



Rev Tommy Burdett

May 28, 1919 - September 8, 2006

Rev. Tommy C. Burdett age 87 of Evensville died Friday, September 8, 2006 in Signal Mountain, TN. He was born in Evensville on May 19, 1919 the son of the late Thomas and Cynthia (Pelfrey) Burdett. He was also preceded in death by his first wife Corble Lee (Howard) Burdett, his son Howard Kenneth Burdett and grandson Kenneth Richard Burdett.

Tommy served his country with the US Army during WWII in the South Pacific receiving the Purple Heart. He lived in Rhea County until 1939 moving to Hodgkins, IL and returning to Evensville in 1979. He retired in 1979 from General Motors, Electro-Motive Division in Lagrange, IL. as Plant Foreman after 38 years. He was a member and former Pastor of Smyrna Baptist Church in Evensville and former Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Lamont, IL. Tommy sang with the Gospel Messengers and many other gospel groups and was featured in the National Geographic Magazine in 2001. Tommy was a member of Senior Neighbors of Dayton and the American Legion in Dayton.

He is survived by his wife, Audean Carden (Runyan) Burdett of Evensville, his sons Jerry (Elaine) Burdett of San Diego, CA. , Robert (Cathy) Burdett of West Palm Beach, FL and his daughter, Deanna Burdett Chilton of Chattanooga, nine grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and one great-greatgranddaughter, and two step-children.

Funeral services for Tommy will be held Monday morning at 11:00am in the Smyrna Baptist Church in Evensville with Dr. Roger Rothwell and Rev. Doug Hawkins officiating. His body will lie in state at the church one hour prior to the service. Burial with full military honors will be in the Smyrna Cemetery in Evensville followed by a white dove release. Tommy's nephews will serve as his pallbearers.

Please share your memories with the family on their online guest book at www.vanderwallfh.com.

The family is being served by the Vanderwall Funeral Home in Dayton where they will receive friends Sunday afternoon from 12noon until 6:00pm.

Previous Events

Service

SEP **11.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Smyrna Baptist Church
Evansville, Tn

Tribute Wall



“ Hi!
How are you?##imported-begin##Oljefsa##imported-end##

March 06, 2007 at 02:58 AM



“ This is for Audean and Family..I am very sorry to hear of your lose of Tommy passing away.I just heard about this as of now, and wanted you all to know that I have thought about all of you since I have not seen any of you for years.
I remember back years ago when I grew up next door to Audean and I was at her home time and again.And I remember when she 1st met Tommy and they got married.I thought he was a very nice person and a thoughtful man.I really liked him.I have fond memories of being at your home in my younger years being around Frieda and Mackie.All of you seemed like family way back then.
I know how it feels to lose a parent cause my own mom died in Jan of this year.I will be praying for all of you and may God bless each of you..##imported-begin##Pam Grant-Montgomery##imported-end##

December 04, 2006 at 05:17 AM



“ I was a youngster the last time I saw Tommy. We were playing ball in the cow pasture next to Aunt Cynthia's house near Concord Church at a reunion in the 1950s.
My deepest sympathy in the passing of Tommy##imported-begin##C. Pelfrey##imported-end##

November 04, 2006 at 10:30 AM



“ Dear Family.

I just wanted to let you all know that in my eyes, Uncle Tommy was one of the most special men on earth. Although I didn't get to see him very often, he would always remember me and encourage me to sing. After my Grandpa (his brother, O.L.) went home to be with Jesus, it would make me feel good to be with Uncle Tommy and feel a little bit closer to Grandpa. What a hallelujah time they're having over in glory right now -- can't wait to join them one day.

Thank God for his blessing of placing us all in such a special family. Love you all.

Tisha Burdett Newland##imported-begin##Tisha Burdett Newland##imported-end##

September 21, 2006 at 05:43 PM



“ Boy, where do I start! Mr. Burdett and my grandfather singing while I played the piano. That memory will be with me forever. "How Great Thou Art" and "Turn Your Radio On." I was only 10 years old when I started playing the piano at the Baptist Church in Hodgkins where Mr. Burdett was the pastor. He thought I was the best piano player in the world (at least he would always tell me that), but looking back now as an adult, I was probably only as good as a 10 year girl can be trying to play the piano when all I knew was how to play the organ. Either way, I always felt loved and felt that I really was the best. He will really be missed, but nothing can take away my memories.##imported-begin##Debi Edwards (Yaglowski)##imported-end##

September 21, 2006 at 03:18 PM



“ I grew up knowing Mr. Burdett and his family throughout my early years – when I was a child he and his family lived across the street from us in Hodgkins. They later built a new house, which incidentally, was across the street from my wife, Kathy. It was a time when you didn’t “call before coming over” – on many evenings we would just go visit the Burdetts, or they would show up at our house, and the “grown-ups” would end up having coffee, and maybe some cake, or whatever, around the kitchen table. The kids would go off somewhere in the house and do their thing (Deanna always liked to play cards or practice her trombone ;) Mr. Burdett was a kind, generous and caring man, and he and my dad were great friends.

