



Earl Lyman Pillsbury

September 27, 1928 - September 2, 2015

Earl Lyman Pillsbury, 86, of Petersburg, passed away peacefully at home on September 2, surrounded by his family. Earl was born on September 27, 1928 to Lyman A. and Olive E. Thomson Pillsbury in the Sand Ridge area of rural Petersburg. He attended Kirby Grade School and was a 1946 graduate of Petersburg Harris High School. He was also a 1950 graduate of Eureka College. Earl served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. On June 13, 1954, he married Genevieve Safford in Wheaton, IL.

Earl was elected Menard County Clerk in 1953 and was reelected in 1954, 1958, and 1962. He was then employed by Menard Electric Cooperative, retiring in 1993. He served four years as Mayor of Petersburg. Earl was passionate about his community and that showed by the many affiliations he had over the years. He was a member of the Feasibility Study group for creating Lincoln Land Community College, and he proudly served as a trustee for 17 1/2 years, including three years as chairman of the board. He was also a member of the LLCC Foundation. He was a founding board member and chairman of the AIEC Fed. Credit Union, served on the Sangamon/Menard County Senior Services Board as past chairman, and was a member of Project Life Advisory Board, also serving as past chairman of Central Illinois.

Earl was a member and past chairman of the Edgar Lee Masters Museum, a former member of the United Way Foundation of Central Illinois, and a charter

member and past officer of Menard Golf Association. He was also a member of the committee that organized the Petersburg Little League Program, and a founding member and past president of the Petersburg Jaycees. He served as past secretary of the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce. He also served as a Red Coat volunteer at Memorial Hospital and the Menard Interveterans Burial Detail. In 2003, Earl was named Petersburg's Fist Citizen.

At the time of his death, Earl was a member of Petersburg Kiwanis, Rose Hill Cemetery Board of Directors, New Salem Lincoln League, Menard County Historical Society, PORTA Foundation, Clinton Lodge #19 AF & AM, Ansar Shrine, Knights Templar, New Salem Shrine Club, Adv. Council Senior Citizens of Central Illinois, Petersburg Chamber of Commerce, American Legion Post #198, Menard Golf Association, and the Menard Club. He was a member of the Petersburg First United Methodist Church and more recently attended New Hope Baptist Church in Sandridge where he went as a young boy.

Earl is survived by Genevieve, his wife of 61 years, his sister Rozena Ann Binger, and his six children: Paula (Rob) Throckmorton and Doug (Teresa) Pillsbury of Petersburg; Howard (Jill) of Chatham; Pamela (Dave) Behrens of Naples, Florida; Scott (Mindy Summers) of Springfield; and Patty (Michael) Heder of Sauk Rapids, Minnesota. He and Genevieve have 20 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren (with two more on the way). He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers Howard, Richard, and Glenn, his granddaughter Alexis Pillsbury, and a niece.

Earl's family will greet relatives and friends on Sunday, September 6, 2015 from 4-7 at Hurley Funeral Home. His funeral service will be held at 11 am on Monday, September 7 at Petersburg United Methodist Church with his

nephew, the Rev. Michael Swartz officiating. Burial will be at Rose Hill Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the PORTA Foundation or the Menard County Food Pantry.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 6. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Petersburg
122 West Douglas Avenue
Petersburg, IL 62675
(217) 632-2500
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

Funeral

SEP 7. 11:00 AM (CT)

Petersburg United Methodist Church
221 W. Jackson
Petersburg, IL 62675
(217) 632-7689

Tribute Wall



“ *Earl Lyman Pillsbury*

October 12, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ *My condolences to the PILLSBURY family. My parents, Mr. & Mrs. Melvin (Mary) Short thought the world of Earl. My Dad loved to play golf with Earl.*

*Melary Short
Placerville, CA*

Melary Short - May 21, 2020 at 08:07 PM



“ *On behalf of the Eureka College community, our deepest condolences to Mr. Pillsbury's family and friends. We pray God's comforting spirit as you mourn his passing and celebrate his remarkable life of service and leadership.*

*Sincerely,
Chaplain Bruce Fowlkes
Eureka College*

Bruce Fowlkes - September 09, 2015 at 05:23 PM



“ *Paula, Patty, and the entire Pillsbury family. My sincerest condolences on your loss. My prayers are with all of you in this time of deep sorrow. Joanne (Fleck) Gaston.*

Joanne Gaston - September 09, 2015 at 09:42 AM

CS

“ Ditto to everything my Uncle John McConnell said. The breakfasts: not to be forgotten. And the pie.

Lots of laughing, loving times were had in Petersburg. I thought the four girls in my family was a lot of children, but the six of Uncle Earl and Aunt Gerrie seemed like so many more. Never a dull moment.

It was wonderful to be Earl's niece. He is remembered as a great all around guy. My heart is with all the wonderful family who will miss him so dearly.

Aloha,

Candy and Hayden Stephens

Candy Lei Stephens - September 06, 2015 at 03:05 PM

MV

“ To the family of Earl, we are so sorry to hear of Earl's passing. We were fortunate to visit him at Sunny Acres on August 20th. We talked of times together, golfing with Michael, and my working with Sam Blane. Earl will be missed but everyone has fond memories. He accomplished many great things and all of the family should be very proud.

Mike & Pat Vig - September 06, 2015 at 11:56 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Earl Lyman Pillsbury.



September 06, 2015 at 11:11 AM

DL

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Heaven has gained another Angel.

David & Debbie Lash

Debbie Lash - September 06, 2015 at 09:37 AM

DS

“ So sorry for your loss. I worked with Howie in 1975 at Gene's Supermarket and have many memories of that.

Diana Shoemaker - September 05, 2015 at 09:14 AM

RR

“ Gerry, kids, Rozena and all who miss Earl, he was such a remarkable man. I admired him so much, smart and good-hearted, ever wiling to give of his time and advice. My heartfelt condolences to all of you.

Randy Rutledge

Randy Rutledge - September 04, 2015 at 08:14 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Earl Lyman Pillsbury.



September 04, 2015 at 05:20 PM

JM

“ We have had so many wonderful times with Gerrie and Earl it is difficult to know where to begin. Earl's phenomenal breakfasts will never be forgotten. He made sure you never left the table hungry.

The four Safford siblings and spouses made a memorable trip to Oregon for a week's vacation. The highlight was a riverboat trip where we were all thoroughly drenched in a driving rainstorm. We all sat shivering through the meal that was provided at the conclusion.

We always enjoyed the drives around Petersburg with Earl pointing out places of interest. It was amazing how he navigated the country roads and never got lost.

We will always cherish the memory of the wonderful family reunion hosted by Gerrie and Earl last summer. The last time we were alone with Gerrie and Earl they treated us to a slice of his home made gooseberry pie. That typifies the Earl we remember; thoughtful, generous, and always the genial host. We will miss him.

With our love,
John and Kathie

John McConnell - September 04, 2015 at 02:37 PM

LB

“ Gerry and Family: My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. I remember all the good things you taught Tyler when he was your student, Gerry. He remembers, also. I know Earl will be missed.

LuAnn Becker

LuAnn Becker - September 04, 2015 at 12:32 PM

SK

“ We're sorry for your loss. We wish your family peace at this sad time.

Sue and Bill Kessler

Sue Kessler - September 04, 2015 at 10:25 AM

JR

“ To the entire Pillsbury Family, I ,am very sorry to learn of the passing of Mr. Pillsbury. He was all about Petersburg. He was all about PORTA High School. Mr. Pillsbury was a constant fan and supporter at our cross country and track meets. He leaves an incredible legacy of achievements and one heck of a great family. My sincere condolences and prayers to that great family of Mr. Pillsbury's.

Jay Rogers

Jay Rogers - September 04, 2015 at 09:46 AM