



## Rudy Thomas Elam

June 22, 1930 - August 14, 2017

Rudy Thomas Elam of Moore County, TN, passed away Monday, August 14, 2017, at the age of 87. Born in Bradford, TN on June 22, 1930, he was preceded in death by his parents: Bonds Elam and Mamie Baldrige Elam. Rudy is survived by his wife of 62 years, Dorothy Holt Elam and their three children: daughter, Lorraine Carter (Ray); son, Les Elam (Melanie) and son, Mark Elam. Proud grandfather, he had 7 granddaughters and 8 great grandchildren: Elizabeth Pittman (Jeff) and sons, Cameron, Robert, Hunter and Cooper; Jessica Sazanov (Saz) and daughters, Chloe and Emma; Sarah Zerhusen (Matthew) and children, Carter and Riley; Katie Elam; Mary Beth Elam; Madison Elam and Ana Grace Elam. Rudy is also survived by a sister: Janace Lickman (George) of Mobile, AL, several nieces and a nephews. Rudy attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville where he met his wife. He graduated from Tennessee Tech with a Bachelors Degree in Electrical Engineering. Rudy retired from the TN Army National Guard as a Colonel with 39 years duty. In 1980, while in the National Guard, he graduated from the Army War College in Carlisle, PA, receiving a Masters of Public Administration Degree from Shippensburg University in Shippensburg, PA. He worked at Arnold Center for 39 years as an Electrical and Systems Engineer. Rudy was a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and served on a committee for lighting, helping to write a code manual that was specific to lighting. He also was a past president of the local IEEE Chapter. He was a devoted member for 58 years of Faith Lutheran Church in Tullahoma

where he served as congregation president and an Elder for many years. Rudy was Chairman of the Moore County Election Commission and before that had been Chairman of the Moore County Republican party for several years.

An avid runner, Rudy didn't start running until the age of 46. He was the first person in the area to run the Boston Marathon – running it 4 times. He completed 49 marathons in all. He loved flying and became a private pilot. Rudy loved to travel and he travelled the world with Dot and his friends and family. He enjoyed family genealogy research. Rudy also researched Davy Crocket's life and times in Tennessee and Texas. He loved to read books involving our Civil War heroes and was a member of the Sons of the Confederacy. He and Dot have always enjoyed entertaining and having family get-togethers at their barn home.

Visitation for Mr. Elam will be held on Friday evening, August 18, from 5-8 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church in Tullahoma and on Saturday, August 19, from 11 a.m. to Noon with a Memorial Service to follow at the church. Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Online condolences may be made at [www.davesculbertsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.davesculbertsonfuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 18. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Faith Lutheran Church  
Tullahoma, TN

## Memorial Service

AUG 19. 11:00 AM (CT)

Faith Lutheran Church  
Tullahoma, TN

# Tribute Wall



“ *Rudy Thomas Elam*

January 25, 2023 at 12:28 AM



“ *Dot and family*  
*Sorry to hear of Rudy' s passing from this place. He was a friend to many people including me. In addition to all of his life tributes he was instrumental in bringing Cumberland University adult courses to Tullahoma TN. He also taught several of the junior and senior courses. He was an advocate of a person being all that they could be through education. My prayers are for the comforting of all the family during this time of deep sorrow.*

**Jimmie M.Sanders** - August 19, 2017 at 10:22 AM

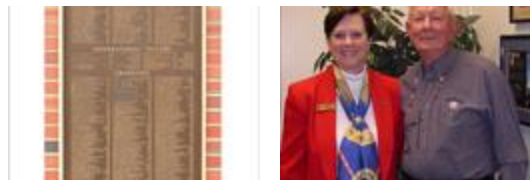


“ *Our hearts are saddened to hear of Rudy's passing. We enjoyed his friendship and the hospitality that he and Dot extended to us many times. Our prayers are with her and the family.*  
*Ray and Karen Maxwell*

**Karen Maxwell** - August 17, 2017 at 09:41 PM



“ *2 files added to the album COL Rudy Elam Army War College Photos*



**Andrew Milligan** - August 16, 2017 at 02:29 PM

AM

“ COL Elam proudly served as the 230th Engineer Battalion Commander during his distinguished career with the Tennessee Army National Guard. He has sought out the engineers during the annual National Guard Association of Tennessee conference the last few years, and would honor us by sitting with us instead of the other retirees. He always spoke about this command and his time at the Army War College with pride, and his sacrifice to his state and to his nation is an inspiration to all of us.

COL Elam will be recognized at the 194th Engineer Brigade Ball this year.

You will be sorely missed at our convention Sir

Essayons

COL Andrew Milligan  
Engineers, Tennessee Army National Guard

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Andrew Milligan - August 16, 2017 at 09:59 AM

RP

“ SO sorry to learn of my dear friend Rudy's death. We shared many happy times together over the several years we served together with Dot and Rudy. Ailene and I wish we were able to be there to express our condolences. Know that our thoughts and prayers are with Dot and their family.

Roland and Ailene Parkhill

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Rland Parkhill - August 16, 2017 at 06:57 AM