



Ernest Durrell Free

May 30, 1917 - November 23, 2016

Ernest Durrell Free, a resident of Wynne, Arkansas, departed this life, Wednesday, November 23, 2016. He was born, May 30, 1917 in Vardaman, Mississippi, the son of sharecropper William Jackson Free and Loudine Vanlandingham.

Ernest joined the Army Air Corp in 1941 where he served as a flight engineer on a B24 Liberator and completed his 25 missions. Upon his discharge he attended Mississippi State University where he obtained a BS in Agriculture. He left school and relocated with his wife, Dean and 2 daughters to Wynne where he taught veterans agriculture in the Vanndale schools. He started Wynne Flying Service in Arkansas. He was instrumental in the development of the Wynne airport and served as President of the airport Commission for over 25 years. He started the Farmers Supply company which served as a hub for off season farmers to engage in billiards, ping pong, and dominos and developed the first white cotton doffer which was sold and distributed throughout the cotton growing industry. He served on the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission Board, District Governor of the Lions Club, District Governor of MS Agriculture and Industrial Board and served Cross County as their Red Cross representative for over 50 years. He was Vice President of the Delta Highlands Region and was instrumental in creating interest that eventually became Village Creek State Park, Arkansas's largest.

He was preceded in death by wife, his parents, and siblings.

Ernest is survived by his two daughters: Judy Palmer and husband Rick, of Cherry Valley, Susan Mixon and husband Daryl, of Mt View, 2 brothers: Roy Free of Batesville, MS, Ray Free of Houston, MS, 4 grandchildren Kathy Frankenstein Halfspring, Nicki Rolley Thielen, Carolyn Frankenstein Caubble, and Wendy Rolley Schroepfel, 6 great grandchildren and companion Evelyn Landers.

Visitation will be held Monday at Wynne Baptist Church from 1 PM to 2 PM with funeral services to follow at 2 PM. Interment will be held at Cogbill Cemetery in Wynne, Arkansas.

Memorials may be made to Wynne Baptist Church, 1200 Bridges Avenue, Wynne, Arkansas 72396 or First United Methodist Church of Wynne, 800 N. Falls Blvd, Wynne, Arkansas 72396.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 28. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Wynne Baptist Church
1200 East Bridges Ave.
Wynne, AR 72396

Funeral service

NOV 28. 2:00 PM (CT)

Wynne Baptist Church
1200 East Bridges Ave.
Wynne, AR 72396

Interment

NOV 28 (CT)

Cogbill Cemetery
Wynne, AR

Tribute Wall

LT

“ *Judy*
So, sorry to hear about your Dad's
passing...Thinking of you & yours..
Linda James Thomas



Linda Thomas - November 30, 2016 at 02:10 AM

LF

“ *Love, Monica Free Vunk and Jerrye Teal Free*
purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the
family of Ernest Durrell Free.



Love, Monica Free Vunk and Jerrye Teal Free - November 28,
2016 at 10:26 AM

SY

“ *What a fine, kind man! I'll miss you Mr. Ernest.*

Sheila Parsley Young - November 27, 2016 at 02:37 AM

GS

“ *Mr. Earnest was our gracious friend and neighbor all my life and I still fondly remember him taking me quail hunting when I a kid. Mr. Earnest was a gentleman with a zest for life and we will miss him. Grace and peace to all the Free family from the Spence family.*

*The Spences
Greg Alisa Tal & Cole
Sharon Spence Langley
Van*

Greg Spence - November 26, 2016 at 09:59 PM

AW

“ *So sorry for your loss...I know you all will miss him. I know you all will have great memories to share. I would like to have met him when Terry(my son) went out there last October; but, it was to early when we went through going to the airport in Memphis.*

Anne Wright - November 26, 2016 at 09:11 PM

BA

“ *We are so sorry for your loss. We were very honored to meet & visit with Mr. Ernest earlier this summer. He was such a pleasant man, and we know he will be missed greatly by all who loved him.*



Becky Arender - November 26, 2016 at 02:02 PM

BA

Steve & Becky

Becky Arender - November 26, 2016 at 02:03 PM

TB

“ Your daddy was one of the best generations that afforded all of us the freedom we enjoy and made our childhood as wonderful as it was growing up in Wynne. Our neighborhood was close knit and we are blessed to have had parents that loved us and raised us to be the people that we are today.
You both will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Tanya Kinman Baldwin - November 26, 2016 at 02:00 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ernest Durrell Free.



November 26, 2016 at 09:08 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ernest Durrell Free.



November 25, 2016 at 10:09 PM

PN

“ Mr. Free was a great friend of mine for the 43 years I lived in Wynne. Our friendship started because we both went to Mississippi State.

Paul Nichols - November 25, 2016 at 06:14 PM