



Lester Watkins

March 11, 1926 - July 18, 2008

Lester "Gene" Watkins 82, of Bloomfield, passed away 8:15 p.m. Friday, July 18, 2008 at Bloomington Hospital.

Born March 11, 1926 in Bloomington, he was the son of Frank H. and Bessie (Bingham) Watkins.

A veteran of the United States Navy, serving in the Philippines during World War II, seaman first class Watkins was awarded the Victory Medal, Asiatic Pacific Area Campaign medal, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon. He was a farmer, having worked the land in the area all of his life. He worked for the railroad, Pioneer, and assisted with graves for Jenkins & Sons Funeral Home. Driving the school bus for Solsberry and Bloomfield school districts for 52 years, he got much enjoyment from all the children that rode his school bus. He was a member of the American Legion post 196 in Bloomfield, former trustee of the Worthington VFW, Odd Fellows, Elnora Conservation Club, former Greene County Surveyor, former Greene County Commissioner, Democratic precinct Committeeman, and the Director of Greene County Farm Bureau Insurance.

Surviving relatives include: his wife, Virginia (McMurry) Watkins, whom he married May 6, 1989; four daughters, Nancy Ferguson and husband Sam of Ellettsville, Najean Judy and husband Todd of Plainfield, Natalie Watkins of Bloomfield, and Nyla Rose Hamilton of Valdosta, Georgia; one stepson, Charles Bennett and wife Cheryl of Bloomfield; one brother, Clyde (Brownie) Watkins of West Lafayette; two sisters, Delores Sullivan and Glapha Watkins

both of Elnora; grandchildren, Laura Kay Rose and husband Steven, Jason Ferguson, Matt Ferguson, Penny Flythe, Jenny McDaniel, Derrik Judy, Alex Judy, Justin Bennett, Keith Bennett, and Travis Roach; great, grandchildren, Megan Ferguson, Jacob Ferguson, Tyler Ferguson, Taylor Ferguson, Samuel Ferguson, Travis Ferguson, Katie Flythe, Jake Flythe, Brittney McDaniel, and Bradley A. McDaniel; one great, great, grandchild, Mallory Ferguson; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife, Frieda Jeanette (Sullivan) Watkins in 1988, and one son, Nolan Gene Watkins in 1989.

Funeral services will be conducted 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 23, 2008 at Jenkins & Sons Funeral Home in Bloomfield, with Rev. Billy Ed Hostettler and Rev. Galen Judy officiating. Interment will be in Calverville cemetery in rural Bloomfield.

Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday and 1 hour prior to services Wednesday at the funeral home.

The family asks that all memorial contributions be made to Calverville cemetery in care of Jenkins & Sons Funeral Home.

Online condolences to the family are available at www.jenkinsfuneralhomes.com.

Tribute Wall

LE

“ Virginia, & Family, So sorry to hear about Gene. We have such great memories of him at our old auction barn and when we would see you out and about. He always had a smile and brought a smile! Love and Prayers, Steve, and Leatha Hillenberg

Leatha - August 01, 2008 at 08:19 AM

JD

“ Gene drove my son to school and home everyday as he had many children over many many years. He will be sadly missed. My prayers are with his family.

Julie Draper - July 31, 2008 at 12:23 PM

JE

“ Virginia and family - Sorry to hear of your loss. Always hold close your memories, as they can never be taken away. I will always remember riding the bus and everyone was excited when Gene's bus would pull up behind us. We always got him to do his teeth trick. May God give you all comfort during this time. God Bless! Jim, Janna & Elijah Easton

Janna (Myers) Easton - July 22, 2008 at 10:36 AM

KF

“ Najean -
You are in our thoughts and prayers. Your dad was a great man and I will never forget the years our family spent on the bus...sometimes in the back seat, but mostly in the front... Take care.
Kathy

Kathy Wells Fradette - July 21, 2008 at 11:13 PM

MA

“ *Jake sorry for your loss, your in our thoughts.*

melissa arthur - July 20, 2008 at 01:48 PM

LB

“ *Charlie and family, Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.*

Larry and Beverly Burris - July 20, 2008 at 11:14 AM