



Alton Bray

October 25, 1919 - July 3, 2020

Alton Bray, at the age of 100 years, passed on to Heaven on Friday July 3, 2020 at the Chateau Girardeau in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He was born on October 25, 1919 in Fornfelt, Missouri to Luther Warner Bray and Ora Lee Templeton Bray.

Alton attended Fornfelt Public Schools where he graduated from high school in 1937. He graduated from Southeast Missouri Teacher's College (now Southeast Missouri State University) in 1941 with a Bachelor of Science in Education degree, with a focus on mathematics and physics.

Alton and his three brothers, played semi-pro baseball with the Big Bucks and the Capahas. He refereed basketball and umpired baseball for many years.

Alton taught mathematics and coached girls and boys basketball, from 1941 to 1942 at Benton High School.

From 1942 to 1943, Alton became a civilian radar instructor with the United States Air Force in Boca Raton, Florida.

In 1943 Alton returned to Cape Girardeau at Southeast, where he taught mathematics and physics as a part of the V-12 program. Alton married Martha Lou Dorris in 1944. Alton and Martha celebrated 66 years of marriage before

Martha's passing at the age of 87 years in 2011.

In 1946 he began serving as a purchasing agent at Southeast until 1951, when he was named Registrar at Southeast until his retirement in 1984.

In 1962, while at Southeast, Alton was instrumental in the purchase of an IBM mainframe computer system that was installed in the basement of Academic Hall. This achievement introduced the university to modern computing and it established a more efficient, accurate and rapid acquisition of records which was the main responsibility of Alton's division.

Alton served on several advisory committees at Southeast. He served on the board at the Baptist Student Center for over 40 years. He also served four years as secretary and four years as president of the Missouri Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

Alton demonstrated his Christian faith in every aspect of his life. He was a Sunday school teacher and close advisor to the First Baptist Church of Cape Girardeau.

He served as Master of St. Marks Lodge, Scottish Rite.

Alton and Martha are survived by their three children Ellen Louise Busch, Florissant Missouri, Mary Suzanne Newberry (John), Katy, Texas, Jeffrey Owen Bray (Debra), Chesterfield, Missouri; six grandchildren, Mark Christopher Busch, Barbara Ann Newberry-Smith (Jeremy), Brian Douglas Newberry (Jessica), Kyle Anthony Bray (Ashley), Haley Nicole Bray, Jordan Owen Bray; four great-grandchildren, Devin Christopher Busch, Madelyn Nicole Busch, Ryland Mcrae Rivas, Nathaniel Anthony Bray and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Because of safety concerns and the current pandemic, a private service will

be held with burial to follow.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made to the Baptist Student Center, P.O. Box 1923, Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63702 or to the Alton Bray Scholarship at Southeast Missouri University Foundation, 1 University Plaza, MS 7300, Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63701.

Cemetery Details

Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery

2315 Highway 61 North
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
(573) 334-1909
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Alton Bray.*



July 10, 2020 at 11:10 AM

NB

“ *I was blessed to be a niece of Alton Bray's who was born on his 25th birthday. Our special connection was one I have treasured my whole life and always will. I have spent a lifetime being grateful for him and being so proud of the difference he has made in the lives of hundreds of SEMO students, in this community and in his church. Thanks be to God for Alton Bray, a man who lived his faith and cared so deeply about others. As he asked me to do, I am not grieving but celebrating the end of his life journey and the beginning of his new eternal life once again with his beloved wife, my Aunt Martha.*

Nancy Bray - July 08, 2020 at 06:25 PM

EB

“ *We will miss our Daddy...Alton Bray so much but we know he is now in perfect peace in Heaven and reunited with our mother, Martha Bray. I have so many fond memories of times Daddy taught me the love of reading and playing baseball. He also taught how important it is to be kind and help others! Daddy, we miss you and love you so much!*
Your eldest daughter Ellen

Ellen Busch - July 08, 2020 at 01:59 PM

MN

“ My Daddy- Alton Bray was the absolute rock of our family! He was always available to his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren- loving them dearly. His nieces and nephews were also close to him and always loved. His nickname was “Sunshine” from the time he was a young boy and he was and is always our “Sunshine” ! He would want everyone to know that his source of strength was his faith in Jesus Christ. I will always cherish each moment of getting to have him as my Daddy! Mary

Mary (Bray) Newberry - July 08, 2020 at 01:00 PM

JH

Mary, your family is in my prayers. You are so blessed to have had him for so many years. May God bring you comfort in the days ahead! Jill Hess

Jill Hess - July 09, 2020 at 06:04 PM

DK

We will miss your daddy. I am praying for you to have comfort and peace in sweet memories. Until we meet again. Love in Christ.

Donna Davis Komorech - July 10, 2020 at 03:47 AM