



Kenneth Philip Biggs

December 1, 1927 - April 5, 2015

Kenneth Philip Biggs, 87, of Murphysboro, passed away peacefully at 5:02 p.m. Sunday, April 5, 2015, at Memorial Hospital in Carbondale, with his family and friends present.

Kenneth was born on December 1, 1927, in Granite City, Illinois, to Ernest Biggs and Iva (Lindsey) Biggs.

Growing up in Granite City, Kenneth worked at the steel mills. Then he attended Bolivar College in Bolivar, Missouri, Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, OK, and SIU at Carbondale. He was the Biology and General Science Teacher at Murphysboro High School from 1961 to 1993. During the summers, he worked as a researcher at the University of Illinois.

Besides always being ready to give a biology lesson, Kenneth had many other interests. He was involved in the Boy Scouts, when his sons were growing up. He was a wood carver and gemologist. With his wife, they hunted and fished together. They went to the Senior Citizens in Carbondale together and he continued to go after his wife passed away.

Mr. Biggs was a member of Elm Street Baptist Church in Murphysboro, where he served as music director for many years and then was a very active choir member. He had participated with Barbershop Quartets for many years.

He married Barbara Stroup on July 17, 1959, in Granite City, and she preceded him in death on August 4, 1999.

He is survived by four children Gary Biggs of 29 Palms, California, David Biggs and his wife Shari Winters-Biggs of Carbondale, Mariann Baratta of Carbondale, and Karen Biggs of Murphysboro;

five grandchildren including Alma Baratta, Alysha Baratta, and Kristen Biggs, and three great grandchildren;

two sisters Muriel Phelps and her husband Don Phelps of Joplin, MO and Charlene "Dean" Wynn and her husband Jim Wynn of St. Louis, MO; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He is survived by his best friends of sixty one years Ray and Maggie Bush.

He was preceded in death by one brother Harold Biggs, one sister Vernita Kalert and his parents.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, 2015, at Elm Street Baptist Church in Murphysboro, with Rev. Charles Allen officiating, and burial at St. John's Cemetery in Dongola. Friends may call from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Pettett Funeral Home and from 12 noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday at the church. Memorials may be made to Elm Street Baptist Church or Celtic Hospice. For more information, please visit www.pettettfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Kenneth Philip Biggs*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *Dear Gary, David, Marian and Karen,
We so fondly remember your dad as we all grew up at Elm Street Baptist. I can still hear his booming voice from the choir and remember the fun we had at my parents' house and the bonfires. He even took a splinter out of my sister Sue Ann on top of our kitchen table! A real biology teacher, indeed. When we would visit I always got a hug from Mr. Biggs. Our condolences as you remember your dad and we pray for God's comfort during this difficult time.*

*Love,
Marylyn and Ron*

Marylyn (Baskin) and Ron Bangert - April 09, 2015 at 02:13 PM



“ *I loved Mr. Biggs. He was my neighbor for many years, and even gave me a little black kitten when my cat was killed by neighborhood dogs. He was a great science teacher and a super nice man. He will be missed.*

MeLissa (Missy Morefield) Obermiller - April 08, 2015 at 12:01 PM



“ *I loved Mr. Biggs. He was my neighbor for many years, and even gave me a little black kitten when my cat was killed by neighborhood dogs. He was a great science teacher and a super nice man. He will be missed.*

MeLissa (Missy Morefield) Obermiller - April 08, 2015 at 11:59 AM

MG

“ *Mr. Biggs, you were one of my favorite teachers. I knew I would like your class the day you said you would keep an eye on me. With a laugh, you said I was most likely to blow someone up. You always had a great story, joke, or a interesting belt buckle. After all the years, (1987) I still enjoy the time you spent with me. Mr. Mike Bowers, Mr Spiller and now you, R.I.P Mr Biggs.*

Michael Garrison - April 07, 2015 at 11:38 PM

SB

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. Mr Biggs was a kind man and an awesome teacher. He used to make his students laugh with his great sense of humor. May God comfort your families during this time of sorrow.*

Sherry Zimmer Bois - April 07, 2015 at 04:42 PM

SB

“ *To Mariann, Alma, Alysha, Karen, David, Shari, Kristen, Gary, and other family members,
Please know that even though I am not there with all of you I share your sadness. Over the years I experienced many good times as well as a few bad ones with Ken. He was always caring, sincere, and humorous. I'm glad he is no longer suffering and is in Heaven with Barbara.*

Steve

Steve Baratta - April 07, 2015 at 08:44 AM

MJ

“ Kenny and Barbara were down the street neighbors, always willing to help and always so nice ..
Will miss seeing him drive by. God has very good angels with HIM.
So sorry for his family and his church family for their loss. God Bless and be with all.

Melba J.Mifflin - April 06, 2015 at 11:56 PM

LG

“ So sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts.

Lauri Gray-Stoewsand - April 06, 2015 at 08:59 PM

SB

“ I will always remember his stories and jokes along with his varied belt buckles. My favorite belt buckle was his frog buckle.

Who would have guessed that when he was my Biology teacher in high school, that one day he would be my father in law.

Shari Biggs - April 06, 2015 at 05:27 PM