



## Benny Lee Shell

October 6, 2013

Benny Lee Shell, 79, of Cape Girardeau, died on October 6, 2013, after a sixteen-year battle with leukemia. He was born to Loren and Ennis Owens Shell at Greenbrier, Missouri, on August 20, 1934. He married his college sweetheart, Shelby Ann Mouser, on October 26, 1957. She survives. Ben held both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Arts degrees from Southeast Missouri State University. Upon graduation with the undergraduate degree, he was inducted into the U.S. Army as a private and was assigned to Army Intelligence as an investigator. He chose to make the military a career, and became a Warrant Officer in 1963. His duty stateside was doing background checks on candidates for secret or top-secret clearances, and one of those included Astronaut Gus Grissom. With two tours in Germany, his status as a German and French linguist were utilized daily. His career afforded him many interesting activities--in Korea he was a guest/guard at a party for President Syngman Rhee. In Germany, he was a guard at a meeting of German Chancellor Adenauer and French President De Gaulle. His final military assignment was in Berlin, where he lived behind The Wall for three years. Upon retirement from the military, Ben returned to his background in education where he taught in the Learning Disabilities Center at Cape Central Junior High for fifteen years. He was a volunteer for many community activities and was a former board member when Habitat for Humanity was established in Cape Girardeau. Ben was a member of Centenary Methodist Church, and sang in the Chancel Choir as long as his health permitted. He was able to

travel extensively to all the continents except Antarctica. His love of sports included bowling, supporting Central Tigers, and cheering on the St. Louis Cardinals. Other survivors include a son, Loren of Cape Girardeau; a daughter, Laura of Las Vegas, Nevada; sisters-in-law, Linda (Bill) Ross of Fenton and Dee Vitt of St. Louis. He was especially fond of his nieces and nephews. Visitation will be today from 4 to 8 p.m. at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel. Funeral service will be Wednesday, October 9, 2013 at 10:30 a.m. at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel with Rev.'s David Conley and Karen Northdurft officiating. Burial will take place Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. at Mouser Cemetery in Marquand, MO. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to Centenary United Methodist Church or the Leukemia Society.

# Tribute Wall

GM

“ *Shelby we are so sorry to hear about your loss of Ben. You and your family are in our prayers*

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**Gene and Carolyn McCalister** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *Shelby, Loren, Laura and family: Although there is a difference in our ages, we have always considered Ben and you very, very dear friends. We will be unable to attend the services, due to doctor appointments, but you are in our in our prayers and forever in our hearts.*

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**Bryce and Dorothy March** - September 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ *Mr. Shell will be missed. I remember he and Mrs. Shell as my Junior High School teachers. Condolences to the family.*

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**Charles Griffith** - September 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ *Shelby and Kids We were so saddened to hear of Benny's passing. We pray that God will wrap his loving arms around you and comfort you all as you learn to live a new normal. If there is anything we can do please let us know and know that you are in our thoughts, heart, love and prayers. God bless Larry and Sonya*

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**Larry and Sonya Mauser** - August 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *Shelby, So sorry to hear about Benny. You are in our prayers.*

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**Jamie and Anita Hovis** - August 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ *Sorry for your lose*

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**cindy allgier** - August 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

EH

“ *Shelby, Dad & I can't be there for Ben's visitation or service, but I want you to know that Elzena has kept me up to date on Ben's condition & ultimate going to his eternal home & I have kept you all in my prayers for many days now & will continue to do so. Love you always, Ellen*

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**Ellen (Bradshaw) Hager** - August 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ *I'm so sorry we couldn't be there.*

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**Gloria and Hal Bishop** - August 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ *I'm so sorry we couldn't be there. You and the entire family are in our thoughts and prayers.*

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**Gloria and Hal Bishop** - August 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MO

“ *Thanks for all the memories Uncle Ben!*

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**Matthew Oakley** - August 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *My parents and I send our deepest condolences. We have always appreciated the hospitality he and Shelby have shown us at the trivia nights at Centenary UMC. You are in our prayers.*

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**John Brocato** - August 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM