



Benjamin Franklin Curtis

July 6, 1921 - August 31, 2012

Benjamin Franklin Curtis, Jr. 91, of Athens, passed away on August 31, 2012. Visitation will be Sunday, September 2 at Limestone Chapel Funeral Home from 11:00-2:45 p.m. with the funeral following at 3:00 p.m. Burial will follow at Roselawn Cemetery. Mr. Curtis was born July 6, 1921 in Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee to Benjamin Franklin Curtis, Sr. and Ida Belle Vandergriff. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the U. S. Navy Seabees on the Island of Okinawa. In 1951 he and wife, Wilma, moved their family to Alabama from Summertown, Tennessee. He began a career with the Army Ballistic Missile Agency, and in 1958 joined the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) working as an Electronic Specialist Manager at the Marshall Space Flight Center Test Lab until his retirement in 1975. His involvement in the space program included speaking the countdown for the first televised static missile test at Redstone Arsenal, work on the first launch facility at Cape Canaveral (Kennedy) Florida and was a member of the Saturn V/Apollo launch team. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, affectionately known as Daddy Ben. He was a true outdoorsman and his passions in life were hunting, fishing, and working on his farm. He was a faithful member of the Eastside Church of Christ. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife of 71 years, Wilma Nafe Curtis; son, Kevin Alan Curtis; 8 brothers: William Robert Curtis, Joseph Owen Curtis, Leonard Franklin Curtis, Eugene Curtis, James Boss Curtis, George Leo Curtis, Thomas Alton Curtis and John Y. Curtis; 1 sister: Euna Curtis Moore;

and daughter-in-law, Patricia Tarkington Curtis. He is survived by sons: Ronald Curtis (Athens); Joe Curtis and wife Vicki (Athens); daughter: Diane Wildenstein and husband Hank (Salem); grandsons: Phillip Curtis and wife, Jana (Elba), Jonathan Curtis and wife Debbie (Birmingham); granddaughters, Laura Curtis (Nashville), Leah Pierce and husband, Kirk (Athens), Maria Fronckowiak and husband Jamie (Madison), Amanda Hobbs and husband Jessie (Elkmont), and Johanna Curtis (Alexandria, Virginia). He had 13 great grandchildren, and many friends, neighbors, nieces and nephews. Special thanks to loving caregivers: Rosa Bozarth, Kimberly Henderson, and Rachel Webb. Pallbearers will be nephews: Alton Curtis, Dave Curtis, Horace Curtis, Jack Curtis, Bob Curtis, and Owen Moore. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Boy Scouts of America Troop 7021 at BBVA/Compass Bank, 105 West Green Street, Athens, AL 35611.

Tribute Wall

WG

“ *Sorry for the loss of your Father. He had a good long life and I am sure he will be greatly missed.* ”

Wyatt & Judy Griffin - September 02, 2012 at 10:08 PM

SH

“ *Very sorry for your loss!* ”

Sanra Perry Hogan - September 02, 2012 at 05:02 PM

EP

“ *So sorry for your loss. Sending prayers for your family.* ”

eva pettus - September 02, 2012 at 02:53 PM

FR

“ *Diane ,, So sorry to hear about your Dad . If yall need anything let us know . You all are in our thoughts and prayers* ”

Frankie & Denise Riggs - September 01, 2012 at 07:54 PM

TF

“ *We were sorry to hear of your loss. Please accept our deepest sympathy. Ben was such a nice person and we were glad to have gotten the chance to know him.* ”

Tom and Carol Fronckowiak - September 01, 2012 at 01:12 PM

KH

“ *Praying that your wonderful family will be comforted and strengthened by all the love and prayers that are being sent your way at this time of remembering Daddy Ben.* ”

Kimberly Henderson - September 01, 2012 at 12:22 AM

SB

“ *Deepest sympathy to the Curtis family in the loss of a loved one. Joe and Vicki, try to think of many of the happy moments that you shared with Mr. Curtis, maybe that will help put smiles on your faces.*

Sharon Ezell Bridges - August 31, 2012 at 08:41 PM