



Gene Estel Lichliter

April 6, 1931 - February 16, 2021

Gene Estel Lichliter peacefully passed to a higher world on February 16th, 2021 at his residence in Hot Springs Village, Arkansas. Very much like the John Deere tractors on the family farm in southern Illinois, he could work and keep running all day long. He did so until the end and like we must all do, just ran out of gas.

Born April 6th, 1931 in Vergennes, Illinois to George Elijah Lichliter and Hallie Atkins Lichliter, he was raised in the way of all farmers. The commitment to work and a deep respect for the land and the families that farmed were guiding traits for his entire life. He married Dorothy Colleen Williams on September 6th, 1950 and immediately embarked on a very prosperous career with the F.W. Woolworth company that spanned over 40 years. It was a journey that took him, Dorothy and the kids to many cities including Kansas City, Oklahoma City, Cairo, Bossier City, Bowling Green, Granite City, St. Louis, Memphis, Dallas, Atlanta and a most thankful end in Sunset Hills, Missouri when he retired. His first retirement move and a most fruitful one, was to Hot Springs Village, Arkansas.

Although the moves stopped, the work did not. Gene's new-found career was now steeped in volunteerism and landscape design, Habitat for Humanity, Village Christ of the Hills Methodist Church, Master Gardner's, Men's Garden Club and garden/plant societies of every description. In virtually every one of these he was recognized as Volunteer of the Year at a minimum and served on many boards. It is neigh impossible to go far in the Village without seeing the results of his many hours of work and planning at the many golf courses, Veteran's Memorial and the Memorial Garden at his church. It is the energy and enthusiasm put into all the organizations for which he will long be remembered by the very many lives in touched along the way.

Gene was not all work and play though, because his ultimate reason for being was family. For many years, the blue Cobalt bringing noise and chaos to the waters of Lake Balboa held his true legacy; the kids and grandkids ruled the waves. Skiing, boarding, tubing and swimming for hours on end was an activity that could never be overdone. The smiles they brought to him, and the smiles he brought to the many little Lichliter's were, and remain,

beyond priceless. For family, it is the many smiles for which he will always be remembered.

Gene leaves behind the love of his life, Dorothy, of over 70 years along with three children, Dr. Wayne D. Lichliter and wife Sharon, Dr. Warren E. Lichliter and wife Carol, and Karen S. (Lichliter) Adair. Garry Lichliter, the youngest child, preceded Gene in death at age 34. There are nine grandchildren, twelve great grandchildren and two more great grandchildren on the way. He also leaves his brother Ray C. Lichliter and sister Charlotte (Lichliter) Crawford.

There will be a family service only at the family farm in southern Illinois when “the wheat comes in” in mid-June. The family requests any honorarium to go to the Habitat for Humanity or any other charity of your choice.

Cemetery

Parrish Cemetery

4868 Elkhville Rd

Vergennes, IL, 62994