

David Alfred Humphreys

September 9, 1943 – September 14, 1967

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Former Football Star Killed in Auto Mishap

David Alfred Humphreys, 24, a former Hinton High School football star, was fatally injured in an accident on the Bluestone Park Road Thursday night, and a companion Staff Sgt. William A. Hughes of the U.S. Marines who recently returned from Vietnam, was seriously injured.

The two young men riding in a Sunbeam open convertible with Humphreys driving, failed to negotiate a sharp “U” curve just north of the Park restaurant, hit a tree that caved in one side of the car, then plunged 40 to 50 feet over an embankment, and landed in the creek.

Mrs. C.E. Fife and Mrs. Tom Clinebell were among the first persons to arrive at the scene of the accident as they were en route to the park to serve as chaperones for the young women participating in the Water Festival and staying in cabins at the park. They immediately summoned help.

Charlie Dare went to the scene and directed rescue operations. He and other men formed a human chain to get the unconscious Humphreys back to the highway, and he was immediately rushed to the Hinton Hospital where he died in less than two hours at 11:30 p.m.

He never regained consciousness, and a hospital spokesman said death was due to a fracture at the base of his skull and a broken neck.

The accident occurred at 9:30 p.m. as the two men were driving back towards Hinton.

Staff Sgt. Hughes sustained a broken right thigh and received extensive scratches and bruises about the body. After being treated at the Hinton Hospital he was taken by ambulance to the Veterans Hospital in Beckley. He returned to the states about a week ago.

Humphreys resided with his parent, former Police Chief W.H. Humphreys, and Mrs. Humphreys, at their home on Walnut Street.

He was born here on Sept. 9, 1943, and attended Hinton High School where he was an outstanding football player.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife, the former Susan Petrey of this city, also a brother W.H. Humphreys, Jr. and a sister Mrs. Glen Hamric of Petersburg, Va.

The funeral will be held Saturday at 3 p.m. at the E.M. Meadows Funeral Home where friends may call after 4 p.m. today. The Rev. Fred Dillon will officiate.

Burial will follow in Restwood Memorial Estates, and active pallbearers names are:

Mark Hannah, Terry Payne, David Ratliff, Jim Burwell, Ronald Sowder and Steve Goins. Honorary pallbearers will be Tommy, Tony and Jack Fergusson, Robert Webb, David Cook, Bobby Connor, "Butch" Pitzer, Gary Walker, Sammy Walker, Elliot Yancey and Emmett and Howard Fox.