



## Harold Jesse Kesterson

April 19, 1925 - December 8, 2019

Harold Jesse Kesterson, 94, of Cape Girardeau, Missouri died Sunday, December 8, 2019 at Ratliff Care Center.

He was born April 19, 1925 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri to Jessie Edward and Alice Lee Parker Kesterson.

He and Sarah Eggers were married January 27, 1947 at Cape Girardeau, Missouri. She preceded him in death on December 26, 1979. He later married Marjorie Odom Smiley on September 17, 1982. She preceded him in death on October 5, 2019.

He served in the United States Navy in World War II.

He was a lifetime member of VFW Post 3838.

He was employed with Cape Girardeau Public Schools upon his retirement.

He was a member of Lighthouse Bible Baptist Church.

Survivors include his three step-daughters, Beverly (Dale) Ratliff, Sheila Wheeler and Teresa (Michael) Ratliff all of Cape Girardeau; one step-son, Butch (Karen) Smiley of Jackson, Missouri; six step-grandchildren, Amanda

(Christopher) Poston, Melissa (Joel) Lewis, Carissa (Dillon) Halbert, Andrew (Leslie) Ratliff, Caylee Wheeler and Clayton (Jordan) Ratliff; eight step-great-grandchildren, Sadie, Tessa, Rhett and Ian Poston, McKenna Ratliff, Eli Lewis and Jameson and Oliver Halbert; and two nephews, John (Sena) Odom of Scott City, Missouri and Doug (Karri) Kesterson of Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

He was preceded in death by his parents; first wife, Sarah Kesterson; wife, Marjorie Kesterson; two brothers, Wilbur "Bun" Kesterson and Paul Kesterson Sr.; and two sisters, Wilma Jean McKinney and Wanda Probst.

Visitation will be 11:00 am to 1:00 pm Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel in Cape Girardeau.

Funeral service will follow at 1:00 pm at the funeral home with the Rev. David Pringle officiating.

Burial will be at Cape County Memorial Park in Cape Girardeau, with full military honors.

Memorial contributions may be given to Teen Challenge Mid-America.

Online condolences may be made at [www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com](http://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com).

Ford & Sons Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

# 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 11. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel  
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

## Service

DEC 11. 1:00 PM (CT)

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel  
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

# Tribute Wall

JF

“ *Uncle Harold, you will be missed and we love you.*

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**Jerry & Linda Mowery& family** - December 13, 2019 at 11:43 AM

DE

“ *Dave Eggers lit a candle in memory of Harold  
Jesse Kesterson*



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**Dave Eggers** - December 10, 2019 at 06:50 PM

LN

“ *I'll always remember our rides at the Homecomers Fair and think of  
you when I see Taffy candy.*

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**Loyce Probst Pursley - Niece** - December 09, 2019 at 08:32 PM