



# Mr. Charles Hairl Hensley

DEC 13, 1936 - DEC 31, 2017



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## **Mr. Charles Hairl Hensley**

DEC 13, 1936 - DEC 31, 2017

**C**harles Hairl Hensley, age 81, died Sunday December 31, 2017. Hairl was an honored and celebrated country music radio personality and "Dean of the Grand Ole Opry Announcers". He was a native of Madisonville, Tennessee and was first heard as a radio announcer at WDEH in nearby Sweetwater and later for the Tennessee Barn Dance on WNOX in Knoxville.

After gaining notoriety, he moved to Nashville where he worked for WKDA, WMAK and served as Program Director at both WLAC and WSM. In 1972, he began a 35 year career with WSM Radio and Announcer at the Grand Ole Opry. His honors include 1975 Country Music Association Broadcast Personality of the Year and in 1995, Hairl received the industry's highest honor with induction into the Country Music Disc Jockey Hall of Fame. In 2000, he received the Golden Voice Awards Radio Personality Award and in 2014, Hairl was inducted into the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame. The Radio Hall of Fame called him "one of the nicest guys in the business."

Preceded in death by his parents Curtis Hairl Hensley and Dorotha Wright Hensley, sister Oneta Peters and wife Paula Jones Hensley. Survived by sisters Letha Merritt and Dodie (Paul) Greene, children Lisa (Scott) Metzler, Hairl Scott (Karen) Hensley, and Bronie (Jay) Victory; stepchildren Susan (Steve) Cowden and Robert (Betsy) Kennedy, adopted child by choice Gina Earheart, numerous grandchildren, nieces and nephews. The family also includes his special friend and dedicated caregiver Crissy (Bill) Fredenberger who walked with him in life and stayed with him until he left this earthly home and went to Heaven. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at Spring Hill Funeral Home, 2:00 p.m. Friday, January 5, 2018. Visitation from 12:00-2:00 prior to the service. Hairl will be laid to rest on Saturday, January 6, 2018, 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 510 W Main St, Franklin, TN 37064.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Grand Ole Opry Trust Fund, 2804 Opryland Drive, Nashville, TN 37214 or the Nashville Rescue Mission, 639 Lafayette



## Obituary

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St, Nashville, TN 37203. Arrangements entrusted to Spring Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery, 5110 Gallatin Road, Nashville, TN 37216, 615-865-1101.



## Events


**Mr. Charles Hairl Hensley**

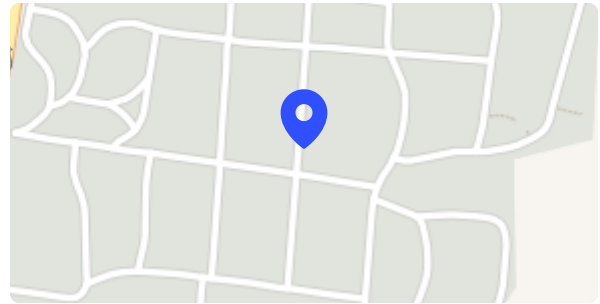
DEC 13, 1936 - DEC 31, 2017

### Visitation

 **Friday**, January 5, 2018

 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM CT


 **Spring Hill Funeral Home**  
5110 Gallatin Pike S, Nashville TN 37216

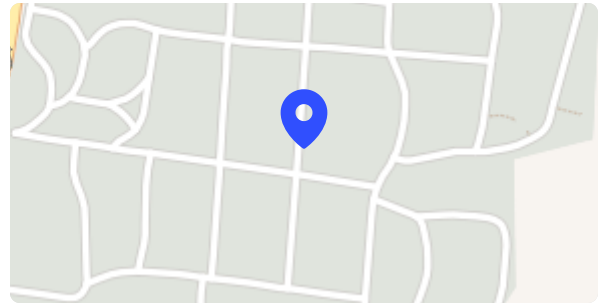


### Celebration Of Life Funeral Ceremony

 **Friday**, January 5, 2018

 2:00 PM CT

 **Spring Hill Funeral Home**  
5110 Gallatin Pike S, Nashville TN 37216





## Tribute Wall

**Mr. Charles Hairl Hensley**

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**Randall Franks** posted:

While I am unable to be present as you reflect on the amazing life of Hairl and cherish your memories of him, I want to share my prayers for comfort and strength for his family and all that loved this caring man. When I was a teen, he welcomed me to the Opry as a guest star making me feel like I was part of the Grand Ole Opry family. He always made me feel that way down through the years as I returned whether for a performance for the Opry or a WSM appearance, I cherish the laughs, the visits on and off the air, and the kind words of encouragement. There was no one like him and that's why performers and listeners alike thought the world of him. Randall Franks Former NBC/CBS Series Regular

January 4 at 2:23 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Hensley family.



