



Ed Clarence Major

May 5, 1934 - September 8, 2020

Edgar "Ed" Clarence Major of Salem, Missouri passed away Tuesday, September 8, 2020 peacefully at home surrounded by his family, at the age of 86.

Ed was born in Dent County, Missouri on May 5, 1934 to the late Raymond and Erma (Mounce) Major.

Ed Major married the love of his life, Miss Wanda Wisdom on June 18, 1955. This union was blessed with two daughters. In 1957 Ed left his bride and enlisted in the United States Army. After serving in the Army for 2 years, Ed transferred to the National Guard for six more years. He and Wanda then moved to St. Louis, where Ed went to work for Hussman Refrigeration as a welder. They would return to Salem as the family started growing. Ed went to work for Craig Distributing, in the fleet maintenance department. Craig Distributing was bought by Kraft Foods in the early 80's and Ed retired in 1996 where he had served as the Fleet Maintenance Supervisor.

Ed was a 50+ year member of the Salem Masonic Lodge #225 AF-AM, Shrine, Scottish Rite, and a member of the Eastern Star #186. He was also a member of the First Baptist Church in Salem, Missouri, where he was very active until his health no longer permitted. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and camping. For several years he and Wanda, and many of their Salem friends would load up their 5th wheels and set out for Texas, where they would spend as much of the cold Missouri winter as possible. They really enjoyed traveling.

Most of all Ed was a family man. He adored his family and they adored him. He was the string that held the family tightly together. He constantly showed, with humor and unwavering love, that family could make it through anything. He had an ability to tunnel through chaotic times, always positive, empathetic, and never judgmental in his support of others. Ed was a people person, a good listener, without being judgmental, he was a "go-to" guy for almost anything you needed, maybe a piece of equipment that needed fixed, something needing built, or if you just needed some words of wisdom, Ed was your guy; although he was very humble, and did not want any praise for his works, he did a lot of things that nobody even knew about. He was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, uncle and friend, his finest quality was his patience, an inherent ability to listen, to absorb and to offer a point of view based on quiet, measured wisdom. Finally, every day of his 65 years of marriage, he taught his children, and grandchildren what it meant to be a great husband. He married his sweetheart, he adored her, he laughed with her and cried with her, and was dedicated to her totally. We bid farewell as we mourn the loss of a lively, and dignified soul, a soul that brought joy and fulfillment to many, and whose legacy will live forever.

Edgar Clarence Major is survived by his wife Wanda, of the home; daughters, Cheryl Smith and husband Greg, of Salem, MO, and Darla Major, of Salem, MO; grandsons, Chad Smith and wife Krystle, and C.J. Smith and wife Rachel, all of Salem, MO; great-grandchildren, Walker and Toree Smith; brother, Larry Major, of Salem, MO; very special long time family friend, Christina Hansen and husband Bill, of St. Louis, MO; a host of extended family and friends.

Funeral service will be held at 11:00 AM on Monday, September 14, 2020 at the Salem Chapel of the James & Gahr Mortuary with Phil Newcom officiating, and Ann Emory and Lisa Wulff providing the music selections. Internment with Full Military Honors will follow at Cedar Grove Cemetery with Chad Smith, C.J. Smith, Jon Johnson, Jason Bass, Jereme Patton, and Jordan Thompson

serving as pallbearers, and Walker Smith and Toree Smith serving as honorary pallbearers. A visitation for family and friends will be held at the Chapel on Sunday, September 13, 2020 from 4-7PM, with a Masonic Service at 7PM. Memorials are suggested and greatly appreciated to First Baptist Basics/or the Salem Senior Center.

