



Floyd E. Merritt

June 13, 1936 - March 14, 2014

Mr. Floyd E. Merritt, age 77, of Tullahoma, TN passed away Friday, March 14, at the Life Care Center of Tullahoma. Funeral Services will be held Thursday, March 20 at 11 AM at the Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home Chapel with Bro. Greg Swango officiating. Burial will follow at Concord Cemetery. Visitation with the family will be Wednesday, March 19 from 5 – 9 PM at the funeral home.

A native of Coffee County, he was the son of the late Earnest Merritt and the late Cleo Floyd Merritt. While attending Lipscomb University in Nashville, he served as minister of Hickerson Station Church of Christ in Coffee County, TN. He received his BA from Lipscomb University in 1961, his MA from University of Kansas in 1963, and his PHD in Speech Communication from Ohio State University in 1973. He was a beloved Professor of Speech Communication at Eastern Illinois University, Ohio State University, Alabama Christian University and University of Kansas. He received several Teacher of the Year Awards.

During his career of teaching he also served as minister to several Church of Christ Churches including ones located in Kemp and Findlay, IL. After 38 years of teaching, Mr. Merritt retired and relocated back to Tullahoma, TN. He enjoyed coin collecting and hunting for coins with a metal detector. He also loved to watch sports and was an avid Chicago Cubs fan.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by five brothers, Winfred, Benjamin, James, Everett and Steve Merritt and four sisters, Mildred Coldwell, Verna Riddle, Nancy Waters and Kathleen Kilgore.

Mr. Merritt is survived by his wife, Betty Hix Merritt of Tullahoma; one son,

Roger Alan Merritt and his wife, Linda of Tullahoma; one daughter, Melanie Neal and her husband Michael Shane of Nashville; one brother, Dewey Merritt and his wife, Mary of Greensboro, NC; two sister-in-laws, Margaret Merritt and Shirley Merritt, both of Chicago; one brother-in-law, Robert Kilgore of Murfreesboro and three grandchildren.

Online condolences may be made at www.davesculbertsonfuneralhome.com.

Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Concord Cemetery

Tullahoma, TN

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 19. 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home
401 N Jackson Street
Tullahoma, TN 37388
(931) 455-3481

Service

MAR 20. 11:00 AM (CT)

Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home
401 N Jackson Street
Tullahoma, TN 37388
(931) 455-3481

Tribute Wall



“ *Floyd E. Merritt*

January 25, 2023 at 12:28 AM



“ *I would like to send my condolences to your family. Dr. Merritt was my speech professor at Eastern IL University and he touched my life in a very special way. He became a source of inspiration, encouragement, and I am sorry to learn of his passing. I kept up with him off and on in email. I did lose touch with Dr. Merritt so I decided to Google him and hoped that he wasn't gone. He was an outstanding man and earned my respect on the first day of class when he began the class with a gigantic smile and "CURTAIL the SUPERFLOUS conversation. PLEASE!". Ha ha and he drug that word out-superfluous! He immediately got our attention and of course some of my and the others giggles. I came to his retirement party at EIU and I am glad that I did see him after graduation. He was a wonderful person and I know that he was definitely a man of GOD having been raised in the church myself. He was a huge part of my success at EIU and in life. He became more like a mentor and I am glad that I had to have had chance to know him.*

*Kenyana Burton
keekeeb2@gmail.com*

Kee Kee Burton - May 23, 2016 at 11:14 AM

MR

“ Betty and Melanie, I am so sorry to hear of Floyd's passing. I have fond memories of time spent with Melanie at the Merritt household. So wonderful to see how he touched so many lives. A man that certainly loved God and his family. Please know that our love and prayers are with your family.