To say some of those early years in Hodgkins were tough would be an understatement – with Ken and Robert sick I remember Mr. Burdett seemingly constantly on the move. He drove fast, and slept hard. It seemed he could fall asleep in his chair at a drop of a hat. And he always seemed to be fixing one of his cars (he was especially fond of Kaisers, if I recall correctly). I recall once going to a singing in Indiana with my dad, Mr. Burdett and Deanna. The singing was really good (probably), but to be truthful, I only went because we would stop for a chicken dinner on the way there. I always felt comfortable and welcome in their house, and looked up to Mr. and Mrs. Burdett as well as their children Ken, Jerry, Robert and Deanna. Mr. Burdett will be missed, but there is no doubt in my mind that he and my dad are sitting around a kitchen table visiting once again.##imported-begin##Dick Gilpin##imported-end##

September 21, 2006 at 05:52 AM



“ I have warm and fuzzy memories of Mr. Burdett and the Burdett family as a child growing up in Hodgkins. My sympathy for you his family but I know you have the comfort of knowing that he is now in the presence of our Lord.

Terri Day

daughter of Carl Sherwood###imported-begin##Terri Day###imported-end##

September 19, 2006 at 01:34 PM



“ To the Entire Burdette Family,

I have such fond memories of Mr. Burdette and always felt he was genuinely happy to see me as a child. I remember many evenings spent in their living room in Hodgkins, and I will remember brother Burdette with a smile on my face. I am now 38 years old and EVERY time I hear the song "How Great Thou Art," I still think of Brother Burdette. I always will!

I am grateful today for having known Mr. Burdette, although I haven't seen him since my grandfather's funeral in 1988, I loved that man. I am also grateful to my parents for giving us the opportunity to know such a great man. He is already missed and I can't wait to see him in the "Sweet Bye and Bye."

Love, The Yaglowski's (Of Minnesota)

Steve, Becky, Hannah and Samuel###imported-begin##Steve Yaglowski###imported-end##

September 18, 2006 at 11:01 AM



“ My mom, Phyllis, told me about Mr. Burdett passing away. I always remember him being friendly to me. I enjoyed being around him. Mark Yaglowksi###imported-begin###Mark Yaglowksi###imported-end##

September 18, 2006 at 08:43 AM



“ I am sadden to hear of his passing, but God has now and he has a brand new body. I remember as a child he always sang with anyone that ask him. And if he was at a revival and they ask him to sing a special he was always willing and was a wonderful blessing. I remember before I moved to Oklahoma this past spring taking care of him at Rhea Medical Center. He was a lovely man and a true christian. May God be the family. God Bless You!###imported-begin###Laura Kaylor (Barbara Wampler's grand daughter)###imported-end##

September 14, 2006 at 01:22 PM



“ Dear family, the service was beautiful. The singing was special and the doves were a special touch for a special person. I am glad we were able to be there to share the homecoming with you. As the last of his generation, he had knowledge and history of the Burdett's that we may never understand. He did share with us, especially my Tommy, and we appreciated it greatly. Just think, he gets to meet his Dad at last. Thank you, bless you and take care. Love, Mary, Les and Tom Burdett###imported-begin###Mary Burdett###imported-end##

September 12, 2006 at 10:25 PM

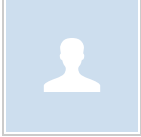


“ Just wanted to add one more memory. At Welcome Hill my brother Billy was leading the singing. It was one of Mr. & Mrs. Burdette's anniversaries.

Billy got up and said "I would like to dedicate this song to Mr. & Mrs. Burdette for their anniversary...Wasted Years"!!!!

So help me, he did that. It got ahead of him because he didn't realize what he had done. (HA)##imported-begin##Dianne (McNure) Lindsey##imported-end##

September 12, 2006 at 09:16 PM



“ I have so many memories of Mr. Burdette, beginning with being privileged to be one of the original Gospel Messengers, with him, Billy, Ken and myself. A couple of memories that I have were of Mr. Burdette getting aggravated with me because I was young, and when I got nervous singing before people, I would get the giggles. I couldn't help myself! Once, he had to stop singing and said, "We'll have to wait for Dianne to get over her giggles". He was a little upset, but I couldn't help myself. My leg would start shaking and the least little mistake in the song would get me going. Also, he told us when singing "I'll Meet You in the Morning" that it was meet you....not meetchew....cause me don't chew!

