



Elmer E. Rankin

November 13, 1938 - July 29, 2015

Elmer Eugene Rankin, 76, of Petersburg, died Wednesday, July 29, 2015, in hospice at Sunny Acres, surrounded by his loving family.

Elmer worked for the U of I Cooperative Extension Service for 29 years and Lincoln Land FS for 7. He attended Illinois State University, Southern Illinois University, and the University of Illinois where he received his master's in Agronomy. He was an educator, a leader, and a friend to everyone he met. He was inducted into the Illinois 4-H Hall of Fame in 2014.

He was born November 13, 1938, in Lincoln, IL, to Offie and Esther (Ritchhart) Rankin. They preceded him in death. He married Lillian Mardell Biggs on July 5, 1964. She survives in Petersburg.

Other survivors include three daughters: Teresa (Rich) Brtva of Michigan; Georgia (Brian) Akers of Ohio and Nancy (Clay) Dixon of Petersburg; three sisters: Esther Boward, Mary Hildebrandt and Frances Banister; one brother: Richard; numerous nieces and nephews; and three grandchildren: Zachary Dixon, Daniel Dixon and Miles Akers.

He was preceded in death by two sisters: Margaret and Patricia, and five brothers: Jim, Kenneth, Harold, John and Bob.

Visitation will be from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, August 2, at Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. on Monday, August 3, at Athens Christian Church with Rev. Ken Gennicks officiating. Burial will follow at Sugar Grove Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to your local 4-H program:

Menard County 4-H
PO Box 138
Petersburg, IL 62675

Sangamon County 4-H
700 S. Airport Dr.
Springfield, IL 62707

Logan County 4-H
980 N Postville Dr.
Lincoln IL 62656

To express condolences to the family online please visit www.hurleyfh.com. Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg assisted the family with arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Sugar Grove Cemetery

Sweetwater, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 2. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral

AUG 3. 10:00 AM (CT)

Athens Christian Church
1411 W State Route 29
Athens, IL 62613

Tribute Wall



“ *Elmer E. Rankin*

October 12, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ *Mardell, Teresa, Georgia and Nancy. I am so sorry that I missed your Dad's funeral. I just learned of his passing. I have so many fond memories of Elmer from the time I was a child visiting Grandma Patrick, and all through the years. What a wonderful person he was. My heart goes out to all of you. Please know I am holding you all close in prayer.*

Joanne (Fleck) Gaston - August 07, 2015 at 07:17 PM



“ *To Mardell, Teresa, Georgia, and Nancy--I have such good memories of all of you, and will hold you close in my heart and my prayers.*

Melissa Brauer Applebee - August 01, 2015 at 07:47 AM



“ *Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Elmer E. Rankin.*



August 01, 2015 at 06:25 AM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Elmer E. Rankin.*



July 31, 2015 at 11:09 AM



“ *What a good man. We are losing so many and he will be so missed by all who knew him. My hope that you can keep every single memory. He would do anything for me, if asked....what more can I say. It started with the corn stalks for Little Abner. Hope to see you Sunday. Susan Smarjesse*

Susan Smarjesse - July 31, 2015 at 10:50 AM



“ *you would have to be an amazing person to stand in Elmer's shoes he was an amazing man, he was what humble and compassion was all about*

Bev - July 31, 2015 at 09:34 AM



“ *Oh Elmer.....how we will miss your smile, your drive, your funny stories and suspenders!!! The boys LOVED the time spent together~ you have made an impact on them. You have been a WONDERFUL neighbor & friend! Rest in peace.*

We love you and Mardel!!!

*The Wenda's
Mark, Kim, Nate, Sam and Luke*

Kim Wenda - July 31, 2015 at 08:41 AM

JL

*I'm so sorry to hear this. Brenden loved your spunk. We always kept our eye on you and will miss our visits in the yard. We will miss you, neighbor! Mardel, you are in our prayers!!
Jodi, Rick, Brenden and Mackenzie*

Jodi Leigh - July 31, 2015 at 08:57 AM

HW

*Elmer wa a great friend over the pat 50 years...he tried to make sure every thing was done properly..that made him special..
Harry Wright..*

Harry Wright - August 02, 2015 at 10:55 PM

SE

It was always great to work with Elmer - his positive attitude toward helping people to be the best that they could be will always be a great memory. Gods blessings to his family.

Stan Eden - August 04, 2015 at 10:15 AM

RW

“ *So very sorry. He was good people. The world needs more of him not less.*

Richard Waters - July 30, 2015 at 11:45 PM

MA

“ *What a kind, sweet man. Elmer was always there to mentor and teach, and what an educator he was! It was a privilege to be in Extension during his tenure and to know him. I guess the Lord needed some help with the crops in heaven, He has the best. Rest in peace.*

Marianne Adams - July 30, 2015 at 10:41 PM

Loretta Johnson

“ we are so saddened buy the news of Elmers passing,we rented a country home from he and his wife a few years back.he was such a kind man we grew to like him very much.i can remember him working in the fields at break time i would yell at him to come sit under the shade tree with us,i gave him a cold drink and quite often a piece of apple pie made from his apples.to his family and friends i want to say im very sorry,i know he will be missed by many.
moose(Mondell) and Gail Johnson

Loretta Johnson - July 30, 2015 at 08:11 PM

SB

“ Elmer was a trusted mentor and great friend. Sharon Behme

Sharon Behme - July 30, 2015 at 07:58 PM

MB

“ One of the REALLY GOOD GUYS!!!! Always a smile and a kind word for everyone. We loved him so much!!! Please accept our sincere sympathy. He will be missed very much. Hartzel and Mary Bruno

Mary Bruno - July 30, 2015 at 07:03 PM

RH

“ Elmer was a wonderful co worker and mentor to me instilling in me all that he learned about working with people. I remember him for his kindness and quick smile. God give him rest and peace for his wonderful family.



Ruth Hambleton - July 30, 2015 at 04:47 PM

SC

Ellmer was always such a calm, friendly guy. We've missed him and his family since they left Riverton UMC. Our deepest sympathy and prayers for the family. Nik and Sharon Caldwell

sharon caldwell - July 30, 2015 at 11:29 PM

RW

What a fine man! Elmer was the man each of us would like to be. He was kind, friendly, and understanding. We who knew Elmer are better people because of our friendship. Our hearts go out to the family he leaves behind.

Richard Wisner - July 31, 2015 at 06:56 AM

DD

What a friendly guy he was. He farmed just down the road from me and would always wave as he putted by on his ole tractor. I have know a lot of the Rankin family all of my life and extend my sympathy to all of them.

Donna Deters - July 31, 2015 at 08:18 AM