



Edward Clayton Hilts

May 18, 1945 - June 29, 2025

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Edward Clayton Hilts, lovingly known as “Big Ed,” passed away peacefully in his sleep on June 29, 2025, at the age of 80. To know Ed was to be truly blessed. He had a heart as big as his laugh, a storyteller’s charm, and a joke always ready to lighten the moment. Once you were part of his life, you remained there—always and without question.

Ed lived with remarkable generosity and passion, giving his all to everything he did—whether as a dedicated pharmaceutical representative, a proud rose grower, or a tireless caretaker to those in need. He had a rare ability to make people feel seen, welcomed, and loved.

A legendary cook, Ed was known for his unforgettable steaks and roasts. If you were lucky enough to enjoy one of his meals, you were already asking when the next invitation was coming. He took joy in gathering people around the table, sharing laughter, stories, and the warmth of his hospitality.

Above all, Ed was a devoted father and grandfather. He was the dad every kid dreams of—present, supportive, and endlessly proud. Whether cheering at swim meets, tennis matches, or golf tournaments, he was always there,

encouraging his children and making sure they knew how deeply loved they were.

Ed embraced life fully, with joy and enthusiasm that never waned. His spirit, love, and humor touched everyone he met and will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

He is survived by his sister, Mariann Johnson; his children, Andrew Hilts and his wife Debbie, Kristen Walsky; and his beloved grandchildren, Tyler Lockhart, Davis Walsky, Jackson Walsky, Katie Holley, and Ryann Hilts. He was preceded in death by his granddaughter, Cierra Stevens, and wife Kathryn Hilts, whom he now joins in eternal peace.

There are no services scheduled at this time. Ferrell-Chambers Funeral Home, Huntington, WV are entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at www.ferrell-chambersfuneralhome.com