



## James E. "Jimmy" Etheridge

September 10, 1931 - November 21, 2024

IN MEMORY OF:

James E. "Jimmy" Ethridge

Serving Location:

CRAIN FUNERAL HOME – CAIRO  
4815 Sycamore Street, Cairo, Illinois

James E. "Jimmy" Ethridge, age 93, of Cadiz, KY, passed away Thursday, November 21, 2024, at his home.

He was born on September 10, 1931, in St. Louis, MO, to the late Hiram & Catherine Bennett Ethridge.

Jimmy came from humble beginnings. Throughout his life he was dedicated to serving and honoring his country, as well as providing a better life for himself and his family. He joined the United States Army at the tender age of 15 after boldly falsifying his birth certificate to serve his nation during its time of need. His military career began in the final moments of World War II in August 1945 and extended into the Korean War. His service was marked by honor and bravery, making him one of the last surviving members of the Greatest

Generation.

Following his military service, Jimmy transitioned to a successful career in the automotive industry, beginning in sales. At the impressive age of 27, he became the youngest person in the United States to be awarded a Chrysler Dodge franchise, establishing Ethridge Motors. His business model led to further success when he was awarded a GMC Cadillac Pontiac dealership. Jimmy also owned a Goodyear Tire Center, as well as Ethridge Leasing.

Beyond his professional achievements, Jimmy was honored as a Kentucky Colonel and dedicated his time and energy as a life member of the VFW and the American Legion. He was also a proud 4th Degree Knight of Columbus. He was a devoted member of St. Stephen Catholic Church, where he forged many lasting friendships.

An avid outdoorsman, Jimmy loved the ocean, fishing, beach life, golfing, nature, and hunting. He was fondly known as a "deer whisperer". He was a proud Grandpa and deeply loved his family.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by the love of his life and soulmate, Phyllis Stull; his only sister and best friend, Mary Francis Knight; his daughter, Cheryl Cunningham; a beloved grandson, Zachary Thomas; and a great-grandson, Liam McCord.

Jimmy is survived by his children, Cynthia Kamaski (Robert), James Edward Ethridge, Jr., Jayme Ethridge Junker, John Ethridge (Denyse), Stefanie Scheubert (Clint), and adopted daughter, Marsha Pater (Bill); his grandchildren, James Ethridge, III, Kimberly McCord, Shannon, Matthew, Jordan, and Trisha Junker, and Sarah Ethridge; his great-grandchildren, Breanna and Ellie Beberg, Sienna Junker, Izzy, Marley, and Gavin McCord; and very special friends, Rita Hammock and Charlene Thomason.

Arrangements are being handled by Goodwin Funeral Home, Inc., 138 Main Street in Cadiz, where the family will receive friends after 4:00 PM on Monday, November 25, 2024, followed by a time of family reflections at 6:00 PM.

Funeral mass with military honors will be at St. Stephen Catholic Church, 1698 Canton Road in Cadiz, at 10:00 AM, Tuesday, November 26, 2024, with Father Gregory Trawick officiating. Visitation at the church will begin at 9:00 AM.

Interment will follow at 2:00 PM in Calvary Cemetery, 2501 Old Villa Ridge Road, Villa Ridge, IL.

Local arrangements by Crain Funeral Home in Cairo.

Memorial contributions can be made to Pennyroyal Hospice, 220 Burley Ave., Hopkinsville, KY 42240.

# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Cemetery

Villa Ridge, IL

# Previous Events

## Interment

NOV **26**. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (cst)

Calvary Cemetery  
Villa Ridge, IL

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kimberly Kamaski lit a candle in memory of James Etheridge*



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**Kimberly Kamaski** - November 23, 2024 at 05:07 PM