



James Bowers

April 16, 2015

James L. Bowers, 86, of Cape Girardeau died Thursday, April 16, 2015, at Ratliff Care Center, where he was a resident for a year. He was born Oct. 21, 1928, on Hickory Ridge in Welch township, Cape Girardeau County, to George W. and Victoria Eakins Bowers. He and the former Dorothy Ann Farrar of Advance, Missouri, were married July 20, 1951 in Essex, Missouri. They were married 60 years when she preceded him in death in 2011. James was the oldest of 10 children and left school before graduation to help earn money for the family. He worked 12 years at Florsheim Shoe Co. He then worked 13 years at the old Marquette Cement Plant. During those years, he furthered his education with a GED certificate and also learned the radio- and television-repair trade. His daughters remember him waking up extra early to take the classes offered on the morning television. While at Marquette, he was financial secretary and treasurer of the United Cement Lime and Gypsum Workers Union, Local 164. He helped negotiate five contracts and was on the Grievance Committee and Safety Committee. When his job at Marquette disappeared, he was encouraged to attend college by his wife, Dorothy, and at age 41 a new world opened up for him. He completed his bachelor of science in education Dec. 16, 1973. While at Southeast Missouri State University, he pledged to Iota Lambda Sigma fraternity, a professional fraternity in industrial education. He taught at Cape Girardeau Central High School in the Industrial Arts Department and then moved to the Vocational and Technical School. He taught electronics and some adult night education

classes. He retired in 1990 after 17 years of teaching. For 15 years, James and Dorothy had a small business making rubber stamps and traveled to art and craft shows around the country, enjoying the camaraderie of fellow craftsmen and customers. James was a six-decades-long amateur radio license holder -- a HAM radio operator -- and worked with Cape Girardeau County emergency management during their field days. He could patch a call around the world to servicemen when that was the only way to contact them. James worked with the Cape Senior Center delivering Meals on Wheels and was a 32-degree Freemason member of the Harold O. Grauel No. 672 AF&AM. James was a lifelong proud Democrat, supporting and working for various candidates over the years. It has been said James never met a stranger and knew everything happening in three counties due to his coffee shop mornings at three different places. Survivors include his daughters, Barbara (Phil) Campbell of Cape Girardeau and Kimberly Bowers Schulz of Batavia, Ohio; two grandsons, Christopher James Campbell of Cape Girardeau and James Eric Schulz of Batavia; four sisters, Betty (Lloyd) Moore of Cape Girardeau, Mary (Nolan) Baker of St. Peters, Missouri, and Shirley (Carmen) Wilton and Bonnie Bowers, both of Cape Girardeau; a brother, Floyd (Bonnie) Bowers of Advance; two sisters-in-law, Wanda Bowers of Delta and Dorothy Bowers of Gordonville; and numerous nieces and nephews. He also was preceded in death by his parents and four brothers, Gene, Junior, Jessie and Lloyd Bowers. Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday, April 19, 2015 at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel in Cape Girardeau. The funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Monday, April 20, 2015 at the funeral home, with the Rev. Mark Anderson officiating. Burial will be in Morgan Memorial Park Cemetery in Advance. Memorial contributions may be given to the American Cancer Society research or Southeast Missouri Foodbank.

Tribute Wall

KJ

“ Please accept my deepest sympathy for I too know the pain of losing someone as important as a father. May your family find comfort as I have in knowing that our loving heavenly Father promises us that very soon he will 'wipe out every tear from our eyes, and death will be no more.' (Revelation 21:4) What a wonderful day that will be!

K. Jackson - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ Thinking of your family at this time of sorrow. I remember your dad's smile and his kind words to us as we were growing up next to your family. What an honor to know such a great man who never seemed to be in a rush and who always had time to talk. He was kind to all of us who lived near him. God Bless.

Andrea Rigdon Seabaugh - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ I'm sorry to hear of your loss, Barbara and Kim. Growing up next door I felt such comfort knowing your Mom and Dad were close. Heaven must be a bit brighter now that they are together again. Love and prayers to you and your family. Regina Rigdon

Regina Rigdon - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ Barb, Kim and family- All of the Rigdons are so sorry to hear of the passing of your father. I just remember him as such a kind soul. Even when I was very young I remember thinking that he was such a handsome man and your mother was so pretty. I remember particularly your Mother's sweet smile and her always saying that you have to have potatoes to build a meal around...isn't that crazy what you remember? I always remember too that I felt sorry for all of you living next door because the Rigdon house was often loud with laughter OR fights and you so patiently endured all of that. When I went to the front door for something I would SO hope they would invite me in because I loved to go in the house even if it was just for a short time!! I know that they had their little stamp business and if there are any of those left that you would consider parting with, I would love to purchase some of them as I make cards and scrapbook. Just know that neither of them will be forgotten and we grieve with you and pray that the wonderful memories you have of them both will remain with you and keep them close to you FOREVER. Will be continually keeping you in our thoughts and prayers. The Rigdons

Cindy Rigdon - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BV

“ Barb and Kim, I know this will leave a big hole in your lives, but he is with Dot now. Rejoice over the good times you shared with him and the entire family. I feel honored to have been included in so many events with your Dad and Mom. Wish I could have made the viewing or service, but it was not possible.

Betty Voss - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GE

“ I have so many fond memories of visits to Uncle James and Aunt Dorothy's home in the summer time growing up, as well as later events at "The Branch". I am sorry not to be there in person with the rest of the family to offer my condolences in person, Barb and Kim. What a fine man your father was! Much love to all.

Ginger Ellis - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM