was the King of Wreckers! Larry always had the idea bigger was always better.

In 1965 Larry served as deputy Sheriff for Pickens County Law Enforcement under Sheriff Clyde Bolding. Sheriff David Stone assigned Larry to SLED in March of 1979 to assist multi-jurisdictional law enforcement as a lieutenant. Larry continued to be active in SLED under Sheriff David Stone, and finally retired from SLED in March of 2020. Larry still had a special place in his heart for law enforcement until his passing, and was proud of his brother, Kenneth Hinkle, and his son, Laramie Hinkle for serving in law enforcement to protect our community as well as many of his dear friends.

Larry and Mary have always considered St. Jude's Children's Hospital their charity of choice. Larry was a huge benefactor to multiple local programs such as Pickens, Parker and Daniel High Schools. Larry and Mary felt that a good

education was the vehicle, but self-motivation and ambition were the fuel to success. His favorite memory was giving any student a Jeep to drive, and a paid trip to the beach for a week. To qualify, you could not miss a day of school from the first grade to 12th grade. He was so proud when he handed them the keys.

Larry loved people and made each and every one his best friend. He loved his bluegrass, church hymns, and gospel music too. He loved to dance, and always had enough energy for just one more dance. The Jeep community was his favorite activity, fun Jeep rides, jamborees and giving prizes away. He also loved kids and helping them achieve their goals and dreams. His personal hobbies were his grandchildren, and anything related to them. He loved operating heavy equipment, taking any Jeep through the most extreme conditions, and good clean family fun. His earlier days were filled with hunting, fishing, and anything animal related. In his later years, he loved to read his Bible and have people read to him.

Survivors include a son, Laramie Hinkle (Jarrod) of Salen, SC; a daughter, Camala Hinkle (Jay Self) of Greenwood, SC; grandchildren, Dustin Porter, Lache Porter, Brodyn Hinkle, and Kaelin Hinkle; siblings, Margaret Hinkle Willimon, William Kenneth Hinkle, Angela Hinkle Bolding, Ralphele Hinkle Nations, and Louis Kayren Hinkle; nieces and nephews, Albert "Louie" Willimon, Gregory Willimon, Phillip Willimon, Stefanie Hinkle Hoxit, Justin Hinkle, Shawn Hinkle, Larry Dean Bolding, Deana Bolding McAnulty, Kevin Nations, Cameron Nations, Tom Swaynham, Mary Swaynham Monroe, Julie Williams Trull, Terry Williams, and Susan Williams Dunaway.

In addition to his parents, Larry was predeceased by a nephew, Ricky Willimon; two nieces, Brenda Willimon Simmons, and Rita Willimon; sister-in-law, Bess Williams Swaynham and her husband, Pat Swaynham; and brother-in-law, Truman Joe Williams and his wife, Ann Williams.

A private family memorial service, for Larry & Mary, will be held at their beloved Jocassee lakefront property. A Celebration of Life Jeep rally will be held for their much-loved extended family, close friends, Jeep family, and all the wonderful people who enjoyed years of life and laughter with them. The Celebration of Life Jeep Ride will be announced to the public at a date in the near future.

Larry and Mary were both raised in agriculture and farming. Learning to live off the land and protect our natural environment for future generations became their passion. In lieu of flowers they respectfully request all charitable donations be made to the SC Governor's School for Agriculture at John De La Howe. Please see the attached link for online donations in the name of Larry and/or Mary Hinkle. They have chosen the following fields of need to promote their love of the land and our future generations knowledge and protection of God's great gift.

Agricultural Mechanics and Technology Fund

Farm and Row Crop Fund

Field and Trial Team

Horticulture Curriculum and Greenhouse Fund

Shotgun Team Supplies and Student Fees

<https://sc.accessgov.com/jdlh/Forms/Page/jdlh/donation-form/1>

Checks may be mailed to Attn: Foundation, 192 Gettys Road, McCormick, SC 29835

Mountain View Funeral Home – Pickens Chapel is serving the Hinkle family.

Tribute Wall

DH

“*Doug Hinkle lit a candle in memory of R.
"Larry" Hinkle*



Doug Hinkle - July 11, 2024 at 09:38 PM

SD

“*Sure Enjoyed the times he would pop in by the house,
He had a reputation of helping people and was easy to help also.
Scott and Angie Durham at Jocassee Lake Road.*

Scott Durham - June 29, 2024 at 03:03 PM

DT

“*Dear Laramie, Camala, and all your precious family, We know both
Larry and Mary are greatly missed. Both were very kind and giving.
We cherish having been your neighbors in Pickens. Larry would
drop in from time to time and share a meal with our family. He
especially loved Mother's cornbread. We all loved his smile,
laughter, and interesting stories. My brother also enjoyed owning
one of the jeeps from Hinkle's Jeep dealership. When reading the
obituary, I admired all that both Larry and Mary have done in their
lifetimes. It is also wonderful how Larry loved reading his Bible in his
later years. He had mentioned how he was going to be baptized at a
church in Salem. We send our love, prayers, and sympathies to all
your family.*

Doug & Sarah Tinsley - June 23, 2024 at 10:06 PM

LL

“ I have fond memories of Larry when we attended Pleasant Ridge Baptist church at Picket Post sc. We had many good conversations and he was a very interesting man. He always was in a good mood and a lot of fun to be around. My prayers are with the family during this sad time.