Michelle (Harner) Rhine

Michelle Harner Rhine - March 20, 2014 at 09:15 PM

MN

Michelle, it's been so many years since I've seen you. Were your parents missionaries in a Portuguese-speaking country? And you lived across the street from us on 10th street when you came back to the U.S.? So nice to hear from you! I'm not on Facebook, but my email is melmerrittneal@gmail.com. Let's keep in touch!

melanie merritt neal - March 26, 2014 at 07:04 PM

MM

“ I thought the family might like to see the tributes that students and coworkers are leaving on EIU's alumni facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/169618131421/>. Floyd was a dear colleague to many of us who remember him fondly as a man of integrity, exceptional teacher, and man of God. My condolences to his family.

Melanie Mills, EIU professor

Melanie Mills - March 19, 2014 at 09:09 PM

AN

“ Melanie , I was sorry to read of your dads passing. I remember going to your house and he ways had a sme on his face and was such a nice man.

Amy Love Nowocin - March 19, 2014 at 05:54 AM

MN

Hi Amy. Thanks for sharing. He was an awesome dad! Happy that all my friends would remember him that way.

melanie merritt neal - March 26, 2014 at 09:36 PM

 Julia Harvell

“*Years ago at Alabama Christian College, Floyd and Betty would come to our house and watch Bonanza with us on our new color TV. Floyd talked about those enjoyable times for many years. We will miss Floyd even though we have lived many miles apart for a long time. Love, Wayne and Judi Harvell*

Julia Harvell - March 17, 2014 at 09:53 PM

SG

“*Betty and family, I am sorry to hear of Floyd's death. He was an important part of the speech dept. at EIU for years. You may not know that Don Garner died August 31, 2013. My sympathy is with you. Suellyn Lindsey Garner*

suellyn garner - March 17, 2014 at 09:26 PM



“*Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Floyd E. Merritt.*



March 17, 2014 at 03:34 PM

RM

“ Robert Merritt purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Floyd E. Merritt.



Robert Merritt - March 17, 2014 at 10:06 AM

RJ

“ I first met Floyd when I was a student at UT in Knoxville in the late 1950s. We lost contact for many years until he retired and returned to Tullahoma. From my first impression until now, Floyd has always been an example of a Christian gentleman. I will miss him.

R. H. Jackson, Tullahoma, TN

R. H. Jackson - March 16, 2014 at 01:02 PM

JF

As former neighbors of Floyd & Betty, we share our deep heartfelt sympathy in the passing of Floyd. My wife Terri & I lived across the street on Taft Ave in Charleston, Ill while Floyd was at EIU. We truly enjoyed our many daily or weekly visits with Floyd . As he would often stop and talk to us, usually after or before his daily jog around town. I'll never forget the day Floyd was looking in my garage (which I always tried to keep organized). His commit was, " Jim, Your garage is so clean, it's Unbiblical ! " To this day, I still love to tell the story of Floyd's words about our garage. Bette, all of us on Taft Ave. have you and your family in our hearts & prayers. His place in heaven is prepared. We were honored to be your friends.

*Our Love from Charleston, Ill. Jim & Terri Farley * **

Jim Farley - March 18, 2014 at 03:43 PM

DU

Betty, so sorry to here of Floyd's passing. We thought of you both often. We had heard that he had not been well in recent times. God called a good Christian home and heaven is much better for it.

Want to tell you that only 5 members of the Findlay Church of Christ remain alive: Robert Perry, who is ninety tomorrow, Byron and Susan Abrams; and Duane and I.

The church has closed and been sold to the former mayor of Findlay, Gene Wooters and he has opened a country. gospel and blue grass music establishment for spring, summer, fall entertainment for the summer lake visitors and the locals. They have a full house every Friday night. God has a sense of humor sometimes. We are thankful that the building is being used for the betterment of our small community.

We wish you peace and comfort in your loss of Floyd. Draw your strength from God and your loved ones

In Christian Love, Duane and Marjorie Uphoff

Duane and Marjorie Uphoff - March 20, 2014 at 05:24 PM

RO

Thanks, R.H. Jackson. Dad loved living in Tullahoma after his retirement. He would often point you out to me and tell me that he knew you in college. It's a shame his memory had to go so soon.

Roger - March 27, 2014 at 09:18 AM