January 4 at 2:09 PM



**The Grand Ole Opry Square Dancers** sent a Strength & Solace Spray to the Hensley family.



January 4 at 12:35 PM



**Larry Howlett** posted:

Blessing from Gary Mullis, DeKalb, IL Gary met Hairl during June 1977 at the old WSM radio station up long lane Knob road in Nashville Tennessee. He was on a live radio show on WSM Radio till 2 and Marty Robbins was singing. After the show, Gary would go into the studio from 2 – 4 am to visit with Hairl, Then, one minute till 4 am, Grant Turner would come in to take over the show. Gary hosted a country show to honor Hairl on June 5, 2013 at Provision Living in Hermitage, Tennessee. Hairl will be missed. God Bless Hairl and his family.

January 4 at 12:10 PM



## Tribute Wall

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**Rooster Simpson** lit a candle in honor of Charles.

I was lucky enough to pick up WSM 650 am Radio, in my neck of the woods. I was fortunate to grow up hearing Hairl Hensley on the Opry, and his Shows on WSM. I remember-Opry Star Spotlight, Early Bird gets the Bluegrass, and Orange Possum Special, all were Hairl's fabulous Shows. I've missed hearing his warm voice, the past decade. He's with GOD, forever more. Thanks, for the memories, and my sympathy to the family. - "Rooster" Simpson, in Hillsboro, Missouri



January 4 at 9:36 AM



**Anonymous** sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the Hensley family.



January 4 at 6:43 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Hensley family.



January 4 at 4:26 AM



**Charles Smith** posted:

My deepest sympathy to Hairl's family in his passing. I became a good friend of his when I was playing on the Opry every Christmas with Bill Monroe and we would always chat backstage. After Hairl retired from the Opry, he gave me his cellphone number and I spoke with him a few times but could see that he was not in best of health. He was one of the great announcers at WSM and will continue to be missed in that role. A fine gentleman and a great voice! Rest in Peace, old friend from Charlie Smith.

January 3 at 9:15 PM



**Doug Huntley, Laurinburg, Nc** posted:

Thanks be to God for allowing this talented man to grace our airways and the stage of the Grand Ole Opry these many years. His likeness we shall never see or hear. RIP in your new home in Heaven, Hairl Hensley.

January 3 at 6:15 PM



# Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** sent a Magnificent Life Spray to the Hensley family.

January 3 at 3:26 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Rays of Light Spray to the Hensley family.

January 3 at 6:12 AM



**Bob Bien** lit a candle in honor of Charles.

I'd like to send my sympathy and prayers to Hairl family and friends. RIP Hairl.

January 2 at 9:37 PM



**Charlie Goad** posted:

My sympathies to the Hensley family! I met Hairl in 1965 at WMAK. A cleaning lady let my friend and me in the back door of the hallway where the studios were. Hairl was a perfect gentleman and one of the best announcers in Nashville. I had wanted for a year to get into radio and he was my mentor. He WILL be missed! Charlie Goad

January 2 at 8:40 PM



**Gary Holmes** posted:

Very sorry to hear of Mr Hairl Hensley's passing. Always enjoyed him on the Opry. God bless. Gary Holmes. Elkton, Maryland

January 2 at 6:06 PM



**Louise Williams** lit a candle in honor of Charles.

January 2 at 5:03 PM





# Tribute Wall

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**Vicki Moser** lit a candle in honor of Charles.