Leonard Lpudermilk - June 22, 2024 at 05:36 PM

 Earlene Meece

“ Earlene Meece lit a candle in memory of R. "Larry" Hinkle



Earlene Meece - June 21, 2024 at 08:47 PM

RJ

“ Such a precious friend. I will miss hearing his stories. I will miss his listening ears and him giving the best advice. I will miss him telling me about reading the Bible and God's beauty that he viewed every day. God truly brought "Hinkle" into my life as a dear friend that I will cherish forever. There will never be another "Hinkle". My condolences to his family.



Rachel Jackson - June 21, 2024 at 06:15 PM

EM

“ We enjoyed seeing Mr. Hinkle when he stopped by our business to listen to the music in the evenings, often sporting his bird friend on his shoulder. He loved to share memories and could captivate you with his stories and love of our Salem area. Thinking of you!



Eddie and Lynne Martin - June 20, 2024 at 07:36 AM

SC

“ I have so many memories of Mr Hinkle and Mrs Hinkle. Mr H would tell people he helped raised me. I met him 40 years ago at age 22 when my parents purchased a home at Jocassee. He was larger than life and his word was Oak. He always checked on us to see if we needed anything from lending equipment to just having a beverage on the porch. He was truly a legend and will be missed.



Sherrie Cobb - June 18, 2024 at 04:11 PM

LL

“ Laramie and Camala, I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you.
Linda Liskey

Linda Liskey - June 18, 2024 at 08:42 AM

JG

“ Praying for peace and comfort for the Hinkle family. He was a special friend to our family when he and my husband were landowners on Salt Rock. They shared many adventures together. Rest in peace, Larry. Loved you and Mary.

Joyce Gibson - June 17, 2024 at 06:35 PM

JG

“ Joyce Gibson lit a candle in memory of R. "Larry" Hinkle



Joyce Gibson - June 17, 2024 at 06:27 PM

KL

“ My father (Dicky Gibson) and Larry shared some wonderful times when they owned property on Walnut Creek. Many of my dad's best stories involved Larry. My dad passed last year and I'm sure they are sharing some big laughs now in heaven.

Kim Gibson Lane - June 17, 2024 at 01:22 PM

TB

“ I will never forget this dear man that I had the privilege to call a good friend , I was shocked to see this today, and I want to send my condolences to family.I will never forget this great gentleman and as always wished I had spent more time with him...



Tom Boone - June 16, 2024 at 09:00 PM

RS

“ Rushie G. Sorrenti lit a candle in memory of R. "Larry" Hinkle



Rushie G. Sorrenti - June 16, 2024 at 02:51 PM

TG

“ Larry wouldn't let anyone but my Dad cut his hair. Every time he saw me I got a precious hug from him !

Teresa Gravely - June 15, 2024 at 04:44 PM

TR

“ Tracy Merck Richardson lit a candle in memory of R. "Larry" Hinkle



Tracy Merck Richardson - June 15, 2024 at 08:52 AM

LG

“ So sorry for your loss praying for all his family.



Linda & John Galloway - June 14, 2024 at 11:16 PM

HC

“ I remember us going to his vacation home in the Salem area called serephine valley,it was the group from school that I went with, because I went to school with Laramie and Camilla, my condolences to them and the rest of the family!

hal cochran - June 14, 2024 at 08:32 PM

SD

“ Sammy Dodgens lit a candle in memory of R.
"Larry" Hinkle



Sammy Dodgens - June 14, 2024 at 07:09 PM



“ Barbara J Nix Nabors lit a candle in memory
of R. "Larry" Hinkle



Barbara J Nix Nabors - June 14, 2024 at 04:33 PM

JB

“ Jimmy Barker lit a candle in memory of R.
"Larry" Hinkle



Jimmy Barker - June 14, 2024 at 04:09 PM

PC

“ Paige Crumpton lit a candle in memory of R.
"Larry" Hinkle



Paige Crumpton - June 14, 2024 at 04:06 PM

SV

“ *Sylvia And Red Vaughn lit a candle in memory of R. "Larry" Hinkle*



Sylvia and Red Vaughn - June 14, 2024 at 03:50 PM

AW

“ *Prayers for peace and comfort to Camala and Laramie in the loss of your father!*



Angelia Winn - June 14, 2024 at 03:06 PM

TL

“ *Tina and Keith Loveland of the OFJC send our prayers and love to the family and all friends he will be truly missed never forgotten*
❤️



Tina loveland - June 14, 2024 at 02:57 PM

FC

“ *Frank And Judy Crowe lit a candle in memory of R. "Larry" Hinkle*



Frank and Judy Crowe - June 14, 2024 at 11:52 AM

JG

“ Larry was one of the best friends I ever had .Larry would give you the shirt off his back if he knew you truly needed it but if you were just giving a sob story to get money he would get missing in a hurry. I spent a many if a day with him and he was always laughing and having a good time . He would call me at 430 in the morning and say let's get going can't make any money in bed lol . I will never forget he called me at my tire shop and said he was buying me lunch and wen he got there he had viena sausages ,hoop cheese and crackers and was one of the best lunches I ever had . One time I came back to my shop and he was laying on the concrete between the 2 buildings asleep said itvwas cool between the buildings so he took a knap lol I love Larry with all my heart and hope he knows that . There will never be another Larry a small man with a big world around him . Rest in peace my friend if anybody deserves it you do . Love Jim garner .

