

## Obituaries



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### Lawrence E. Chapin

NOVEMBER 27TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

#### Lawrence E. Chapin

**Lawrence E. Chapin**, son of the late Clayton and Ruth Gilbert Chapin, was born in Stanton, Michigan on March 9, 1915, and passed away at the Southeast Missouri Hospital in Cape Girardeau, Missouri on November 11, 2013, at the age of 98 years, 8 months, and 2 days.

He had lived in Kansas City before moving to Dudley in 2004. He had worked for a transport company hauling cars. He was a veteran of the U. S. Navy.

On December 23, 1943, he was married to Kathryn E. Orr in Tacoma, Washington. She preceded him in death on September 23, 2006.

Surviving are one son, Miles Greg Meadows of Dexter, Missouri; one daughter, Sharon M. Hill of Leawood, Kansas; ten grandchildren; eighteen great grandchildren; several great great grandchildren. Other relatives and friends also survive. He was preceded in death by one son, Thomas Meadows, one brother and one sister.

Graveside Services will be held Monday, December 2, 2013, at 1:00 p.m. at the Missouri Veteran's Cemetery in Bloomfield, Missouri with full military honors conducted.

Watkins & Sons Funeral Service of Dexter in charge of arrangements.

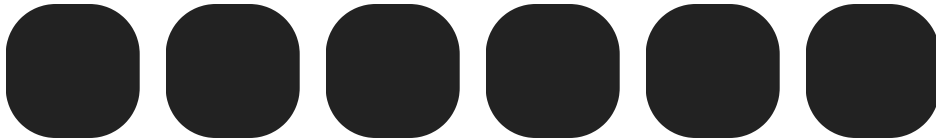
Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.watkinsfuneralhome.com](http://www.watkinsfuneralhome.com)  
Watkins & Sons Funeral Service

info@watkinsfuneralhome.com or phone 573 624 3548

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## Ruth V. Craft

NOVEMBER 27TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Ruth V. Craft](#)

**Ruth V. Craft**, daughter of the late John Horton and Anna Margaritte Kleffer Horton was born in Bernie, Missouri on November 24, 1917 and departed this life at Saint Francis Medical Center in Cape Girardeau, Missouri on November 26, 2013 at the age of 96.

Mrs. Craft was a Farmer's wife, had worked at Brown Shoe Factory, had also worked at the Dime Store in Bernie and was a homemaker. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Bernie.

She was united in marriage to Homer Lee Craft in Piggott, Arkansas on September 10, 1942. Mr. Craft preceded his wife in death on April 7, 2009.

Survivors include one son, Homer Lee Craft II and wife Joan of Bartlett, Tn. Also by other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death other than by her parents and her husband, by four brothers, Chester "Sonny" Horton, Harlan Horton, Ernest Horton, Martin Horton; by three sisters, Dorothy Rice, Hester Dawson and Ruby Horton.

Friends may call at the Rainey-Mathis Funeral Home in Bernie on Monday, December 2, 2013 from 11:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M.

Funeral services will then be conducted in the Rainey-Mathis Funeral Chapel starting at 12:00 P.M. Interment will follow in the Bernie Cemetery.

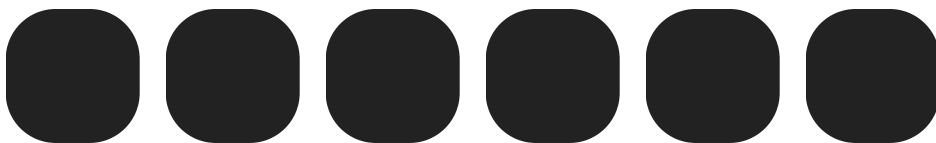
Rainey-Mathis Funeral Home in Charge of arrangements.

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# James Alva Stutts, Jr.

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NOVEMBER 25TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

James Alva Stutts, Jr.

**James Alva “Al” Stutts, Jr.** died at his rural Dexter home on November 23, 2013 at the age of 84.

He was born on December 27, 1928 to Lora Ethel McCain Stutts and James Alva Stutts, Sr. in Hector, Arkansas. The Stutts family moved to Dexter when Al was 14.

Al married Veleta Frances Pierce on May 24, 1949 at the Stutts home in Dexter. They were married for 64 years.

He served in the Air Force from 1951 to 1953. He later worked as a civilian flight instructor for the Air Force at Malden Air Force Base and Bainbridge Army Airfield until 1961.

Al was a farmer, a pilot and an adventurer. He and Veleta purchased land in Belize, then known as British Honduras, along with several other families. In 1967, the Stutts family moved to British Honduras where Al built roads, runways, harvested mahogany and prepared the land for planting. He also managed a banana and orange grove. Al and Veleta visited Belize many times over the years and built lasting friendships.

Al was a member of First Baptist Church of Dexter and served as a deacon. He was a member of Rotary, served as president, and helped host international visitors.

Al is survived by one son and wife Mark and Charlotte Stutts of Essex, a daughter Lisa Stutts of Dexter, a daughter and husband Debra and Mike Ebner, and a granddaughter Jacqueline Owens of Wake Forest, North Carolina. He was

predeceased by his wife, Veleta Stutts.

Visitation will be Monday November 26 from 5:00 – 8:00 PM at Rainey Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter. Funeral services will be conducted on Tuesday November 27 at 11:00 with Dr. Steven Easterwood officiating. Interment will follow at the Chalk Bluff Cemetery, south of Dexter.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Chalk Bluff Cemetery.

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## Willie C. Padgett, Jr.

NOVEMBER 20TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Willie C. Padgett, Jr.

**Willie C. Padgett, Jr.**, son of the late Willie C. Padgett, Sr. and Pearl Covert Padgett, was born on December 22, 1936 at Cheboygan, Michigan, and passed away on November 18, 2013 at his residence in Bloomfield at the age of 76 years.

Mr. Padgett had worked as a machine operator for General Motors for thirty years. He was a veteran of the United States Army, a member of American Legion Post #382 of Bloomfield and a member of the Stoddard County Veterans Honor Guard.

On December 22, 1962, he was united in marriage to Brenda L. Elder in Cheboygan, Michigan. Mrs. Padgett survives at the home.

He lived for three things in his life, his grandson, Blake, the outdoors and a good game of cards. He was an all American kind of man who flew the American flag in his front yard and was thoroughly involved in supporting his family, friends, and community. He was loved by all friends and family and will be truly missed.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by one daughter, Amanda K. Wilson and her husband Robert of Essex, Missouri and one grandson, Blake Hunter Wilson.

Besides his parents he was preceded in death by one brother and four sisters.

Friends may call at the Rainey-Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter on Friday, November 22, 2013 from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Graveside services will be conducted on November 22, 2013 at 1:00 P.M. at the Missouri State Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield with Jerry Elder and Jack Gilles officiating.

Interment will follow graveside services.

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## James Lawson Childers

NOVEMBER 18TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

James Lawson Childers

**James Lawson “Squirrel” Childers**, son of the late Bill Childers and Irene Moss Childers was born on May 16, 1944 in Athens, Alabama and passed away on November 16, 2013 at Southeast Health in Cape Girardeau at the age of 69 years.

Mr. Childers was a member of the Church of God in Dexter, he had worked in maintenance at Holden Pallet Company in Dexter and was a resident of Dexter.

On July 16, 1991, he was united in marriage to Rachel McCoy in Bloomfield, Missouri. Mrs. Childers preceded him in death on January 23, 2013.

He is survived by two sons, William Lawson McCoy of Dexter and Virgil Childers of Portageville; by one daughter, Beverly Allen of Malden; by two brothers, Kenneth Childers of Vero Beach, Florida and Bill Childers of Arab, Missouri; and by five grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by one sister, Judy Maulden.

Friends may call at the Rainey-Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter on Tuesday, November, 19, 2013 from 5:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Funeral services will be conducted on Wednesday, November 20, 2013 at 11:00 A.M. with Rev. Leonard Madigan officiating.

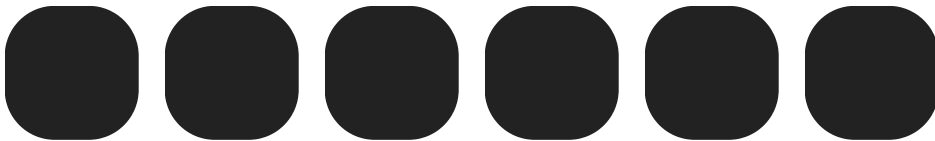
Interment will follow in the Hagy Cemetery.

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