Also, fond memories of Mrs. Burdette (Corble) getting tickled at Mrs. McCutchins in a church service. Mrs. McCutchins would yell out to the singing or preaching things like "Boy that's the truth" or "that's right" or she'd be shouting and if you were sitting next to Mrs. Burdette, it was all over! She'd get the giggles and everyone around her would start in....

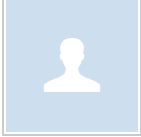
One time Mr. Burdette, Ken, Billy and I were driving down to Tenn. for a singing. It might have been the time that Naomi played for us and the beginning of hers and Billy's romance. But, I remember coming thru the mountains about 2am, Mr. Burdette was driving and it was real foggy...you know, it's one of those times you remember like a nice fragrance, or the taste of food. I'll always remember that. I love the Burdette family...all of

you. And, so glad that God put Mr. Burdette, Mrs. Burdette and Ken in my life.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of them again. That's what's so great about being a born again christian. We have hope and God's assurance of being together after this life.

May God bless you all with peace and strength in the days ahead.##imported-begin##Dianne (McNure) Lindsey##imported-end##

September 11, 2006 at 03:29 PM



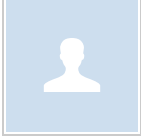
“ I love you guys and am so sorry I can't be there. Didn't get the email until about 1:00pm this afternoon (Sunday). I hate it cause I could have caught a plane with a bit of notice. I've spent the day with tears in my eyes, memories in my mind and a confusing mix of Joy and Grief in my heart. Our generation didn't have Uncles...We all had five Dads! Not to forget our two (and, in some cases, three) Mothers. Uncle Tommy was as much of a Father to us all as all the Burdett Brothers were to each of us. Now our generation are all orphans...and yet, so VERY blessed because of their presence on this Earth. Now Heaven will be blessed as they all get to sing together again for God and the Angels...and I'll just betcha Uncle Amon is actually on pitch! Lift up your eyes to the source of your Strength...and KNOW that your Grief is shared by so many of us whose lives they affected. Tell Uncle Goodbye for me and that I'll see him again in the place he loved most to talk and sing about. He is one of the main reasons I'll be there. God bless you all...Ray##imported-begin##Ray Burdett##imported-end##

September 10, 2006 at 09:50 PM



“ While I have lots of memories with Uncle Tommy, I think the majority of them that stick out is singing with him. It didn't matter where he was or who was around, he was always in the mood to sing. Him and Papaw (Clint Burdett) would always bring the family up to sing at the reunion and it was always a joyous time. It's hard to believe that it's been so many years since I've seen him. I miss him very much, as I do everyone else in the family that live in other states. Now, he can continue singing God's will with the family. I know him, Papaw, Mamaw, and everyone else that has already left this world are singing beautiful songs. I am sorry that I cannot be there with each of you, to share in his memory and remember the good times we had together. Keep his memories alive in you and remember, we'll all be together once again. I love you and miss you all very much.##imported-begin##Glenna "Glenna Sue" Hilyard##imported-end##

September 10, 2006 at 05:51 PM



“ *Brandon Baker- Cindy's Son and Jerry's Grandson:*

I had only met Great-Grandpa Burdett maybe twice in my life, but what an impact he left on me. I have the best memories of the family reunion in Chattanooga a few years back and I am fortunate that I had the chance to talk and be with Grandpa and go to his home and go to church with him. That is a memory I will never forget! His Great-Great Granddaughter (Mckenna Hunter Baker-5months old) will come to know of this wonderful and loving family member and so will the rest of my family. May he rest in peace now and I know we will see him again soon. My prayers are with his wife and children and I am disappointed I could not make it there to say goodbye for now. But Every time I see a (Tommy) Hillfiger shirt I will think of him!

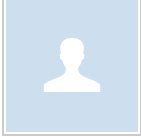
I have had two Great-Grandpa's pass this year, but my one true hope and goal is that I am half the man that both these men were when my life ends. What an honor and blessing it is to have such great family members and follow in their loving and caring foot steps.

Best wishes and prayers to all of my wonderful family and I miss you all.

We will miss you dearly Great-Grandpa.

Brandon, Brooke, and Mckenna###imported-begin##Brandon Baker (Jerry's Grandson)###imported-end##

September 10, 2006 at 05:18 PM



“ I did not know of Uncle's passing until Saturday at midnight. I am so sorry that I cannot be there with all of you. My prayers will certainly be there. His leaving will cause a great void in your hearts, but the wonderful memories that you have of his greatness will fill that void. He and your mother were wonderful Christian parents who loved you with all they had. Enjoy those memories. They will fill a lifetime. I also have wonderful memories of your Dad, my "baby" uncle, the youngest of the bunch. And what a bunch it was. They were all wonderful men and women. Your dad will be missed. May God bless all of you at this time.##imported-begin##Mary Ann Burdett Gearheart##imported-end##

September 10, 2006 at 03:15 AM