



## Freeman Lewis

January 20, 1923 - December 8, 2017

Freeman Lewis, 94, passed away December 8, 2017 at his home in Saxony Village with his sons present.

Freeman was born January 20, 1923 to Fred and Ethel Miller Lewis on their farm east of Des Arc in Iron County, Missouri. He was predeceased by his siblings, Frank, Francis, Frieda (Truman Howard), Leta (Larry Bahn), and Bill. Bill's wife, Florence Felter Lewis, survives.

In 1938, the family moved to Cape Girardeau at the urging of Francis, who was attending college and living in a boarding house at 371 North Henderson. The owners wanted to sell and the Lewis family bought the house. Ethel made arrangements with the football coach, Abe Stuber, to feed the football team at the boarding house.

After graduating from Central High School in 1940, Freeman attended Southeast State College. In May 1942, learning that the Wimpy's hamburger stand, then located at the entrance to Arena Park, was for sale he and his parents bought the business.

On his 20th birthday Freeman enlisted in the Army Air Force. His parents and younger brother Bill ran the business in his absence.

After basic training in Clearwater, Florida, Freeman received advanced training in teletype operation and repair at Chanute Field, IL, and Fresno, CA. He arrived on Guam in 1944 and served in the 922nd Signal Company. Freeman's unit relayed messages about the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to the White House.

Shortly after Freeman's return from Guam, the city informed the Lewises of a plan for a new entrance to Arena park which would require demolition of the Wimpy's building. The Lewis family then bought the building across King's Highway and it became the home of Wimpy's Drive-In for the next 28 years.

All through the 50's and 60's, with their secret-recipe Wimpyburgers and homemade pies, Wimpy's was a popular destination for high school and college students as well as Cape families. In the early 1970's, with increasing competition, the family decided to sell the site to Famer's and Merchant's Bank for a new branch bank. Wimpy's had been in business 31 years.

Freeman's favorite pastime was golf. As a member of Cape Jaycees, he played a key role during '53 and '54 in building the Jaycee Golf Course. He played many rounds of golf there before becoming a charter member of the Kimbleland Country Club where he also enjoyed many rounds of golf. He was very proud of the four holes-in-one he made while golfing.

In September 1948, Freeman married Alice Regenhardt at Grace Methodist Church. They spent their lives together in Cape Girardeau for 68 years, until Alice passed away May 2, 2017. They were members of Centenary Methodist Church since their marriage. At Centenary, Freeman was a member of United Methodist Men and served as a church usher for many years. He also belonged to American Legion Post 63, Cape Jaycees, and the APO Fraternity.

Surviving are his sons Rob (Diane) and Jon (Susan), three grandchildren:

Sara (Thomas) Satterwhite, Angela (Justin) Morgan, and Stephen Lewis, two great-granddaughters Blake and Emily Satterwhite, and brother-in-law Don Regenhardt.

Visitation will be Wednesday, December 13, 2017 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel.

Memorial service will be Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. at Centenary United Methodist Church with Rev. David Conley officiating. Visitation will also be Thursday from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the church.

Private burial with military honors will be Thursday at Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be given to Centenary United Methodist Church.

# Cemetery Details

## Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery

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

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **13**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home  
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701  
(573) 334-1313  
[info@fordandsonsfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@fordandsonsfuneralhome.com)  
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

## Visitation

DEC **14**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Centenary United Methodist Church  
300 N Ellis St  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701-5524  
(573) 334-2869

# Tribute Wall

SV

“ Freeman was a special person and good friend. He will be missed a lot.

Perhaps the following saying will be of comfort to his family.  
"Death is not extinguishing the light. It is turning out the lamp because the dawn has come." By Tagori, a Bengali poet.

Sincerely,  
Sue Vogelsanger

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**Sue Vogelsanger** - December 13, 2017 at 09:17 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Freeman Lewis.



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December 12, 2017 at 06:19 PM

SM

“ Dear Lewis Family,

So sorry to hear about your Dad. Although I didn't get to see him on many occasions, always enjoyed his sweet nature and contagious smile. My Dad(Howard) always shared fond memories of the time he spent with his cousins in Des Arc. Thoughts and prayers for the family.

Susan Lewis Mehan

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**Susan Lewis Mehan** - December 11, 2017 at 12:49 PM

RW

“ Dear Lewis Family, my heartfelt sympathy to you. The Lewis family were part of many childhood/teen memories. The best hamburgers were always at Wimpy's. Your family was part of the American Legion and Auxiliary memories, especially the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. May your Christian faith bring you comfort.  
Rita Heimbaugh Weber

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**Rita Heimbaugh Weber** - December 10, 2017 at 03:24 PM

JD

“ Our thought and prayers are with your family today. Your parents were such fine neighbors on Jurie. Jim and I enjoyed getting to know them when they lived in the neighborhood. Freeman was a gentleman in every way...so kind and loving. Now he joins his love in heaven....a life well-lived. God bless you all!  
Jim and Susie Dufek

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**Jim and Susie Dufek** - December 10, 2017 at 01:01 PM

FP

“ Dear Robbie and Jon Allen, The world should always be a better place because a man has lived. Freeman Lewis made the world a better place in which to live. I spent eight years with Freeman at Wimpys. I will always be grateful to the Lewis family for the opportunities they provided me. Now rest in peace my friend in paradise with your lovely wife, Alice. God bless you and your family.  
Ford R. Phillips

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**Ford R. Phillips** - December 10, 2017 at 07:54 AM

BH

“ Dear Lewis Family:

*Freeman Lewis was a pillar of the community, providing Cape with many jobs over the decades. My brother, David Phelps, was one of his employees. Wimpy's made the best little burgers in the WORLD. To this day, I still get cravings for his unique Wimpy burgers. Many times on trips back to Cape to visit relatives, I would stop first at Wimpy's and get a bag full of those burgers and binge eat in joy. Sadly, I have never found another place anywhere to match those darn burgers. I can't stop craving those crazy little burgers with the mustard, pickle, onion relish mix on top. Yums! What I wouldn't pay for one now...*

*Wimpy's was THE place to gather and to be seen in my high school years in the 60's. He deserved every bit of success he had because it was well earned.*

*I'm sure you will miss him and my prayers are with you.*

*Betty (Phelps) Hellige*

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**Betty Hellige** - December 09, 2017 at 01:23 PM

SO

“ Dear Rob and family,

*So sad to hear of your dad's passing. Please know that you will be in my thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.*



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**Susie Pickett O'Connell** - December 08, 2017 at 11:28 PM