



Benjamin "Ben" Harrison Howard

February 18, 1920 - December 30, 2020

Benjamin Harrison Howard went to be with his Lord and Savior, Wednesday, December 30, 2020 at the Missouri Veterans Home.

Ben was born at home in Oak Ridge, Missouri on February 18, 1920, to Benjamin H. Howard, Sr., and Pearl Tracy (Wills) Howard. His father had passed away only days prior to his birth on January 25, 1920, at the age of 29, due to the flu epidemic.

In 1925 his mother, Pearl Tracy Wills Howard married Mr. Ephrum Roberts. Mr. Roberts had four children, Joann, Beryl, Bobbie, and Patsy.

Being a member of a large family during the depression era presented its challenges. Ben was taken out of school on several different occasions to work on relatives' farms. Finally, in 1939, at a CCC Camp in Bunker, Missouri Ben attending school during the day, completed his schooling and graduated at age 20 from Central High School in 1940.

On November 24, 1942, Ben married Virginia Limbaugh. November 30, 1942, he was inducted into the Army; departing for Europe October 4, 1943 to serve his country in WWII. He was in the 3624 QM Truck Co., a transportation outfit attached to General Eisenhower's headquarters in London, England. Ben drove heavy trucks and served in England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland, and Germany. He was awarded a Bronze Star for the Rhineland Campaign, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Purple Heart.

Ben's tour of duty ended Christmas day, 1945. Upon returning home, he worked for McDowell Motor & Buchanan Buick before embarking on a 29-year career with National Life and Accident Ins. Co., retiring March of 1982. Ben stayed very active following his retirement. He was a rural mail carrier, sold real estate for Century 21, managed apartments in Alaska the winter of '85-'86, Superintendent at Juarez Petroleum for 4 years, and drove rental cars for both Enterprise and Honda in his early 90's.

Ben was a lover of the outdoors. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, canoeing, and going to the quiet of the country where he was raised. Ben had a great appreciation for music, listening to everything from country to classical. He also enjoyed strumming his guitar.

Ben was a life member of the VFW and a member of the American Legion.

Ben was devoted to his Lord. He read his Bible faithfully and lived out the word. He was a member of the Church of the Nazarene in Cape where he taught adult Sunday school and served on the church board.

Ben is survived by his daughters, Beverly Howard (Jim) Hart of Montrose, CO, and Rebecca Howard Sams of Cape Girardeau; 5 grandchildren, Christopher Ervin (Shirley) of Winston Salem, NC, Heather Hart (Larry) Clamp of Montrose, CO, Phillip Hart of Montrose, CO, Will Sams of Kearney, Nebraska, and Katy Sams of Cape Girardeau; 5 great grandchildren, Gunnison, Zachary, Joseph, and Greta-Jane Clamp, all of Montrose, CO, and Wolfgang Ervin of Winston Salem, NC; half-sister, Patsy Roberts Huntsman. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Virginia Howard, October 30, 1999; daughter, Jean Ellen Britz; three sisters, Jeanette Howard Fuqua, Imogene Howard Brown, and Vivian Howard Bradford; half siblings, Joanna Roberts Granger, Beryl Thomas Roberts and Bobbie E. Roberts.

A memorial service will be held at a later date at First Church of the Nazarene in Cape. In lieu of flowers memorials may be given to the SEMO Food Bank or the Salvation Army.

Cemetery

Lorimier Cemetery

835 Caruthers

Cape Girardeau, MO, 63701

Comments



“ I was amazed at Uncle Ben's life and all the things he managed to pack into it. He had a twinkle in his eye that was infectious especially when he was telling jokes. He was the only person in the world who called me Helen Clare and I always enjoyed spending time with him as little as it was. I wonder if he would qualify as our longest lived family member. My condolences to Beverly and Rebecca and their families.
Helen Clare Bradford Sprenke

Helen Sprenke - January 09 at 03:28 PM



“ So many memories of fishing and joking with Uncle Ben, he always had a smile. He along with Aunt Virginia we some of the greatest people I knew, very kind and loving and always had kind words. I remember many a good story and laugh with him and his exploits! You will be missed Uncle Ben, God Speed and see you on the other side.

John Landess III - January 08 at 05:17 PM



“ I had the opportunity to have Ben as a client several years ago. He was always such a great person to visit with...always pleasant, always witty, always just himself. My prayer is that God provides his family with the peace, comfort, and understanding at this time.

Ken Pemberton, Jr.

Kenneth C Pemberton Jr - January 04 at 04:35 PM



“ We got to know Ben at the Cape VA Home. Such a sharp man. Prior to the shut down due to Covid, my dad, Hooch Young, sat with Ben at same dining room table every day. They enjoyed each other's company. Sadly they are both gone now.

Susan Young Rosenthal - January 02 at 10:37 PM



“ A wonderful uncle gone but plenty of good memories remain. I loved watching him play frisbee with my own children when I took my mother Vivian down for a visit many years ago when Aunt Virginia was still with us.

Melinda

Melinda McElligott - January 02 at 05:38 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Melinda McElligott - January 02 at 05:36 PM



“ Ben's presence during his 100 plus years made the world a much better place. When we played our monthly music at the VA, I would always look for him in his black cowboy hat. He was always happy to see us and I was eager to talk with him. I was hoping to see him again soon and know i will be thinking of him when playing there again.

Gene King, (Member of Bob Dolle Group)

Gene King - January 01 at 02:46 PM



“ What a life well lived.

Amy Haertling - January 01 at 01:32 PM



“ I'm so sorry to hear of Ben's passing. Reading his obituary I learned he had a much fuller life than I ever knew. Ben and I worked at Century 21 together. He was a fine, kind man I enjoyed working with. My sincere condolences to his family.

Deborah Clifton - January 01 at 01:00 PM