



William "Bill" East

May 16, 2011

William Franklin "Bill" East, 78, of Cape Girardeau passed away peacefully Monday, May 16, 2011, one day shy of his 59th wedding anniversary, at Southeast Hospital, following a courageous battle with cancer. He was born Dec. 14, 1932, in Mount Vernon, Ill., to John Jefferson and Aurelia Young East Sr. At the age of 3 his family relocated to Cape Girardeau. Bill attended St. Mary Grade School and was a 1950 graduate of St. Mary High School. He and Nancy Ligon were married May 17, 1952, at St. Mary's Cathedral. Bill served in the U.S. Air Force from January 1953 to January 1957 with the 326th Fighter Interceptor Squadron at Grandview Air Force Base. Following his service he was an airplane mechanic at the Cape Girardeau airport while continuing his education. He graduated from Southeast Missouri State University with a bachelor's degree in education. He received a master's degree in guidance counseling from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He began his career as an industrial arts teacher at Jackson High School and later became the first guidance counselor at R.O. Hawkins Junior High in Jackson. He continued his work as a counselor at Central High School in Cape Girardeau in the 1970s where he remained until his retirement in 1989. Some of his fondest memories were of working sporting events and being senior class counselor and faculty adviser for the senior prom. After retirement he enjoyed his time working alongside his son-in-law at Pagoda Gardens restaurant. He was a member of St. Mary's Cathedral, Elks Lodge 639, American Legion Post 63, MSTA and Knights of Columbus Council 1111. In

addition to his wife, Nancy, he is survived by his children, Pam (Steve) Raney, Debbie (Sam) Prasanphanich, Gary (Sherry) East, all of Cape Girardeau, and Tina (Everett) Hey of Jackson; a sister, Betty June (Stan) Dougan, of Berlin, Md.; 17 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was eagerly awaiting two more great-grandchildren later this year. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Charles and J.J. East Jr. Friends may call 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, May 20, 2011 at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home. Parish prayers will be at 7 PM followed by an Elks service. The funeral will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 21, 2011 at St. Mary's Cathedral, with the Rev. Tom Kiefer officiating. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery with full military rites by Missouri Honors Team. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Tribute Wall

AB

“ *William "Bill" East*

AI "Blue" Blumenberg - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

VW

“ *Mr. East was the best counselor any student could have. He listened and tried his best to attend to our needs. My prayers go to the family.*

Verbal Lewis Walter - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ *Mrs. East and family. I'm sorry to hear of Mr. East passing. Mr East was my shop teacher in high school. I graduated in 64. He was always my favorite teacher. Once again I'm sorry for your loss.*

Joe Koehler - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ *Gary, so sorry to hear about your father. Just wanted you to know that I am thinking of you, Cathie*

Cathie Campbell Larmie - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ *NANCY AND FAMILY, OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES AT THIS TIME.*

CAPE GIRARDEAU HONDA - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ NANCY AND FAMILY I AM SO SORRY TO READ OF BILL'S PASSING. I HOPE YOUR HAPPY MEMORIES CAN HELP HEAL YOUR BROKEN HEARTS. NANCY I DON'T KNOW IF YOU REMEMBER ME OR NOT WE WORKED TOGETHER AT ZICKFIELD'S GIFT BOX WAY BACK WHEN. LOVE TO ALL OF YOU. JENNIE

JENNIE BRANT NOEL - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM