



James Dwight Whitaker

June 2, 1937 - February 4, 2024

James Dwight Whitaker

June 2nd, 1937 - February 4th 2024

James "Dwight" Whitaker, aged 86, passed away on February 4th in Pekin, Il.

He was born in Forest City, Illinois, to John Floyd and Lillie Maude (Langston) Whitaker and was the youngest of 8 children. He graduated from Forman High School in 1955, attended the University of Illinois, and served in the 169th Fighter Squadron in the Peoria Air Guard.

In 1958, at the age of 21, he had the opportunity to take over his mother's 390-acre family farm, where he lived for the rest of his life. He remained a dedicated steward of the land until his retirement in 2020.

On July 21st, 1963, he married Jacqueline Bilyeu. Together, they expanded their farm operation with hogs and cattle in the earlier days and then focused exclusively on row crops after the 1970's. They raised three sons, Brad, Doug, and Darin. Between the busy farming seasons, Dwight and Jacque enjoyed sightseeing around the United States - always taking the backroads.

He was a well-loved and active member of the Forest City Community Church. He served as a board member, helped behind the scenes at events,

and ran the sound system for the services for many years.

His family knew him best for home churned vanilla ice cream, fresh garden vegetables, witty jokes, giving grandkids rides around the farm, playing games, and how much he loved his wife and family very much.

He is survived by his wife, Jacqueline Whitaker, and their three sons, Brad Whitaker and his wife Jane (Schauwecker), Doug Whitaker and his wife Kristi (Gilbert), Darin Whitaker and his wife Kim (Richardson).

18 grandchildren: Cassandra (Bob) Everly, Nick (Esther) Whitaker, Emily (Bryce) Baker, Sarah (Chris) Jebb is, Michelle (Josiah) Gerst, Brooke Whitaker, Floyd (Rachel) Whitaker, Rachel (Caleb) Ellison, Meagan Whitaker, Samuel Whitaker, Lois Whitaker, Grace (Dalton) Powell, Matthew Whitaker, Daniel Whitaker, Jacob Whitaker, Olivia Whitaker, Caleb Whitaker, and Katie Whitaker.

16 great-grandchildren. Clayton Everly, Shelby Everly, Joseph Baker, Natasha Whitaker, Sebastian Gerst, Teagan Whitaker, Ellie Whitaker, Briley Baker, Autumn Everly, William Whitaker, Sawyer Gerst, Juliet Ross, Silas Baker, Aria Sackery, Mason Everly, Stevie Whitaker

He is preceded in death by his parents, one infant son, three brothers, and four sisters.

Visitation and funeral services are on Wednesday, February 7th, at the Forest City Community Church.

Visitation begins at 10:00 am

Funeral services start at 11:00 am

Luncheon provided by the Forest City Community Church. Friends and Family of Dwight are encouraged to attend.

Flowers and/or memorable contributions may be sent to the Forest City

Community Church.

Maas-Hurley Funeral Home, in Manito, is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Pleasant Hill Cemetery

28798 East Co Road 1900 N
Forest City, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 7. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Forest City Community Church
203 W. Market
Forest City, IL 61532
(309) 597-2111

Funeral Service

FEB 7. 11:00 AM (CT)

Forest City Community Church
203 W. Market
Forest City, IL 61532
(309) 597-2111

Tribute Wall



“ Hurley Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James Dwight Whitaker



Hurley Funeral Home - February 06, 2024 at 04:34 PM

JC

“ So sorry to hear of Dwight’s passing. Jacque and Dwight were always in that back pew at FCCC ready with hugs and smiles. He will be missed! Hugs and prayers being sent to the family!! 🙏❤️

Jan Conklin - February 07, 2024 at 04:12 PM

SS

“ Steve Kim Singley lit a candle in memory of James Whitaker



Steve and Kim Singley - February 06, 2024 at 09:45 AM

JA

“ I'm so sorry to learn of Dwight's passing. He was such a sweet man and this is such a loss for all of us. Jacque, you and your family have a wealth of good memories together that will comfort and uphold you. His quiet Faith was an inspiration to all of us.

I regret that I have two appointments on Wednesday and will not be able to attend his services. My prayers are with all of you.

jane Armbrust - February 06, 2024 at 09:20 AM

JA

Jacque I'm so sorry to learn of Dwight's passing. He was such a gentle soul with a heart that was filled with the love of God and for his family. I will miss seeing his smile every Sunday. I would've been there today, Wednesday but did not hear of his passing till today. The memories that you and your family have made over all these years will bring you comfort in days to come. If you want, you can get mad like your sister, Dolores my aunt whom I dearly loved when Uncle Al passed away. I know you remember that story. My prayers are with you. Jan

Janet Anderson - February 07, 2024 at 06:17 PM