



Otto Boeckmann

December 24, 1917 - March 7, 2011

Otto J. Boeckmann, died on March 7, 2011, surrounded by his family, he was 93 years of age.

Mr. Boeckmann was born December 24, 1917 at his parent's rural home on the banks of the L'Anguille River in Western Cross County, Arkansas. Mr. Boeckmann lived his entire life in Cross County; he was the son of Henry C. Boeckmann, Sr. and his wife, Rose Mary (nee Bieker) Boeckmann, who established their home and farm in Cross County in 1913.

Mr. Boeckmann married the former Margaret Pauline Hess on April 3, 1945, who survives him. They are the parents of Otto Joseph (Joe) Boeckmann, Jr., Phillip R. (Randy) Boeckmann and Kathey Boeckmann, Richard E. (Gene) Boeckmann and Beth Boeckmann, Gerald W. (Jerry) Boeckmann and Renee Boeckmann, Raymond T. (Ray) Boeckmann and Jeannie Boeckmann, Carolyn B. Carter, Rose Mary (Mrs. Henry) Damron, Elizabeth "Betty" (Mrs. Cary) Latham, Martha (Mrs. Joe) Dooley, Paulette (Mrs. Mac) McClanahan, all of Wynne, and Joyce (Mrs. John) Albertson of Roland, Arkansas. Mr. Boeckmann is also survived by 21 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren, and 11 step-grandchildren.

Mr. Boeckmann is also survived by brother, William "Bill" Boeckmann, and sisters, Edith (Mrs. Kenneth) Buenerkemper, Joan (Mrs. Paul) Hess, and Pauline (Mrs. Arthur) Davis.

Mr. Boeckmann was preceded in death by one daughter, Teresa Lynn Boeckmann; two brothers, Henry C. Boeckmann, Jr. and Charles P.

Boeckmann; two sisters, Elizabeth "Beth" (Mrs. Sam) Frein and Cecilia (Mrs. Melvin) Diener; ; and two grandsons, Logan T. Boeckmann and Don Carter. Mr. Boeckmann was educated in the rural school system of Cross County, attending the Gailey School in his community, and following his veteran service was awarded a high school diploma from the Wynne High School graduating class of 1935. The diploma was presented to him by his son, Gene Boeckmann, President of Wynne School Board. Mr. Boeckmann was veteran of World War II, having served in the Pacific Theater from 1941 to 1944. He participated in the ferocious and pivotal Battle of Buna Mission, which upon the defeat of the Japanese, secured the island of New Guinea, and ended the threat of the Japanese to Australia. During this embattlement, he received battlefield advancement to the rank of Sargent and among his other various medals and decorations, he received two bronze stars. Like many WWII veterans, the actual medals were never presented, however, on the occasion of the Golden wedding anniversary celebration of Mr. and Mrs. Boeckmann on April 3, 1995; these military decorations were conferred by order of President Bill Clinton. Mr. Boeckmann was lastly stationed in Australia serving in the military police and was discharged with the rank of Corporal.

Placed in the casket with Mr. Boeckmann are stones from the shores of New Guinea and Australia, presented to the family for this purpose by the United States Ambassadors of New Guinea and Australia. These stones commemorate Otto's connection with his friends and comrades who perished in battle. The Ambassador for New Guinea also presented a lapel pin for his burial as special thanks for his service in that nation.

Otto Boeckmann was rice and soybean farmer until his retirement. In the 1960's, Otto and his brother Henry Boeckmann, Jr., operated a duck hunting club on their farmlands. The members consisted of politicians and businessmen from Memphis. On one occasion, a guest named Elvis Presley hunted with Otto, who neither knew of nor recognized him. The next day, Elvis sent word how much he enjoyed his day hunting and no one made any fuss or treated him in any special manner.

Otto Boeckmann was a loving son, husband and father, and a loyal brother and friend. Throughout his life, Otto never used profanity nor swear words. He was always kind and gentle with his family. His reproach to his children was "I wish you wouldn't do that" or a thump on the head with his finger for emphasis. He was respected by his family and friends and will be greatly missed.

Mr. Boeckmann was an active member of St. Peter's Catholic Church in Wynne and was a member of the Knights of Columbus, attaining the 4th degree.

Visitation will be held at Kernodle Funeral Home on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, from 6 to 8 PM with Rosary beginning at 7 PM.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Peter's Catholic Church on Thursday, March 10, 2011 at 10 AM, with military honors and burial to follow in the family's plot at Johnson Cemetery.

Tribute Wall

SH

“ Great tribute to Uncle Otto. I have only fond memories of him. He was a wonderful person. I enjoyed reading some things that I did not know about him.

Samantha Hess-Coker - May 11, 2011 at 09:23 PM

LR

“ Family, Some time has passed since Mr. Otto's passing, however, I wanted to express the love and respect that our family had for this wonderful man. He left a great legacy which is seen through his children and family. We know you will miss him as will many others.
Lamar and Family

Lamar Rolland - March 27, 2011 at 04:34 PM

DP

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you each day forward.
Remember all the small memories, as well as the large ones.

Danny & Judy Pufahl - March 13, 2011 at 07:36 PM

JP

“ My deepest sympathies to your entire family in the loss of Mr. Boeckmann.

Julie Staggs Peacock - March 12, 2011 at 03:34 PM

SG

“ To all of you that were so much a part of our lives growing up, the entire Scanlan family sends our prayers and best wishes. Our memories are what keeps our loved ones with us. We've all been very blessed to keep our parents into their golden years, I know Otto is smiling down on all of you now with great pride and praying for you too.

