

**JAMES P.  
GWALDIS, SR.  
1920 - 1997**



James Gwaldis, 78 of Big Stone Gap, Va., and with local relatives, passed away Sunday, Jan. 5 at Holston Valley Hospital in Kingsport, TN., following a lengthy illness.

He was born on Jun. 14, 1920 in Elizabeth, NJ the son of the late Peter and Amelia (Stackauskas) Gwaldis. On Jun. 15, 1945, he was united in marriage to Dorothy Greene in Big Stone Gap, Va.

He was a WWII veteran, having served in the U.S. Navy in Hawaii and the South Pacific as an Aircraft Mechanist's Mate.

He was employed by the Interstate Railway, the Raytheon Corp., and retired after 22 years of service with Cooke-Wilson Electric Supply in Lynch, Ky.

He was a longtime member of Trinity United Methodist Church, where he was a member of the Chancel Choir, the United Methodist Men, and the Fellowship Sunday School Class. He also served on the Administrative Board and the Council on Ministries.

He was a member of the Community Chorus and the Southlanders and was actively involved in several theatrical productions of the Big Stone Gap Music Club. He was a member of the original cast of the outdoor drama "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine," and was well-known for his portrayal of "Uncle Billy" and for harmonica playing. He was a charter member of the Lonesome Pine Model Railroaders.

He is survived by wife Dorothy Gwaldis; brothers Peter Gwaldis, Sr., Mornstown, NJ, John Gwaldis, Sr., Roselle, NJ and Charles Gwaldo, Sr., Bricktown, NJ; son James P. (Michale Leslie) Gwaldis, Jr., Falls Church, Va.; daughters Norma (Thomas) Maxwell, St. Clair Shores, Mi. and Amy (James) Heiden, Elkton, Mi.; grandson Christopher Heiden; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted on Wed., Jan. 8 at Trinity United Methodist Church, Big Stone Gap, Va. Rev. Buford Hankins and Rev. Joseph Berta officiated with burial in Powell Valley Memorial Gardens.

Holding Funeral Homes was in charge of arrangements.

Memorials may be made to the Trinity United Methodist Church Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 217, Big Stone Gap, VA 24219.