



L.E. Vanderford

May 18, 1931 - July 27, 2012

L.E. Vanderford of Hughes, Arkansas died surrounded by his family at home on Friday, July 27. The son of Louis Edward and Ruby Jamerson Vanderford, he grew up in Clarendon, Arkansas with sister Harriette. In sixth grade he met the love of his life, Evelyn Tucker. They were married in December of 1954. Family members include son and daughter-in-law Lee and Glanita Vanderford of Marianna, daughter and son-in-law Lynn and Joey Schmissrauter of Signal Mountain, Tennessee, granddaughter & fiancé Renee Vanderford and Jaafer Golzar of Chicago, grandson and partner Philip Vanderford and Jason Jones of Dallas, granddaughter Shelley Schmissrauter of Baltimore, grandson Airman 1st Class Joseph Schmissrauter of Biloxi, grandson Steven Schmissrauter of Nashville, and two great grandchildren, Yusef and Ariana Golzar of Chicago. L.E. is survived by his sister and brother in law, Harriette and Jim Gillis of Memphis and niece Jan Bruckmeier of New Orleans. Farming in Clarkesdale, Mississippi led L.E. to become the manager of Hughes Grain Corp. where he worked for 30 years. He managed warehouses for Trans International in Memphis prior to retirement. A master craftsman, L.E. found great joy in woodworking and welding. He became known for his handcrafted chopping boards and walking canes, and his famous cooking grills were custom designed for their owners. Area farmers sought his skills in metal-working as he designed and built everything from implement parts to duck blinds.

L.E. was an avid sportsman and enjoyed golf and hunting. In his thirties and

forties, he was renowned for his success in competitive trapshooting. His passion for bar-b-q led him to compete regularly in cooking contests and his "Sooie and the Piglets" team won the Memphis in May International BBQ Cooking Contest where his 90 year old mother helped him on stage as he performed in the hog calling contest. Showmanship was one of LE's great gifts.

L.E. was a member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Marianna and served on the Memphis Board of Trade/Mid-South Grain Inspection Board for 50 years. He was a long-time member of Meadowbrook Country Club and enjoyed regular golf trips with friends and family. The time spent at his cabin on Hughes Hunting Club led to fond memories for many as he developed world class turkey calling skills and entertained in front of his famous fires. Accompanied by his faithful pup Wooster, he loved to ride his four-wheeler around Hughes.

L.E. lived a large life and is remembered as a truth-teller, mentor, scout leader, teacher, husband, father, grandfather, and friend. His snappy one-liner expressions will live in the memories of many as will his twinkling eyes and quick wit. His devoted and patient wife Evelyn, who cared for him for 57 years, was his precious bride and best friend.

Friends are invited to visit with the family from 10:00 am to noon on Monday, July 30 at Holy Cross Episcopal Church, 209 Park Drive in West Memphis with prayers at 11:30 for those gathered. Memorial Service will be held in Marianna, Arkansas at 3:00 pm at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 49 South Carolina at Church Street. In lieu of flowers the family requests that memorials be sent to Crittenden Regional Hospice, 308 South Rhodes, West Memphis, AR 72301.

Arrangements are being handled by Stevens Funeral Home, Forrest City, and information can be accessed online at www.stevensfuneralhome.net

Tribute Wall

CF

“ I was so sorry to learn that Mr. Vanderford passed away. I remember as a kid going to your home in Hughes, and doing homework with Lee. I remember eating deer stew when I had dinner there one time. I also remember Mrs. Vanderford's accident and your courage during your recovery. I have not lived in Arkansas for many years now, but I still think of my childhood friends and their families. Some memories fade, but never grow totally dark. Prayers for each of you as you adjust to life without your dad. I know how I felt when my own dad passed away in 2003. You feel like a piece of you has died, too. But have faith in knowing that he is in a better place, free of pain and suffering. God Bless each of you.
Cindy Lucento and Jean Fogarty

Cindy Lucento (was Fogarty) - April 12, 2013 at 08:29 AM

JM

“ L.E. WILL BE MISSED BY ALL HIS BUDDIES WHO PLAY IN THE "PIGGIE" TRIPS TWICE A YEAR! A GREAT STORY TELLER WHO ALWAYS ENTERTAINED US DAY AND NIGHT.

JESS MOBLEY - April 12, 2013 at 08:29 AM

MA

“ I will never forget and will always miss L. E. He was such a part of my life for so long. He will live on in my memory and the memory of all who knew him. I will never forget what a comfort he was when I lost my father. I feel certain that he and Daddy are having a great reunion. My love and deepest sympathy to you all, and may God bless you.

Margaret - April 12, 2013 at 08:29 AM

FD

“ Our thoughts and prayers goes out to ace, Evelyn and the family. Memories goes back to grade school days.

Fred Dean - April 12, 2013 at 08:29 AM

ST

“ We were very saddened to hear about L.E. Our thoughts and Prayers are with the family and friends. May your memories give you strength.

Respectfully,

The Runnels Family

Stephen - April 12, 2013 at 08:29 AM

DS

“ You have our heartfelt sympathy at this time. The obituary reflected that Mr. Vanderford was loved very much by his family - which he must have felt. We hope your memories of him will keep him with you as time passes.

Dewey and Karen Smith

Dewey and Karen Smith - April 12, 2013 at 08:29 AM

DM

“ My prayers are with his family and Miss Evelyn .. LE wasn't Just a man I met a few years ago he had presence .. Or as its now Referred to as "swag" God Bless his Sole

Dian McGuire - July 30, 2012 at 12:00 AM