



MSGT Earl H. Schuerman

November 21, 1930 - February 19, 2015

Msgt. Earl H. Schuerman, USAF Retired, age 84 of Highland, IL, died Thursday, February 19, 2015, at Saint Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville, IL.

He was born November 21, 1930, in New Douglas, IL, the son of Harry and Irma E. (nee Fritsche) Schuerman.

On September 16, 1955, he married Virginia E. Elmslie who survives.

He was a member of Machinist Local #464 Group; Air Force Sergeant's Association.

Earl was born and grew up in New Douglas. He attended Mt. Calvary one room school. He was a graduate of Livingston High School in 1948. He briefly worked at Caterpillar in Peoria. He joined the US Air Force in 1951, and retired in 1971 at Pease Air Force Base in New Hampshire as Master Sergeant. During his 20 year career he had been stationed at Washington State, Germany, France, Kansas, Virginia and Hawaii. He had multiple deployments to Vietnam. His last years were in Air Rescue and Recovery as a Flight Engineer on a C130. He had also supported 3 moon shots. He returned to IL and worked at Olin Corp. for 15 years as a Mill Wright, retiring in 1993. He enjoyed small engine repair, gardening (loved turnips), and woodcraft. He loved nature and loved to see squirrels scamper. He was a big story teller.

Survivors include :

Wife - Virginia E. "Ginny" Schuerman nee Elmslie, Highland, IL

Daughter - Suzanne J. (Alan) Oberholtzer, Oviedo, FL

Son - Tech Sgt. Gregory A. (Clara) Schuerman, USAF Retired, Liberty, MO

Grandchild - Adam G. (wife Lisa Madrigal) Schuerman, Morris, IL

Grandchild - Ian A. Oberholtzer, Brooklyn, NY

Grandchild - Abigail M. Schuerman, Kansas City, MO

Grandchild - Kaitlin E. Oberholtzer, Orlando, FL

Sister - Marlene (Arden) Eilers, Eldon, MO

Brother - Roy Schuerman, Alton, IL

He was preceded in death by :

Father - Harry Schuerman

Mother - Irma E. Schuerman nee Fritsche

Brother - Delmar Schuerman

Arrangements are being handled by Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, Illinois.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Monday, February 23, 2015, at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL, and from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM, on Tuesday, February 24, 2015, at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Funeral service will be at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, February 24, 2015, at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL, with Rev. Jerry Amiri, Pastor of Salem United Church of Christ in Alhambra, IL officiating.

Interment will be at New Douglas City Cemetery in New Douglas, IL.

Memorial contributions may be made to Wounded Warrior Project or Shriner's Hospital for Children.

Tribute Wall

LM

“ With Earl, what you saw was exactly what you got. There was no pretension, no flourish, nothing even vaguely resembling an act. He was Earl. And spending time with him meant being treated to a story or two delivered in his characteristically dry (not just dry, but Mojave Desert at high noon dry) sense of humor. He had a knack of cutting through the fluff and summing up a situation with a minimum of words. One of my favorite quotes of his was shared by his daughter and one of my closest friends, Suzanne, on facebook just this past summer regarding the difference between knowledge and wisdom. I'll refer to this as one of 'Earl's Pearls.' According to Earl, 'Knowledge is being aware that a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.'

He was a funny, funny man.

Laurie Manwaring-Jatcko - February 21, 2015 at 09:42 AM

CS

“ I couldn't have asked for a better Father-in-Law. He had a great sense of humor. He was a great story teller and didn't know a stranger. He loved to tinker with all sorts of things. We have had many unique wonderful handcrafted items throughout the years - that are just "Earl". I have so many wonderful memories of his impact on my life. He led by example and was devoted to his wife and family. There were many things that he especially enjoyed, his family, jokes/stories, playing pool on Pogo or Yahoo, Polka Music (247polkaheaven.com), his potato gun, making his pencils from the "pencil tree", turnips and watching the squirrels "scamper". He will be greatly missed by his family and friends. Earl, we miss you very much but we know you are in Heaven, regaling others with your stories and math/logic problems and listening to Polka music! Our lives are richer for having known you.

Clara Schuerman - February 20, 2015 at 11:48 PM

SD

“ Earl was a great story-teller. My husband, Tom and I met him and Ginny because we overheard a story that he was telling a waiter in a restaurant. We became friends and shared many dinners (with trivia and story-telling) for the past 7 or so years, and we have gotten to know their lovely family. He will truly be missed by all who knew and loved him. At Ginny's suggestion, we gave him turnips for his last birthday, and she said that he enjoyed them very much. Sue Ellen Drewer

Sue Ellen Drewer - February 20, 2015 at 03:13 PM