



## George Edward Purcell

February 9, 1931 - February 11, 2015

George Edward Purcell, 84, of Murphysboro, IL passed away on February 11, 2015 at his residence. He was born to the late John T. Purcell, Sr. & Frieda (nee Zimmer) Purcell in Murphysboro on February 9, 1931. Graduating from Murphysboro Township High School in 1949, he participated in band & choral activities. He earned honors all four years of high school. He attended Millikin University in Decatur, IL; and then the University of Colorado majoring in Music.

An accomplished, gifted pianist & organist, he lived in Europe in the 1960's and was afforded the opportunity to play many vintage instruments. He was passionate about music, and during his life, he served as organist for several Southern Illinois churches. He also provided bass violin accompaniment in the SIU and John A. Logan Jr. College orchestras for many musical productions. Additionally, he tuned pianos for several years. He loved to travel and spent many winters in Mexico and California.

He was baptized in the First Christian Church of Murphysboro, and later attended the Anglican and Presbyterian Churches in Carbondale, IL. Most recently, he participated in the choir at the Presbyterian Church. In his younger years, he loved to cook and try new and exotic foods. He was definitely a unique individual. Many in Murphysboro referred to him as "Uncle George."

He is preceded in death by his parents, grandparents, two brothers and one sister-in-law (John T. Purcell, Jr.) & Wilma (Wanstreet) Purcell; Joseph W. Purcell; and one niece, Mary Jo (Purcell) Cohen.

George is survived by six nieces & nephews; John D. (Cynthia) Purcell of Memphis, TN; Janice Purcell Smith (David) of Chester, IL; Elizabeth Ann Purcell of Chicago; Thomas M. Purcell (Susan) of Broken Arrow, OK; Nancy Purcell Ward of Murphysboro, IL; Barbara Wiley (Russ) of Dallas, TX; and sister-in-law, Jane Mitchell Purcell of Murphysboro, IL. He is also survived by ten great nieces and nephews and two great, great nieces.

He will be interred at Pleasant Grove Memorial Park next to his parents after a private family service. Memorials may be made to Jackson County Humane Society; First Christian Church in Murphysboro; or Donor's choice.

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

# Tribute Wall



“ *George Edward Purcell*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *Dorothy Welsh remembers George since he was 6 years old. He was a Christian man and a gentleman. George played at many different churches and was a member of the choir. Very talented, feisty but loved.*

**Elizabeth Purcell** - February 17, 2015 at 08:58 PM



“ *Lorie Allen lit a candle in memory of George Edward Purcell*



**Lorie Allen** - February 13, 2015 at 08:19 AM



“ *George was one of the most talented string bass players in the area and played with many local groups, most recently the John A Logan College Community Orchestra. He was funny and knowledgeable and great at keeping a beat. He and his music will be missed.*

**Lorie Allen** - February 13, 2015 at 08:18 AM