



Walter Logan Eldridge

January 24, 1931 - January 26, 2017

Walter Logan Eldridge went home to be with the Lord at 11:40 a.m. Thursday, January 26, 2017. He was 86 years old, born January 24, 1931, in Franklin County, Illinois, the son of Joseph and Minnie (Wilson) Eldridge. He married Wilda Marie Perkins on October 8, 1950, in Perks, Illinois.

He entered the U.S. Army in 1948 and served as an enlisted Personnel Technician until his discharge as Corporal in 1950.

After his discharge, he worked as the U.S. Steel Mill and Urschel's Laboratory in Gary, Indiana.

Mr. Eldridge returned to Murphysboro in 1956 to help his aging parents. He worked as a journeyman carpenter for five years, earned a real estate license, sold insurance for Modern Woodman and Managed a lumberyard in West Frankfort. On February 15, 1966, he began his career at the Southern Illinois Savings and Loan. Seeing it through several name and ownership changes, he retired on December 31, 1988, as Vice President of the First Federal Savings and Loan after twenty-three years of service. Even after retiring, he continued working; he built four homes and continued to farm.

Active in many civic projects, he served on the Farm Bureau Board, the Advisory Committee of Jackson County Soil and Water District, the St. Joseph

Memorial Hospital Board, and he served as director of the Chamber of Commerce.

He was a member of the Murphysboro Business Association, served on the Tax Increment, the Prison Acquisition, the Down Town Murphysboro Rehabilitation and Industrial-site committees.

Mr. Eldridge was a loving husband, father, grandfather. He loved the Lord and witnessed every chance he could. In Gary, Indiana, he was a charter member of the two of the first Southern Baptist missions that were later constituted into a church. He had taught Sunday School in Indiana, and at Harrison and Dutch Ridge Baptist Churches. He helped construct the Harrison Baptist Church building and was ordained as a Deacon there on April 29, 1973. Mr. Eldridge also filled the pulpit at Palestine Church until a pastor was found. He is a member of the Dutch Ridge Baptist Church, and has attended Trinity Baptist Church for about 20 years.

He loved to play the guitar while he and his wife sang. He also loved to garden and was an avid reader.

Mr. Eldridge is survived by his wife, Wilda of Murphysboro;

three daughters Beverly (Merle) Randolph of Marion, OH, Patricia Whitacre of Punta Gorda, FL, and Lola (Steve)Wilkerson of Murphysboro;

five grandchildren Shane Whitacre, Bridget Whitacre, Jeremy Wilkerson, Emily Wilkerson, and Austin Randolph;

and ten great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his son Kevin Joe Eldridge; five

sisters Loretta Howard, Mildred Hall, Wilma Marshall, Georgia Beeler, and Sarah Spears; five brothers Floyd Eldridge, Loyd Eldridge, Ransom Eldridge, Arthur Eldridge, and Paul Eldridge; his father and mother in law, Ruby and Willis Perkins; brothers in law Rev. A. W. Landis, Claude Harper, and Lloyd Perkins, and sister and brother in law Rev. and Mrs. Carl Fisher.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, January 30, 2017, at Pettett Funeral Home with Rev. David Pinkerton officiating with military services conducted by the Paul Stout American Legion Post # 127 in Murphysboro, and burial at the Masonic and Oddfellows Cemetery in Benton. Visitation will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday and until 10:30 a.m. Monday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to the Murphysboro Food Pantry. For more information, please visit www.pettettfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Walter Logan Eldridge*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *Our condolences and prayers for God's comfort.
Pete and Marcia (Fingar) Westra*

Marcia (Fingar) Westra - January 29, 2017 at 09:28 PM



“ *Dear Aunt Wilda and family, I am so sorry for your loss. It's been forever since I've seen you, but I do remember how kind you always were and how my mom, Sarah loved you and Uncle Walter. Take care. Love, Monica.*

Monica Spears Sharp - January 29, 2017 at 04:28 PM



“ *Dear aunt Wilda, Beverly, Patricia, and Lola Gay my thoughts, and prayers are with all of you at this time. My mother (Sarah) adored her brother as we all did in our family, he was such a wonderful uncle, and role model. I remember when I was in my early teens staying with you all a few summers, I have nothing but, fond memories of our times together, all of you so kind and caring, and also the Eldridge family reunions the laughter, the good times, the fun we had.*

*He is at peace now, and I'm sure Grandpa Joseph, and Grandma Minnie, my mother, and all other family members were there to greet him upon his arrival to heaven. Much Love to all of you,
Geraldine*

Geraldine Spears Moss - January 29, 2017 at 03:52 PM

DM

“ Dear "Aunt" Wilda, Bev, Trish, and Lola, I was so sorry to hear about "Uncle" Curley's death. I remember all those summer vacations at Aunt Betty and Uncle Lloyd's when we would end up at your house or a family get together and I got spend time with your girls and Brenda. I have memories of how much fun was had and I always enjoyed the feeling of being welcomed like family. I also thought that Brenda was lucky to have 2 Uncle Curleys while I didn't have any. Memories are important and they help keep that person alive in our mind and heart. I am keeping you all in my prayers. I know you will take comfort in the knowledge that he is at peace and I believe that he is surrounded by family members who went before him and while those of us on Earth are saying goodbye, in Heaven they are having a Welcome Home Family Reunion. May God Grant You Peace and Comfort during this time.

Love,
Donna Jean McMillion
New Orleans, LA

Donna McMillion - January 28, 2017 at 06:27 PM