



## Benjamin F. Ezzell

December 23, 1943 - February 21, 2019

Benjamin Franklin Ezzell, 75, of Gloucester Point, died peacefully at home surrounded by family Thursday, February 21, 2019. Ben was born December 23, 1943, in Warsaw, North Carolina to the late James and Melva Ezzell, where he helped them tend to their farm since he was old enough to walk. It was here that Ben developed an unrelentingly strong work ethic. At the age of 21, he left his farm and family in pursuit of career opportunities. In 1964, Ben found himself in the City of Newport News, VA where a family member recommended the Fire Department. After an application and a chat with the chief, his lifelong career began as a firefighter for the City of Newport News. Ben worked his way up the company ladder, accomplishing many roles, such as Lieutenant and Captain. It was during this time that he met the love of his life, sharing four children and later welcoming six grandchildren. Ben not only had a strong appreciation for the fire service, but he also had a passion for classic cars. On his days off from the department, you could find him “tinkering” in the garage with his many toys. In December of 2000, after 36 years of dedicated service, he retired as a Captain. Ben spent his retirement enjoying his family and restoring old classic cars. He leaves behind a legacy of a strong leader, good works and serves as an extraordinary role model for future generations. A brother Bobby Ezzell preceded him in death. He leaves behind to cherish his memories, wife of 28 years, Patricia Ezzell, children, Brenda Fisher and husband Randy of Hayes, Jennifer Cannon and husband Craig of Hayes, James Ezzell of Reykjavik, Iceland, Bonnie Appleby and husband Luke of Poquoson; grandchildren, Ryan Fisher, Jacob Fisher, Tessajeanae Houdek, Benjamin Cannon, Kayla Appleby, Taylor Hollingsworth, and an Uncle, Roy Ezzell of Warsaw, NC. A service of remembrance, with fire department honors, will be held 12:00 p.m., Friday, March 1, 2019, conducted by the Reverend Ray Goude, Jr., at Gloucester Point Baptist Church, 7741 Terrapin Cove Rd, Gloucester Point. The family will receive friends from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. before the service. Inurnment will be private. In Captain Ezzell’s memory, memorial contributions may be made to The Safe House NNF, 3303 Jefferson Avenue, Newport News, VA 23607.

# Events

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**MAR**   **Visitation**                      11:00AM - 12:00PM

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Gloucester Point Baptist Church

7741 Terrapin Cove Road, Gloucester Point, VA, US, 23062

**MAR**   **Service of Remembrance**    12:00PM

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Gloucester Point Baptist Church

7741 Terrapin Cove Road, Gloucester Point, VA, US, 23062

# Comments

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“ It's with much sadness I heard the passing of Ben. I worked for him as his lieutenant at fire station 9B for several years. I learned much from Ben and had a great time there with him. He will be missed by all. Captain M. S. Johnson. NNFD Retired

**Captain M.s.johnson** - February 28, 2019 at 06:15 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Benjamin F. Ezzell.



February 28, 2019 at 10:40 AM

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“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Benjamin F. Ezzell.



February 27, 2019 at 04:02 PM

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“ Our heartfelt condolences to both of you.  
Tracey Neale and Family



**The Neale Family** - February 25, 2019 at 07:14 PM

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“ I'm so sorry, he was one of the good ones.

**Bruce Rich** - February 25, 2019 at 12:20 PM

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“ My thoughts and prayers are with Jenny and her entire family. Mr.Ezzell was a big comfort to me during the passing of my Dad. Always a pleasure to talk to. A kind man.

Susan Bateman

**Susan Bateman** - February 25, 2019 at 12:13 PM



“ Thank you for your kind words Susan. I know that you know how hard this is for me!

**Jennifer Ezzell-Cannon** - February 26, 2019 at 02:29 PM

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“ Bob And Tina Killen lit a candle in memory of Benjamin F. Ezzell



**Bob and Tina Killen** - February 24, 2019 at 05:46 PM



“ Our sweet brother in law.....will be sorely missed...

**Bob and Tina Killen** - February 24, 2019 at 05:47 PM



“ Prayers of comfort for family in your time of loss.

**Lisa King** - February 25, 2019 at 08:03 AM



“ Pat, our thoughts and prayers are with you and know that Ben is now serving at the fire station above. It was an honor to know him as a brother in law and a fellow professional fire officer. Love you sister. Bill & Carole

**Bill Killen** - February 28, 2019 at 10:36 PM

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“ Pat, Jimmy and I are very sorry to hear about the passing of Ben. Although we did not know him for a long period of time, he was very likeable and easy to get to know. I know you will miss him very much. God will get you through this difficult time in your life. Take care of yourself Pat. Good Bless. Della and Jimmy.

**Della Belvin** - February 24, 2019 at 03:37 PM

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“ I have many fond memories of my days with Ben at NNFD. So sorry to hear the news of his passing. My sincere condolences go out to the family at this very sad time. Thoughts and prayers are with you. God Bless all of you. Ervin Horne, Retired 1990, Winchester, VA

**Ervin Horne** - February 24, 2019 at 03:20 PM

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“ So sorry for the passing of captain ezzell he was the best captain I ever worked for.he was always like a friend not like your boss.he will always be remembered for that.sincerely Roy Jackson

**Roy Jackson** - February 24, 2019 at 01:12 PM

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“ Loved my brother in law. Ben. He will be missed.

**Betty Murphy** - February 24, 2019 at 12:59 PM

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“ Beautifully written of a life well lived. Uncle Ben will be greatly missed.

**Geanie Scott** - February 24, 2019 at 10:47 AM

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“ Captain Ezzell was one of the friendliest people in the Fire Department. Even though I was on the opposite shift from him at Station 3 and then Station 1 he always treated me like I was family. I shall miss him. Praying for you in this sad time.  
Sheila Wanner

**Sheila Wanner** - February 24, 2019 at 09:47 AM

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“ I am so sorry for your families loss. Captain Ben was one of my favorites. I was saddened when he retired. The two of us had a lot of good conversations during the time I worked for him. One of his best qualities was that if he thought you were in the right, he would stand up for you. Captain Ben got his captains badge the old fashioned way, he earned it!

**Jeb Parker** - February 24, 2019 at 09:04 AM