



Lonnie Harold O'Dell

March 28, 1932 - September 15, 2019

Lonnie 'Harold' O'Dell, 87, of Muskogee was born March 28, 1932 in Fort Gibson, OK to Lonnie and Opal (Woods) O'Dell and went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, September 15, 2019 at the Jack C Montgomery Veteran's Hospital in Muskogee with his loving family by his side.

Harold grew up and received his formal education in Fort Gibson. He joined the United States Air Force on March 1, 1951 serving during the Korean Conflict and received an honorable discharge on March 1, 1955 at the rank of Airman First Class. He furthered his education at Northeastern State University and Oklahoma State University. He received his Master's in education administration at NSU. His teaching career began at Braggs, followed by teaching carpentry at Fort Gibson and the Indian Capital Area Vo-Tech as a carpentry instructor and later as an administrator, retiring after 32 years service in 1988.

Harold was a faithful member of the Fort Gibson First United Methodist Church where he was involved in mission service using his building skills. He served as a Fort Gibson City Councilor, was a member of the Muskogee County Retired Educators, and sat on the Kate Frank Board of Directors in Muskogee. He was a hobby beekeeper for many years and loved to share his knowledge with others.

Harold loved his family and friends dearly and toward the end of his life they became more precious to him. He might not always recognize his former carpentry students but he never forgot them.

Harold is preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Billy O'Dell and Floyd O'Dell; sister, Louise Venus; and grandson, Morgan Lane Ragsdale.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife Ruth of the home; daughters, Melanie Ragsdale and husband Bruce of Fort Gibson, OK and Melinda Beth Cox and husband Don of Tulsa, OK; brother, Cloyd O'Dell and wife Betty, special cousin Sherlene Baker and husband Mike; grandchildren, Lauren Shryock, Jordan Newberry and Seth Ragsdale; great grandchildren, Annabelle Shryock and Evangeline Shryock; extended family, church family and many friends.

In lieu of flowers the family request donations in Harold's name to the Fort Gibson First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 370 Fort Gibson, OK 74434. A visitation will be held Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at the Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home in Fort Gibson with the family receiving friends 5PM-7PM.

A service celebrating Harold's life will be at noon Thursday, September 19, 2019 at the Fort Gibson First United Methodist Church with Reverend Dawn Richards officiating.

Committal prayers and interment will follow at 2PM in the Fort Gibson National Cemetery with Jordan Newberry, Seth Ragsdale, Bruce Ragsdale, Don Cox, Mike Baker and Chester Hendrix serving as casket bearers. Honorary casket bearers are Brad Clinkenbeard, Ken Lee, Brad Holland and Bill Hill.

The family of Lonnie Harold O'Dell has entrusted his care, services and burial to Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home, Fort Gibson. 918-478-2555

Online condolences may be left at clifforddgarrettfamilyfh.com

Cemetery Details

Fort Gibson National Cemetery

1423 Cemetery Road
Fort Gibson, OK 74434

Previous Events

Family Visitation

SEP **18.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home (Fort Gibson)
1224 E Poplar St
Fort Gibson, OK 74434
(918) 478-2555

Celebration of Life

SEP **19.** 12:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church Fort Gibson
302 Beauregard St
Fort Gibson, OK 74434

Tribute Wall



“ *Lonnie Harold O'Dell*

January 29, 2023 at 12:59 PM



“ *Our condolences on your loss. Harold was such a good human being, he will be greatly missed. Harold and Ruth were the best neighbors that anyone could ask for. May the family find peace as Harold has! The Hall family*

James Hall - September 20, 2019 at 11:43 AM



“ *Eunice Brown lit a candle in memory of Lonnie Harold O'Dell*



Eunice Brown - September 19, 2019 at 06:23 PM



“ *My condolences to you, Ruth and family. As Harold said to me once, he got the pick of the litter with Ruth. That was true as you made a great married couple. Cathy and I always enjoyed sitting with the two of you and catching up on our trips down of Salt Lake. Helping him prepare the briskets for I believe a church picnic was a wonderful day. Harold was always a joy to spend time chatting with and sharing ideas. i would not be surprised that he and Cathy are catching up right now. My best to all the O'Dell family.*

Gary Max Perryman

Gary M Perryman - September 19, 2019 at 12:27 AM

FB

“ *To the O'Dell family:*

Please allow me to express our condolences upon the death of Mr. O'Dell.

He is well-remembered at Braggs for his years of teaching there, his dedication to education and his service to his country during a time of war.

We extend our sincere sympathies ~~

*Fran Barker
Braggs History Project*

Fran Barker - September 18, 2019 at 07:01 PM

MB

“ *Midge Blue lit a candle in memory of Lonnie Harold O'Dell*



Midge Blue - September 18, 2019 at 08:34 AM

SC

“ *Sandra K Conn lit a candle in memory of Lonnie Harold O'Dell*



Sandra K Conn - September 18, 2019 at 08:27 AM

CW

“ We wish to share our heartfelt condolences to Ruth, Melanie, Beth and all their families for the loss of such a remarkable man, husband, father, grandfather, teacher and friend. Fort Gibson flourished because of men like him and students gained a lifetime of skills because of his wise counsel and influence. We were fortunate to have known him even though we did not have the pleasure of being in his classes. He always took the time and interest to share stories and smiles with everyone. Much love and many happy memories wished all who knew and loved him. Family of Belle Cahoon (Carolyn Bob Watts , Anne Baldwin)

Carolyn Watts - September 17, 2019 at 06:16 PM

KH

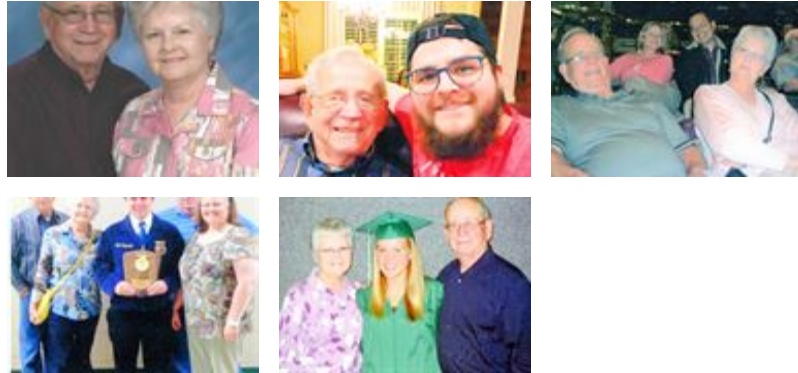
Please accept our deepest sympathy. Harold was a remarkable man and so very talented. I recently found a newspaper article with a photo of Harold with two students. They were building a house for Bud Huggins. Harold was responsible for my Dad (James Cooper) running for councilman in Fort Gibson. Harold loved Fort Gibson and worked hard to make it a better place. Fort Gibson is a better place today because of him

*I will always remember him with a smile on his face and a positive attitude His former students were blessed beyond measure to have had Harold as a teacher.
He will be missed by many.*

kathy hamilton - September 18, 2019 at 12:52 PM



“ 54 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home - September 17, 2019 at 06:01 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Lonnie Harold O'Dell*.



September 16, 2019 at 01:31 PM



“ *Fairest of All* was purchased for the family of *Lonnie Harold O'Dell*.



September 16, 2019 at 11:47 AM