Jim garner - June 14, 2024 at 11:24 AM

BL

“ Burgess (Bird) Laye lit a candle in memory of R. "Larry" Hinkle



Burgess (Bird) Laye - June 14, 2024 at 10:12 AM

LA

“ Little Man (Larry Aiken) lit a candle in memory of R. "Larry" Hinkle



little man (Larry Aiken) - June 14, 2024 at 09:53 AM

JV

“ I am sorry to hear that Larry passed away. He was a good, kind hearted man. He would come all the time to visit with us at Keowee North Marine. We all loved hearing his stories. Sometimes you weren't sure what he was going to share. He was definitely interesting and funny! We all loved him! He was like family and he will be missed. Many prayers for the family.



Jessica vaughn - June 14, 2024 at 08:31 AM

DW

“ Darla Wheeler lit a candle in memory of R. "Larry" Hinkle



Darla Wheeler - June 13, 2024 at 11:09 PM

JD

“ Larry was a kind hearted man. He loved to visit with friends and employees of Hinkle Jeep Sales. Larry would just pop in and stay as long as he wanted.

We were fishing on Lake Jocassee around the dam and caught Larry and Mary trout for dinner. He tried his best to pay us.

Our trip to Cashiers was all about the Cougar that ran through the house. Larry was proud to show and tell how the cougar could roam inside and outside.

Larry will be missed by many friends and neighbors throughout his lifetime and Hinkle Jeep Sales will never be forgotten.

Laramie and Camala you have our deepest sympathies in the passing of your father. Larry Hinkle was an icon in the upstate South Carolina.

Jimmy and Helen Dodgens - June 13, 2024 at 10:47 PM

SG

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Larry passed away.He was a good FRIEND to our fa

Family.my dad was the LATE Corporal W.H.Hutto (Bill) and Ellen Hutto

.HE was nice and friendly person. He'll be miss by family and friends. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this sad time. I remember when he come by the house.

Shirley Diane Hutto Grant and Linda Hutto Galloway

Shirley Diane Hutto Grant - June 13, 2024 at 08:55 PM



“ Sammy Hunter and Debra lite a candle in memory of Larry Hinkle. Sammy work for Larry a long time.He is sad at the loss of a special man in Sammy's life. Sincere Condolences to Laramie and Carmella God Bless Y'all May God give y'all peace that passes all understanding as you grieve.



Debra McCall - June 13, 2024 at 08:55 PM



“ Scenic Chevrolet lit a candle in memory of R. "Larry" Hinkle



Scenic Chevrolet - June 13, 2024 at 08:16 PM



“ We loved Larry. He was a special friend. He loved to go to church at Rock Springs when he was able. I always saved a seat for him every Sunday. I loved all the stories he would tell me before church started. He loved his children and was so proud of them and often talked about them. David and I are so sad and we will miss him and that big smile and also that big cowboy hat.

Barbara and David Trotter - June 13, 2024 at 07:45 PM



“ Little Man (Larry Aiken) lit a candle in memory of R. "Larry" Hinkle



little man (Larry Aiken) - June 13, 2024 at 07:30 PM

LA

I'm sorry for Larry's loss. I will always be thankful for Larry taking me in and being my legal guardian and making me the man I am today. Camala and Laramie you are in my thoughts and prayers. Love you Little Man (Larry and Debbie Aiken, Lacey Aiken Arsons

little man (Larry Aiken) - June 13, 2024 at 07:42 PM

CE

“ Charles And Amanda Evett lit a candle in memory of R. "Larry" Hinkle



Charles and Amanda Evett - June 13, 2024 at 07:25 PM

KW

“ Keith Wilbanks lit a candle in memory of R. "Larry" Hinkle



Keith Wilbanks - June 13, 2024 at 06:59 PM

PT

“ Patricia Turner lit a candle in memory of R. "Larry" Hinkle



Patricia Turner - June 13, 2024 at 06:32 PM

CD

“ Chana Lusk Davis lit a candle in memory of R. "Larry" Hinkle



Chana Lusk Davis - June 13, 2024 at 06:24 PM

SG

“ Shirley Diane Hutto Grant lit a candle in memory of R. "Larry" Hinkle



Shirley Diane Hutto Grant - June 13, 2024 at 05:28 PM

SW

“ Steve & Tammy Wilson lit a candle in memory of R. "Larry" Hinkle



Steve & Tammy Wilson - June 13, 2024 at 05:27 PM

BN

“ Billy And Ralph Nix lit a candle in memory of R. "Larry" Hinkle



Billy and Ralph Nix - June 13, 2024 at 04:41 PM