



## James Woodrow "Woody" Niswonger

April 2, 2011

James Woodrow (Woody) Niswonger, 89, passed away Saturday, April 2, 2011 at his home in Blue Springs, MO. He was born May 29, 1921 in Kurreville, MO. He was a son of Givens O. and Rada Niswonger. He and Mary Belle Ford were married April 5, 1942 at Jackson, MO. She preceded him in death November 25, 2001. He graduated from Jackson High School where he was captain of both the football and basketball teams. He was inducted into the U.S. Army on June 7, 1943 and was honorably discharged on December 24, 1945 as a Staff Sergeant. He served his country in the Pacific Theatre. He moved his family to Cape Girardeau in 1957 and worked for American Optical as a manager for over 20 years. He also worked at the SE Missourian and Tom Meyer Realty. He came full circle and retired from Eye Consultants in 1983. He is a member of Lynwood Baptist Church in Cape Girardeau along with the VFW and American Legion. His loving survivors include daughters, Donna McClain, Blue Springs; Nancy Gerecke (Bob), Blue Springs; five grandchildren: Robin Drum of Cape Girardeau, Julie Upchurch of Scott City, Rob Gerecke, Dave Gerecke, and Bryan Gerecke, all of Blue Springs; 9 great grandchildren, and 8 great great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife of almost 60 years, a great granddaughter, 3 brothers and 3 sisters. Visitation will be from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home in Cape Girardeau. Funeral services will be at 11:00 AM Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at the funeral home in Cape Girardeau with the Rev. Mark Anderson officiating. Burial will follow at Cape County

Memorial Park in Cape Girardeau with military rites by the Missouri Honor Guard and VFW Post 3838. Expressions of sympathy may take the form of contributions to the Niswonger Church Cemetery Fund. Sympathy messages may be sent to the family on-line at [www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com](http://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com). Ford & Sons Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

JR

“ Donna, My deepest sympathy to you and your family for the loss of your dad. I don't know if you remember me, but we were friends in elementary school. I remember your parents for their friendly ways. I had totally lost track of you and your family. I'll keep you and your family in my prayers. Joan Borgfield Runnels

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**Joan Borgfield Runnels** - August 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ Donna and Nancy: I am very sorry to here about the loss of your dad. As you both know Woody was a good friend and neighbor of mine. I would have wrote in the guest book earlier but I didn't know Woody's first name. I have tomatoes now. I know Woody would enjoy them. Last year I gave him some and he really appreciated them. I always enjoyed visiting with Woody and listening to his stories about the war, his wife, kids and grandkids. He gave me many helpful tips on gardening. Ironically, I lost my dad this year also, and last year I lost my mom. I often though of Woody as my adopted dad when he lived in Grain Valley. I just wanted to let you know I am sorry for your loss. steve loecker i know that woody enjoyed flowering moss, impatients, hummingbirds,zennias and morning glory. i planted impatients this year, in woody's memory and they are doing quite well...

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**steve loecker** - May 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Just a note to send my sympathy to the family. I went to First Baptist with Woody and his family and he was a dear friend. I treasure his memory and send my sympathy to his children.

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**Jane Cooper Stacy** - May 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ I just want to express my sympathy to the family, especially Nancy and Donna. I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers at this time. Love and prayers, Ellen Bray Busch

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**Ellen Bray Busch** - May 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ I am sorry for your loss. I got to know Woody and Mary when I was a sophomore in college. They opened their home to house college students in the basement. I, and my friend Eddie, moved in and spent that year (1971/72) in their basement. Many was the time we would come home from class and find a pot of beans, a cake, pie, or another dish sitting on the stove for us. After that, I lost track of them until I moved back in the area to pastor FBC, Millersville. Many times we ran across each others paths during that time. I truly admired Woody. He was a great man. May God bless you all in your loss. But, you can trust in the Lord that he was a Godly man and a fine Christian. I will be praying for you all. Previous appointments prohibit me from coming to the funeral. Rev. Daniel L. Hale

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**Rev. Daniel L. Hale** - May 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM