



Melvin Nelson Kuehle

January 22, 1923 - March 6, 2019

Melvin Nelson Kuehle, 96, passed away March 6, 2019, at his home in Cape Girardeau, MO.

He was born January 22, 1923, in Tilsit, MO, son of Albert E. and Anna E. (Meier) Kuehle.

Melvin spent his childhood in Cape Girardeau. He attended Central High School until his senior year and then graduated from Charleston High School in 1940.

A World War II veteran, Melvin entered the Army Air Corp in November, 1942, and proudly served his country as a corporal in the Army Aviation Engineers, 860th Battalion in the South Pacific. After an honorary discharge in 1946, Melvin married his sweetheart, Della Catherine Millay of Owensboro, KY, with whom he had fallen in love with through letters exchanged during the war.

Melvin and Della (Catherine to her friends) made their home in Cape Girardeau where he worked with his parents at their restaurant and gas station, The Home Plate Cafe, located on the Missouri side of the old Mississippi River Bridge. Melvin then embarked on a 38-year career as a fuel transport driver with Kelso Oil Co., later Commercial Transport from which he retired in 1986. During his time with Commercial, he was honored for driving 3 million miles without an accident or a ticket. He was also a union steward and business agent for the local Teamster's union.

During his retirement years, Melvin was very active. He worked for several years for his brother, Harold Kuehle, in the engraving business Harold

operated. Melvin was proud to be an active member of the local VFW Chapter #3838 and held various leadership positions. He was instrumental in helping to acquire the new building for the chapter. He also served as a trustee and for over 20 years served as the VFW Color Guard Commander. Melvin was a member of Grace United Methodist Church and enjoyed attending bible class with several close friends.

Melvin is survived by his wife of 72 years, Della; two daughters: Sandra Graham, Karen Crain (Tom Armbruster); a son, Keith Kuehle (wife Linda); four grandchildren: Amanda Webb (fiancé Jerry Merryman, his daughters Sydney and Brooklyn), Erica Graham, Kara Graham, and M. Bryan Crain (wife Lauren). He recently was blessed with a great-granddaughter, Emmy Crain. Melvin was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Glenn and Harold Kuehle.

Friends may call Thursday March 14th, 2019 at Ford and Sons Mount Auburn Funeral Home from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. Memorial service will immediately follow. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery with full military honors.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested memorial contributions be made to the VFW 3838 Local Veteran's Relief Fund.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary Cemetery

1101 Perry Avenue
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 14. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

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

Service

MAR 14. 2:00 PM (CT)

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home
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Tribute Wall

BH

“ Sandra and I have been friends since 8th grade when I moved to Cape. I spent many hours with Sandra in her home and watched Karen and Keith grow up too. Melvin was always the kindest man and included me in lots of family bar b q’s and his fabulous chicken!! He was also lovely to me when my father passed in 1968. Sandra and I still maintain our long friendship with phone calls and visits to our homes. My condolences to all the family and I share in your grief! Becky Gragg Holland from Woodland, California.

Becky Gragg Holland - March 23, 2019 at 05:34 PM



“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Melvin Nelson Kuehle.



March 12, 2019 at 05:14 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Melvin Nelson Kuehle.



March 10, 2019 at 10:24 AM

JS

“ *Catherine and family,
Gail called to tell me about Melvin.... Sure thinking about all the
good times y'all had with Bud and Bettie! Lots of memories of the
Kuehle family—the whole crew when we'd have picnics.... I sure do
miss them!
Love and prayers for all of you! Everyone loved Melvin and I know
all of you will miss him...
Hugs,
Judy Bollinger Smith.*



Judy Bollinger Smith - March 09, 2019 at 05:28 PM

LP

“ *Visiting with Uncle Melvin was always a pleasure. His upbeat,
positive and caring attitude was uplifting. I know he will be greatly
missed. Sympathies to Aunt Catherine and all of their wonderful
family.*

Linda Millay Powe - March 09, 2019 at 03:15 PM

SU

“ *I remember your sweet father as our good neighbor for many years.
Our thoughts are with Sandra, Karen and Keith.*

--Susan, Hunter, Chris and Larson Stiegemeyer

Susan - March 09, 2019 at 09:33 AM

MH

“ *Melvin was a very fine man,he was always good to me. My dad and him worked together for over thirty five years and they shared many stories! Rest in piece my friend*

Mr. Kim Hindman - March 09, 2019 at 07:54 AM