Sandra Scanlan Green - March 12, 2011 at 01:09 PM

JS

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.

Jerry and Carolyn Shoemaker - March 11, 2011 at 06:23 PM

KT

“ Joan and Family and Gene and family, I am sorry for your loss. May God grant you comfort during this time.

Kim Thompson - March 11, 2011 at 05:15 PM

GR

“ My Aunt, Elizabeth Riedmueller, married Clarence Boeckmann. They lived in Marche, AR and are now deceased. They,too, had a large family. I wonder if Otto & Clarence were kin ? Otto's obituary was most impressive. You must be proud of him.
My sincere sympathy,
George [Buddy] Riedmueller

George [Buddy] Riedmueller - March 11, 2011 at 05:02 PM

RJ

“ Mr. Gene,
Thinking and praying for you all at this time of sorrow. God Bless You.

Rayda Jackson - March 10, 2011 at 06:51 PM

SR

“ Dear Boeckmann Family,
We are so sorry for the loss of your father. We will be praying for you all during this time.

Sandy & Bobby Roberts - March 10, 2011 at 04:51 PM

SM

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Mr. Boeckmann was a great man. May God be with all of you during this difficult time. God Bless.

Sandy Beshears Mashburn - March 10, 2011 at 10:26 AM

LS

“ It doesn't seem like 60 years since we would come to your home for Mother N Dad to play cards and always make fudge. Mom and Dad always spoke highly of you and Otto, though we grew apart as the years passed, May God be with you at this time
Larry Slocum and Linda Carwell

LARRY SOCUM, SR - March 10, 2011 at 09:46 AM

JM

“ May the peace which comes from the memories of love shared, comfort you now and in the days ahead.

Joanna Draper Metzger - March 10, 2011 at 09:30 AM

CB

“ My thought and prayers are with you all at the difficult time in your lives.

Connie Bailey - March 10, 2011 at 09:09 AM

CW

“ We are thinking of you at this time, and pray for God's peace and comfort for all of the family, Mr. Otto was a wonderful person to know and will be missed greatly.

Clay & Pat Whaley - March 10, 2011 at 12:48 AM

SV

“ I send my deepest sympathies to the family you all will be in our prayers.

Shelly & Roy Vance - March 09, 2011 at 10:42 PM

RD

“ Roy remembers going to the Boeckman farm as a small boy & playing baseball. He remembers with fondness visiting with Mr. Boeckman & all of the family. We are so sorry for your loss. The last time we saw Mr. & Mrs. Boeckman was a few years ago at the Doherty family reunion at the park. You all will be in our thoughts & prayers. Roy & Donna Doherty

Roy & Donna Doherty - March 09, 2011 at 09:40 PM

JB

“ Our deepest sympathy. Jason, Christy and Matthew Banton

Jason Banton - March 09, 2011 at 08:03 PM

WE

“ To all of Mr. Otto's family: I feel privileged to have known him. Among his many life's accomplishments, he raised some very decent children. Mrs. Margaret, my sincerest condolences and love to you and your family. May God bless you all.

Wayne Ellis - March 09, 2011 at 06:49 PM

BB

“ *Our deepest sympathies.All our love.*

Bruce ,Janet, Jess Beck - March 09, 2011 at 05:34 PM

GL

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Love Greg, Belinda and Jennifer*

Greg and Belinda Latham - March 09, 2011 at 04:11 PM

BH

“ *It was an honor knowing Mr. Otto. Know that the Boeckmann Family is in our Thoughts & Prayers during this time.....*

Brad & Billie Harrell - March 09, 2011 at 11:17 AM

BH

“ *Otto Boeckmann*

Brad & Billie Harrell - March 09, 2011 at 11:15 AM

JY

“ *Jerry and I were saddened to read about the passing of Mr Otto. What a wonderful man and what a wonderful family. We pray comfort for all. Sheila & Jerry*

Jerry & Sheila Young - March 09, 2011 at 11:06 AM

CM

“ *Gene and all the brothers and sisters , sending our condolences.*

Charlotte and Jim Meredith - March 08, 2011 at 07:30 PM

SO

“ Hi Martha,
We were saddened to hear about Uncle Otto passing away. Virginia and I were just talking about him Sunday. We are praying for you and the entire family.
Sincerely, Steve and Virginia

Steve and Virginia Orick - March 08, 2011 at 06:18 PM

ML

“ From Doug, Michelle, Grant and Amelia our deepest sympathies.

Michelle Loveday - March 08, 2011 at 05:50 PM

JP

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Juanita Pruitt - March 08, 2011 at 05:11 PM

DA

“ I am thinking about all of you right now. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Donna Smith Aven - March 08, 2011 at 04:34 PM

JE

“ So sorry for your loss. Your family will be in our prayers.

jeannine - March 08, 2011 at 02:20 PM

LC

“ THINKING OF ALL OF YOU AT THIS SAD TIME IN YOU LIVES.
PRAYERS

LINDA CARWELL - March 08, 2011 at 01:00 PM

BJ

“ We are deeply sorry to hear of your loss. Mr. Boeckmann was a true inspiration to his family, his community and his friends. You have our deepest sympathy and are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. With much sympathy: Carl and Beverly Johnson, Greg Johnson, Brian and Kim Rushing-Johnson and family, Valerie and Derrick Cathey and family.

Brian Johnson - March 08, 2011 at 12:58 PM

KT

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to you! Mr. Otto was a very extraordinary man and will be greatly missed. May God Bless the family with lots of love during this time of mourning.
Love always The Thurman-Wilkens family

kelly Thurman-Wilkens - March 08, 2011 at 11:44 AM