



Merrial "Dean" Deel

May 15, 1938 - January 18, 2026

Merrial Dean Deel, 87, of Lick Creek, Virginia passed away peacefully on January 18, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family. He was a Baptist and loved the Lord with all his heart. Dean enjoyed gardening, telling tales, listening to Gospel and Bluegrass music, and most of all spending time with his family. He touched the lives of all around him.

Dean was born in Dickenson County, Virginia, on May 15, 1938, to the late Lester and Lillie Deel. He was the sixth of thirteen children and was raised with strong family values that guided him throughout his life. Dean graduated from Ervinton High School in 1957. Following graduation, he proudly enlisted in the United States Army and was stationed in Germany.

After returning home, Dean began a career in law enforcement with the police force in Newport News, Virginia. He later returned to Dickenson County, where he began a long and distinguished career with the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles. Dean retired on August 1, 2004, as a Senior Special Agent after 42 years of dedicated service to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Dean was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lester and Lillie Deel; his brothers, Archie, Garner, and Carter Deel; and his sisters, Elsie Edwards and Ellen Deel. Surviving brothers and sisters are Vina Reilly (husband Barney), Sharon Patton (husband Ron), Corneil Michaels (husband Ron), Debbie Deel (husband Lonnie), Dwight Deel (wife Cloris), David Deel (wife Carolyn), and Hubert Deel.

He is survived by the love of his life for 63 years, Sandra Deel; his sons, Tim Deel (wife Sharon), Brent Deel (wife Jessica), and Randy Deel (wife Wendy); his grandchildren, Billy, Brandon, Tanner (wife Kylie), Andrew, Braxton, and Madison; and his great-grandchildren, Will, Tyler, Tanleigh, and a great-granddaughter expected soon. He is also survived by his special friend, Charlie Dye who brought comfort and warmth to his later years.

Dean will be remembered for his unwavering dedication to his family, his strong work ethic, and his lifetime of service to his country and community. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. May his memory be a blessing.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, in the Mullins Funeral Home Chapel from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm, with funeral services to begin at 1:00, with Pastor Darrell Thacker speaking. Burial will follow at the Deel Family Cemetery up on Middle of the World.

Pallbearers will be Tim Deel, Brent Deel, Randy Deel, Brandon Deel, Tanner Deel, Andrew Deel, and Braxton Deel

Cemetery Details

Deel Family Cemetery

Middle of the World Section
Dante, VA 24237

Previous Events

Family will receive friends

JAN 21. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Mullins Funeral Home Chapel
210 Main St.
Clintwood, VA 24228

Funeral Service

JAN 21. 1:00 PM (ET)

Mullins Funeral Home Chapel
210 Main St.
Clintwood, VA 24228

Tribute Wall



“ *Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Merrial "Dean" Deel*



Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory - January 21 at 10:57 AM

BP

“ *My deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to all the family*

Bobbie Plummer - February 06 at 11:39 AM

BP

“ *Bobbie Plummer lit a candle in memory of Merrial "Dean" Deel*



Bobbie Plummer - February 06 at 11:37 AM

ER

“ Our deepest sympathy to the family.

Barbara and I worked with Dean for about 15 years at DMV. He was a great person and a man of integrity. He could always be counted on to help people. It was an honor to have known and work with him. He will be missed.

Barbara Arkwright and Ed Ryder

Edward Ryder - January 20 at 07:41 PM

RC

“ I have known Dean as long as I can remember. He gave me my check ride when I received my motorcycle permit. It was drizzling rain but he let me ride for the test any way. Dean was always the same every time you met him. May the Lord of all mercy bless and keep this family. Ronald

Ronald Counts - January 20 at 07:39 PM

KP

“ I always enjoyed Dean's company when he would visit us at Clintwood Farm and Garden Supply. He always seemed happy and he enjoyed talking about his wonderful family. I will miss him. Condolences to Sandra and all of the family.

Kevin Phillips - January 20 at 05:49 PM



“ 31 files added to the album LifeTributes



Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory - January 20 at 03:05 PM

BJ

“ I remember meeting Deen almost 57 years ago while he was working at DMV in the Roakoke, VA area. Had the privilege to work with him at DMV through the years until I retired. Always found Deen to be a hard worker and cared for the people he came in contact with. He will be missed. My deepest sympathy to the family at this sad time. But praise God, we will see him again! What a Glorious Day that will be!!

Bill Jackson

Bill Jackson - January 20 at 02:41 PM

DL

“ As children, we were always excited to go visit Uncle Dean and Aunt Sandra! He was full of stories and occasional pranks. A true Deel for sure! He will be missed but forever in our hearts.

Denise Reilly Lewis - January 20 at 11:38 AM

RM

“ Roma Mullins lit a candle in memory of Merrial "Dean" Deel



Roma Mullins - January 20 at 09:13 AM

JD

“ Jeff and Ilse Deel planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Merrial "Dean" Deel.

Jeff and Ilse Deel - January 19 at 07:51 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Merrial "Dean" Deel.



January 19 at 07:51 PM