



## Roger Lee Draves

March 26, 1931 - January 17, 2025

IN MEMORY OF:

Roger Lee Draves

Serving Location:

CRAIN FUNERAL HOME – MURPHYSBORO

1421 Walnut Street, Murphysboro, Illinois

Roger Lee Draves, 93, of Murphysboro passed away peacefully at 3:22 am on Friday, January 17, 2025, at Reflections in Carterville, Illinois.

Roger was born on March 26, 1931, in Chester, IL, a son to the late Harry and Anna Draves. He was united in marriage to Esther Ruth Hartman on October 22, 1955, in Chester, IL. They enjoyed 62 wonderful years together before she passed on February 24, 2018.

Roger lived a long and interesting life. He served his country, community, and church. With all the stories from the Army, Illinois State Police, and the Grandstand, the family often suggested he should write a book. He enjoyed his family, church, friends, fishing, golfing, high school sports, gardening and

winters in Florida.

In January, 1952, Roger was drafted into the US Army and deployed to Korea. SST Draves was a decorated combat veteran of the Korean War, awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Letter "V" device for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. His first day in combat, at Triangle Hill, he read the 23rd Psalm from his prayer book. Others heard him and the verse was repeated all night. He was also involved in battles on such famous hills as Pork Chop and Old Baldy.

His "career" life started in December, 1949, when he was hired as a knitter at the Prim Hosiery Mill in Chester. He was the youngest knitter ever hired. He worked there until the plant closed in 1955.

Roger (badge #479) served 31 years with the Illinois State Police. Most of those years were spent in District 13, headquartered in DuQuoin. He retired as a Master Sergeant in December 1986. After retiring he was asked to serve as the Grandstand Supervisor during the DuQuoin State Fair. It was a fun job. He and Esther camped in the fair campground to shorten his commute. He enjoyed doing this for over 20 years. To rest up after the fair, they spent Octobers (camping and fishing) in Branson, Missouri.

A faithful Christian and member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Murphysboro, Roger served as Elder and on the BOD several times. He was chairman of the rebuilding committee after the sanctuary was damaged by fire in 1965.

Roger was a member of VFW Post #7190, American Legion Post #127. He was a member of the Jackson County YMCA BOD for 10 years. He was a member of numerous Law Enforcement organizations. He served on Oral Evaluation Boards for several departments at SIU for employment/promotion.

He served on the Advisory Board for Vocational Education for Murphysboro Unit 186 School District. A proud Red Devils supporter, Roger enjoyed the successes of the Crimson Express, track, football and basketball teams. He also enjoyed following the expansion and excellence of the girls sports programs.

Roger and Esther spent almost 30 winters snowbirding in southern Florida eventually landing in Lake San Marino, Naples, Florida. In the over 20 years they wintered there, they were deeply immersed in the community. Roger assisted with ticket sales for many of the park events and was on the committee organizing the weekly church services. They were known as "the smoothest dance partners" in the park.

Survivors include two sons and one daughter-in-law, Scott and Valerie Draves and Steven Draves all of Murphysboro; two grandsons, Eric Draves of Chesterfield, MO, and Mitchell Draves of St. Louis, MO; and one sister and brother-in-law, Dorothy and Arthur Gerberding of Chester, IL. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be at 10:30 AM on Friday, January 24, 2025, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Murphysboro with Rev. Matthew Christian officiating. Visitation will be from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM on Thursday, January 23, 2025 at Crain Funeral Home in Murphysboro and from 9:30 AM until 10:30 AM on Friday at Immanuel Lutheran Church with tribute by The Illinois State Police Honor Guard.

Interment will follow at Murdale Gardens of Memory in Murphysboro with military honors conducted by American Legion Post #127.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Immanuel Lutheran Church

Endowment Fund and/or Immanuel Lutheran School and will be accepted at the church or funeral home.

Crain Funeral Home in Murphysboro is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Murdale Gardens of Memory

137 Murdale Gardens Rd  
Murphysboro, IL 62966  
(618) 687-1145  
crain@crainsonline.com

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **23**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Crain Funeral Home - Downtown Murphysboro  
1421 Walnut St  
Murphysboro, IL 62966  
(618) 684-2131

## Visitation

JAN **24**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
1915 Pine St  
Murphysboro, IL 62966  
(618) 684-3012

## Funeral Service

JAN 24. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
1915 Pine St  
Murphysboro, IL 62966  
(618) 684-3012

## Interment with Military Honors

JAN 24. 11:15 AM - 11:45 AM (CT)

Murdale Gardens of Memory  
137 Murdale Gardens Rd  
Murphysboro, IL 62966  
(618) 687-1145  
[crain@crainsonline.com](mailto:crain@crainsonline.com)

# Tribute Wall

MG

“ Though it has been many years since I spoke with Mr. Draves, he was and will ever remain a change agent in my life, as will his children Scott and Steve. I attended Immanuel Lutheran Church and School from Grades 1-8, and that upbringing taught me what it was to be a man of character, strength and honor. Mr. Draves, Steve and Scott were transformational in my sanctification. Steve and Scott were, are, and will ever be my great friends, and were men of profound Christian character... character I wanted very much to emulate. My eighth-grade year, during basketball season, Scott was a voice of compassion, reason and calm in my life. It was much needed, and his influence continues even today as a model for me of how a man should behave when the world strikes against him. Mr. Draves saw potential in me, and worked with me and my parents, to help me use my God-given talents in a God-honoring way. Again, I will never forget this, and I pray, that at least in some small fashion my life now honors that gift. I know I will see Mr. Draves again in the life to come, where he now has many crowns to cast at our Lord and Savior's feet. And I pray fervently for all the family, and all his friends. May the peace of our Lord, that surpasses all understanding, ease all hurts and sorrows, until He comes to take us all home. God richly bless you, Esther, Steve and Scott.

---

**Mark Guetersloh** - January 23, 2025 at 06:50 PM

JL

“ Thoughts and prayers to family and friends. Have many fond memories from my childhood.

---

**Julie Loy** - January 22, 2025 at 08:06 AM

LS

“ There are individuals who make an impression on your life and Roger was without a doubt an impressive person. 🙏

---

**Larry Scheufele** - January 21, 2025 at 08:39 PM

KB

“ He was larger than life to me, he also was my baptism Godfather. He was always a positive, always it can be done and look at the bright side. He had a talent for anything he tried. I watched him put up a new ceiling, or woodwork it was always the best. He took me to football games when I was a little kid and I learned a great many things thru his way of teaching.

---

**Kevin Baker** - January 21, 2025 at 08:29 AM