



Lavon Verdon Watson

April 23, 1920 - November 6, 2017

Lavon Verdon Watson, Husband, Daddy, Granddad, and Great Granddad passed away on November 6, 2017 surrounded by family and friends. Lavon, a lifetime resident of Madison County, was born on April 23, 1920 in Matte, Arkansas to Everett Verdon Watson and Nancyann Lawson Watson. Lavon graduated from Huntsville Vocational School in 1938. He drove a milk route during high school so that he did not have to walk the 14 miles roundtrip to school. He graduated from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture in 1941. While studying for his Master's Degree in Economics, Lavon joined the U.S. Army Air Force, serving as an instructor for pilots and gunners during WWII, primarily at Fort Myers, Florida. Shortly before leaving the military, Lavon glimpsed the love of his life, Evelyn Bates. Typical of Lavon in whatever endeavor he undertook, he pursued her until she said "yes." They were married on December 14, 1946, after Lavon convinced Evelyn to marry prior to the end of the year, so he could utilize the tax deduction. They celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary last year. After completing his military obligations, Lavon began looking for farmland to purchase. He and his new bride settled on the "Clyde Berry Place" in Wesley, Arkansas. In addition to farming, Lavon was postmaster at the Wesley Post Office for approximately seven years, sold insurance, and taught returning WWII Veterans agriculture in the evening, using the money to buy cattle and expand the farm. Lavon and Evelyn were a successful and innovative team, finding commercial scale solutions to the growing poultry

industry. In fact, they built and operated experimental broiler houses for Campbell Soup Company, with Lavon serving as a Grower on the local board. Madison County recognized them as Farm Family of the Year in 1961. As a community leader, Lavon served on the Huntsville School Board for 32 years, on the Board of the Washington County Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company over 42 years and on numerous other boards. Many individuals sought Lavon's advice on personal and financial matters. Lavon served God after being baptized as a young adult. He attended the Wesley Church of Christ for over 70 years. In his "spare time", Lavon loved to fish and introduced many youth to the sport of fishing. In later years, Lavon and Evelyn loved to take long fishing adventures to Canada. Despite the business success, Lavon believed his two most important accomplishments were a successful marriage and his three daughters. Lavon collectively called them "his girls." He later admitted that it was nice to have some men in the family when his daughters married. Lavon is survived by his wife, Evelyn, his three daughters and their families, Patty Watson Lueken and her husband Whit of Little Rock, AR and son Whitten, Linda Watson Brannan and her husband Steve of Wesley, AR, two children, Melissa and Stephen and two grandchildren, Kay Watson Tait and her husband, Robert of Plano, TX and two children, Walker and Veronica. Lavon also has three surviving brothers, Loy Watson, Rick Watson and Kim Watson. His sisters, Ilene Bennett and Glenda Holloway and "near brothers", Clarence and Kermit Stanfield predeceased him. Lavon's life celebration is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 11, 2017 at Brashears Funeral Home Chapel in Huntsville, AR. Pallbearers will be his grandsons, Stephen Brannan, Whitten Lueken, and Walker Tait, his nephew, Jerry Holloway, and members of the Wesley Church of Christ Family, Phillip Johnson and Nick Clark. Honorary pallbearers are the Board Members and staff of the Washington County Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company. Interment will be at the Wesley Community Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Wesley Cemetery, c/o Jay Moffett, 418 Madison 7305, Wesley, Arkansas

72773.

Tribute Wall

SB

“ *Just learned of Lavon's passing. Even though I haven't seen Lavon in years, I have fond memories of him and all of the Watson family.*

Sherryl Barger - July 08, 2018 at 12:00 AM

KJ

“ *Your family is in my thoughts and prayers. Lavon was always very kind. I'm glad to have known him and your family and appreciate all your acts of kindness. May God comfort you all.*

Karen Jones - November 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ *Lavon was my first cousin. I am sorry for your loss Evelyn.*

John Larry Richardson - November 09, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *Evelyn and family, I am so very sorry for your loss, Lavon will be greatly missed by all who knew him. I have so many fond memories and will always appreciate how good he was to Mama and Daddy. My thoughts, prayers and love are with you all.*

Bonnie (Teague) Hughes - November 08, 2017 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ *Our condolences to the family of Lavon Watson. May you all be comforted with the knowledge that he has received his heavenly reward.*

Phil & Helen Atkinson - November 08, 2017 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Ps.55:22

TL - November 08, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ I have a lot of fond memories of Lavon and Evelyn. I want to thank his family for sharing your father with all of us My heart goes out to you and you're family. God bless you and your family.

Lisa "Neal" Williams - November 08, 2017 at 12:00 AM

ND

“ Evelyn, you and your family are in my prayers. Dad always enjoyed visits with Lavon.

Natalie Gaskill Davis - November 07, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ What a great cousin. Prayers and Love to all my family. He will be missed but left all of you a great legacy!

Judy Watson Gaines - November 07, 2017 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ I am very sorry for your loss. You and your families are in my thoughts and prayers.

Terry Long - November 07, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ So sorry he was a very good man and our family enjoyed our time with him...

Janie and Pat Bartholomew - November 07, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *I'm keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers during this time of your loss.*

Margaret Smith - November 07, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ *A wonderful neighbor and friend. Such wonderful memories over the last forty years. We will miss you. Praying for your sweet family.*

Barbara Fowler - November 07, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ *I'm saddened to hear of this family's deep loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and the entire community in the loss of God's humble servant. Lavon always enjoyed a good joke and carried a twinkle in his eyes.*

Roseann Bowlin - November 07, 2017 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ *To each of the family, I am so sorry for your loss. Lavon was a wonderful example. I know it is very difficult during this time. May the Lord hold each of you in His loving arms, and remind you that you are loved by Him, who will always be there for you and with you.*

Alivn Herrington - November 07, 2017 at 12:00 AM