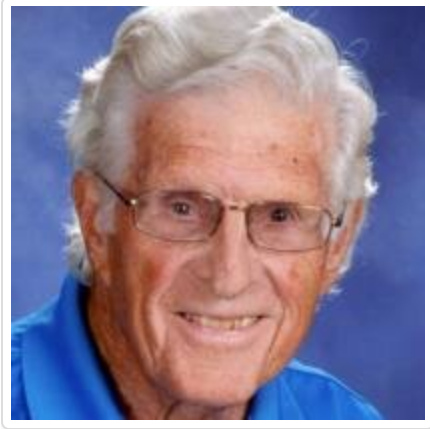




Elmer D. Vanderwall

October 16, 1919 - February 14, 2015

Elmer D. Vanderwall, age 95 of Dayton went to be with his Lord Jesus Saturday afternoon, February 14, 2015 at his son's home in Dayton with Tom and Jan at his side. He was born October 16, 1919 in Muskegon, MI to the late Edward and Bertha (Hanekamp) Vanderwall and was also preceded in death by his beloved wife of 66 years, Donna (DeGroot) Vanderwall, his sister, Stella Wagner and two brothers, Donald Vanderwall and Harold Vanderwall. Elmer was a graduate of Muskegon High School, class of 1937. He served his country with the US Army as a First Lieutenant during WWII in the South Pacific earning a Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Clusters. He retired as the hardware department manager with Sears after 37 years. In 1979 Elmer began working with his son as a funeral director's assistant and continued that role until several years ago. He and Donna moved to Dayton, TN in 1987. He loved his yard work, especially mowing his yard which he was able to do until several months ago. He also loved to sun himself on his patio whenever weather permitted.

While living in Muskegon he was an active member of Laketon Bethel Reformed Church and in Dayton he was a member of Grace Bible Church where he had served as an elder.

He is survived by his two sons, Tom (Jan) Vanderwall of Dayton, TN and David (Sandi) Vanderwall of The Villages, FL, six grandchildren, Adam (Erin) Vanderwall of Shaker Heights, OH, Aaron (Megan) Vanderwall of Cookeville, TN, Alex (Lisa) Vanderwall of Dayton, TN, Kaley (Dan) Reid of Dayton, TN,

Andy Vanderwall of Dayton, TN and Stacey (Layton) Hebert of DeQuincy, LA, seven great-grandchildren and his brother, James (Donna) Vanderwall of LaQuinta, CA.

Funeral services for Elmer will be held Thursday evening at 7:00pm in the funeral home chapel with his pastors, Dr. Doug Russell and Rev. David Snyder officiating. He will be laid to rest next to his wife Donna on Friday at 12 noon in Rhea Memory Gardens followed by a white dove release.

Please share your memories of Elmer on his online guest register at www.vanderwallfh.com.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Cumberland Springs Bible Camp in Dayton, TN.

The family is being served by the Vanderwall Funeral Home in Dayton, TN where they will receive friends Thursday after 4:00pm.

Cemetery Details

Rhea Memory Gardens

Hwy 27
Dayton, TN

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **19**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Vanderwall Funeral Home
164 Maple Street
Dayton, TN

Service

FEB **19**. 7:00 PM.

Chapel

Tribute Wall

LM

“ As a teenager I had the blessing of working for Mr. Vanderwall at Sears in Muskegon, MI in the late 1950's. I have never forgotten this wonderful man, he was a blessing in my life that one of my earliest working experiences would be from such a great mentor. I went on in my life to be a manager also and often thought of his examples of leadership when I was faced with challenges. He set the bar high, always expecting the best he thought you could do and always patient in guiding you to that end. While I am saddened to hear of his passing I am equally delighted to know what a wonderful and rich life he had staying close to his beloved family. Heaven waited for him with the same patience he shared with so many. My condolences to his family for the loss of this wonderful man.

Larry Meeusen - April 14, 2015 at 07:46 AM

TT

“ Elmer, was a wonderful, Christian man I have had the pleasure to call my friend. He is now in Heaven with Donna, and our Lord. I'm sure he hasn't set down yet. Tom and Jan, I will keep you and you family in my prayers.

Tammy (Gornik) Tucker - March 10, 2015 at 08:53 PM

LR

“ To the vanderwall family what a legacy. Sorry for your loss.

Laura Riley - March 01, 2015 at 06:44 PM

Jl

“ *Mr. Vanderwall was a fine christian man who loved his family dearly. We, at James Tax Service, will miss him. Although we would only see each other once a year it was a good visit when he was here. He wrote the sweetest letter when his wife passed away and from his words you could tell he loved her deeply but what stood out most in the letter was that he knew he would one day reunite with her. Please accept our deepest sympathy The staff of James Tax Service Inc.*

James Tax Service Inc - February 19, 2015 at 04:08 PM

DH

“ *Elmer was a real Christ loving, Word abiding, soul winning, generous, Christlike man! God be praised for his "finishing well!" The Lord's comfort to you all! "Even to your old age I am He, and to grey hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save." Isaiah 46:4*

Dave Hobbs - February 19, 2015 at 01:03 PM

VJ

“ Tom and family,
This is Vivian Johnson (Howard Tannahill's daughter). I am praying for you these days as you say goodbye to the one you love so dearly. It's not an easy road and God knows that. May you feel God's love and comfort as you never thought you would. May you feel HIS arms wrapped tightly around you crying with you in your pain and holding you. "May the God of all HOPE, fill you with ALL JOY and PEACE as you TRUST in HIM so that you will overflow with HOPE by the Power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

May God give you much comfort as you have comforted so many others through the years (including my family when we walked this journey with my mom and my dad). THANK YOU!

Vivian Tannahill Johnson

Vivian Tannahill Johnson - February 19, 2015 at 12:53 PM

ML

“ Dear Tom, Jan & Family, I was so saddened last night when I heard of your precious loved one's passing. I think he was one of the sweetest, handsome and humble men I have ever had the privilege of being acquainted with. I loved it when I would see him in a particular store (which shall remain nameless :) . I think that he brightened the day for anyone's path he came upon. I know he did mine, and I shall miss his sweet and quiet way. But look forward to seeing him again on the paths of heaven. With Christian love,
Martha Ledbetter

Martha Ledbetter - February 19, 2015 at 11:49 AM

PJ

“ *Perry and Janice James purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Elmer D. Vanderwall.*



Perry and Janice James - February 19, 2015 at 10:25 AM

RR

“ *Tom, Jan, and Family,
Elmer was such a dear man of God! I know there must have been great rejoicing in heaven as he met his Savior and reunited with Donna and many friends. May the Lord give you His strength and peace at this time as you have helped our family and many others. Wishing you many good memories of your dad and the Lord's comfort.*

*Love,
Ruth and Rebekah Ross*

Ruth Ross - February 19, 2015 at 09:31 AM

RD

“ *I am so very sorry for your loss. --Richard Daugherty*

Richard Daugherty - February 19, 2015 at 06:40 AM



“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elmer D. Vanderwall.*



February 18, 2015 at 03:49 PM

CB

“ Tom and family my thoughts and prayers are with you as your father was a wonderful man who was real good too me when my mother died. God bless you!!

carol bitler - February 18, 2015 at 03:48 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Elmer D. Vanderwall.



February 18, 2015 at 03:21 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Elmer D. Vanderwall.



February 18, 2015 at 11:44 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Elmer D. Vanderwall.



February 18, 2015 at 10:34 AM

JS

“ Tom, Jan and Family~
Blessings to you as you mourn the loss of your father and grandfather. What a gift you had to have both your Mom & Dad move to TN to be by you; and then to have the ultimate gift of being able to work side by side with him is the best.

Blessings and prayers.
The Sytsema Family
Muskegon, Michigan

John Sytsema - February 17, 2015 at 05:57 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Elmer D. Vanderwall.



February 17, 2015 at 04:40 PM

RF

“ We are so sorry for your loss Tom. We pray God's peace and comfort for you and all your family.
Retta & Randy Ford

Retta Ford - February 17, 2015 at 04:29 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elmer D. Vanderwall.



February 17, 2015 at 03:42 PM

DV

“MY DAD: My dad is my hero. He taught me how to walk. He taught me how to talk. He taught me how to fish and he taught me how to ride a bike. He taught me how to respect others and he taught me what not to do. You see, my dad was a Christian man living his life just like Jesus wants us to do. Sure, he disciplined me a few times, but that was just love to make me a stronger person. Many times I wished I could be as strong as my dad. He loved the Lord and just became stronger and stronger in his faith. My dad loved me as only a dad with Christ's love could so love his son. I am so glad I was able to say goodbye to my dad a few weeks ago. We shared a lot of love during that time. Cried, I sure did. But crying not only out of love but I was also crying because he was so sick and soon he would be where he wanted to be; with his wife and Jesus and never to be sick again. That was the last time I saw my dad and his last words to me were “David, I love you and I will see you in heaven”. Dad, you are my hero. I will see you in heaven. I love you so much. Your son, David.

David Vanderwall - February 17, 2015 at 02:55 PM

JV

“Jim & Donna Vanderwall purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Elmer D. Vanderwall.



Jim & Donna Vanderwall - February 17, 2015 at 02:39 PM

TV

“ 21 files added to the album New Album Name



Tom Vanderwall - February 17, 2015 at 01:29 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Elmer D. Vanderwall.



February 16, 2015 at 09:13 PM

KP

“ *Tom, I am sorry to hear of Elmer's passing. He and your mom were always so sweet to me when I worked there. I know you are heartbroken. You all are in my prayers. I know things won't be the same around there. I will always think about the little game he and I would play with the "moving of the Lladro" with a chuckle.*

Kristy Pope - February 16, 2015 at 07:22 PM

RE

“ I count it a true honor to call this wonderful man my friend. He always amazed me how he could find humor in hard times. I was amazed by his wisdom of everything from history to pop culture. He was a real jewel. Often times he would speak of his love for his family and would beam with pride. He loved them all so dearly. He was a kind man with a loving heart and I will miss our talks. He served in WW11 the same time as my grandfather who has passed on as well. Elmer shared pictures of his time overseas with me and I treasure them as my Grandfather had no memorabilia of his time served. I will forever be grateful for the people God allows me to cross paths with and the impressions they leave on my heart. This man will be greatly missed. May his family find peace in knowing that he is with Jesus.

Rena Ervin - February 16, 2015 at 07:20 PM

RE

“ Rena Ervin lit a candle in memory of Elmer D. Vanderwall



Rena Ervin - February 16, 2015 at 07:18 PM

WK

“ I am so sorry for your loss. It was such a pleasure to have been able to take care of him while he was here at The Courtyard. Everyone of his family including Tom and Elmer were very sweet and everyone at The Courtyard enjoyed seeing everyone one of you!! We really enjoyed when Elmer played the Organ... The Vanderwall's will be in my thoughts and prayers...



Wendy Keltch - February 16, 2015 at 12:29 PM

RE

I count it a true honor to call this wonderful man my friend. He always amazed me how he could find humor in hard times. I was amazed by his wisdom of everything from history to pop culture. He was a real jewel. Often times he would speak of his love for his family and would beam with pride. He loved them all so dearly. He was a kind man with a loving heart and I will miss our talks. He served in WW11 the same time as my grandfather who has passed on as well. Elmer shared pictures of his time overseas with me and I treasure them as my Grandfather had no memorabilia of his time served. I will forever be grateful for the people God allows me to cross paths with and the impressions they leave on my heart. This man will be greatly missed. May his family find peace in knowing that he is with Jesus.

Rena Ervin - February 16, 2015 at 07:03 PM

SS

“ *I'm so sorry for your families loss Tom, your father was such a great man, I will keep you in my prayers,*



sandie sugden - February 15, 2015 at 09:42 PM

MB

My condolences to Tom and Alex and all the family. I enjoyed knowing Mr. Elmer; he was a good man.

Mark Barker - February 18, 2015 at 11:23 PM