January 2 at 12:37 PM



**Skip Woolwine** shared a photo to the **Hairl Hensley Video** album.



January 2 at 11:25 AM



**Skip Woolwine** shared 5 photos to the **Hairl Hensley Video** album.



January 1 at 5:23 PM



**Skip Woolwine** posted:

January 2 at 11:18 AM



**Susan Wright** posted:

Hairl had the most soothing voice on radio and I felt like he was my friend each time I heard him. Rest in peace dear man of God and enjoy the beauty of heaven. We will meet again.

January 2 at 9:34 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Hensley family.



January 2 at 5:25 AM



## Tribute Wall

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**Louise Vanasse** lit a candle in honor of Charles.

January 2 at 4:53 AM



**Margie Mcgahey** lit a candle in honor of Charles.

Hairl was lovely! The sweetest thoughts I hold in my heart. I remember our first business adventure, when I sold his warm-up show in Opryland park. Bobby and Jeannie Bare purchased it for Bobby's Bare Trap. A great relationship was enjoyed by all with this fun sponsorship!Margie McGahey

January 2 at 4:50 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Florist Choice Bouquet to the Hensley family.

January 2 at 4:43 AM



**Nancy Caldwell** lit a candle in honor of Charles.

January 1 at 5:23 PM





## Media

**Mr. Charles Hairl Hensley**

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**Skip Woolwine** shared a photo to the **Hairl Hensley Video** album.

January 2 at 11:25 AM





## Media

**Mr. Charles Hairl Hensley**

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Skip Woolwine shared 5 photos to the **Hairl Hensley Video** album.

January 2 at 11:24 AM

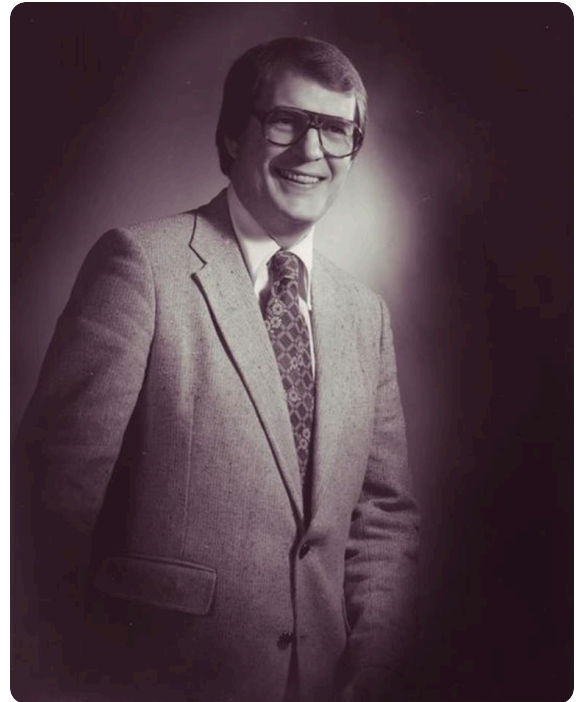
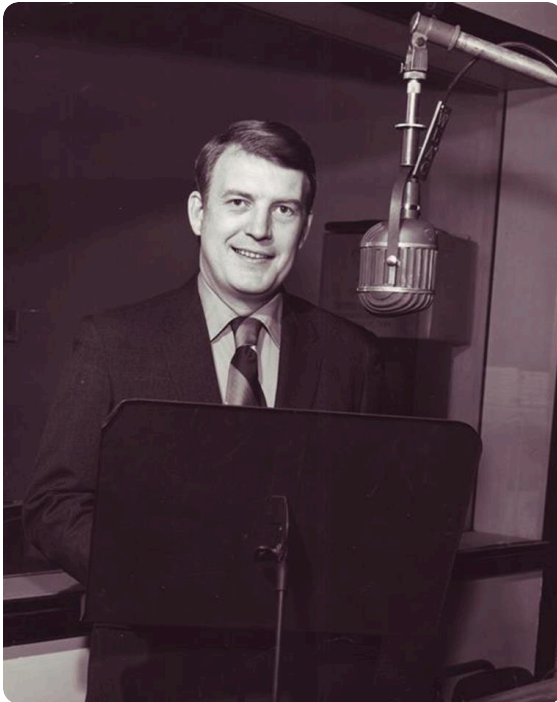




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## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Charles by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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