Cemetery Details

Cedar Grove Cemetery

Salem, MO

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 13. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

James & Gahr Mortuary - Salem
103 West Center
Salem, MO 65560
(573) 729-3117
jgsalemmo@hotmail.com
<https://www.jamesgahrmortuary.com/>

Service

SEP 14. 11:00 AM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Ed Clarence Major*

January 30, 2023 at 04:37 AM



“ *Ed Clarence Major*

January 30, 2023 at 02:54 AM



“ *Ed always had nice fixed up pickups. My goal was always try to get one as nice as Ed. I never achieved that.*

Jerry Hammons - October 28, 2020 at 03:31 PM



“ *So sorry Wanda and family for your loss. I always enjoyed visiting with Ed. Living in Steeville our paths mainly crossed during a death in the family. If I wanted to keep up on family and friends in Salem, all I had to do is give Ed a call. Ed's grandfather and my dad were brothers. You are in our thoughts and prayers Wanda.*
Tom & Marilyn Mounce

Tom Mounce - September 15, 2020 at 05:47 PM

GH

“ Wanda, Cheryl, Darla and family,
Please accept my condolences on your tremendous loss. I have many fond and funny memories of Ed and your family from my childhood. As I grow older I have learned to treasure all the things we experienced in our growing up. The trips to Washington, D.C and Pikes Peak Colorado. How did you four adults handle the three talking, laughing and no doubt crying kids in the back of the station wagon!!! Another memory I have of Ed that I would share is the day after Dad passed. Mom, John and I were coming home from Springfield without him. It was December and had snowed. When we arrived at 10am. Ed had been there with snow shovel and had cleared our driveway and walkway. I will never forget that act of kindness on that very difficult day. Now you are having your difficult days. Please know that I am thinking of you and smiling when I think of the person that Ed Majors was. You are all in my prayers. Gail Hampton Hedding

Gail Hedding - September 14, 2020 at 01:34 PM

BC

“ So sorry to hear of Ed's passing he was a good friend to Joe and I prayers to the family Bobby

Bobby Camden - September 14, 2020 at 09:57 AM

NR

“ Dear Wanda,
We are so sad to hear of Ed's passing. He was one of our best friends when we were all in France. Then we had the chance to know you too from Army reunions. Our minds are full of cherished memories. Please know that you're in our prayers and have our deepest sympathy. We will talk to you soon.
Nancy and Jim Raynes

nancy g. raynes - September 12, 2020 at 04:40 PM

CL

“ From the members of Salem Masonic Lodge #225 our deepest sympathies to the family of our dear brother Ed Major.

*Clay Lindsay
Secretary
Salem Lodge #225*

Clay Lindsay - September 11, 2020 at 04:15 PM

EL

“ E sure enjoyed our friendship with Ed and Wanda. We've been on many trips with our Basics trips. Also on our Tuesday night get together at pizza inn. I know we will miss him. Our love to Wanda and the family. Jerry and Evelyn.

Evelyn Larue - September 11, 2020 at 12:00 PM

RL

“ Ricky & Deborah Land lit a candle in memory of Ed Clarence Major



Ricky & Deborah Land - September 11, 2020 at 11:23 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Ed Clarence Major.



September 10, 2020 at 09:14 PM

MB

“ *RIP Ed. Prayers for Wanda and the family. So sad, another long time friend has passed. Good man, good family.*

Max Butler - September 10, 2020 at 12:00 PM

PF

“ Dear Wanda and Family,

It saddens me to learn of Cousin Edgar passing away. With all of the older family members passing away it makes it even harder knowing for many of us we should have visited much sooner than what many of us realize in life scheme of things.

I do remember with a smile Edgar's witiness, laughter, fun loving spirit & joyfulness to be happy. He and my Aunt Bonnie seemed particularly close as cousins whenever they were visiting each other and they were born the same year 1934 too.

I also recall Wanda and his caring nature of checking in on our Aunt Ethel 'Ted' Hammonds and seeing to many of her care needs in her elder years. Aunt Ted helped to take care of sooo many of her family as well during the depression. Aunt Ted, Edgar, Aunt Bonnie (Wooliver-Mansfield) & my Mother, Loraine (Wooliver-Freukes) would talk about when Aunt Ted owned and operated 'Blue Heaven' out on Highway 19 near Shortbend. It was a small tavern & dancehall on Friday & Saturday evening. My Grandma, Avis Wooliver would help cook hamburgers and such to serve, the kids would be kept in the back room to play, and there would be dancing & drinks for the public. They said the CCC Camp boys would come over sometimes for an evening out as well. Edgar said he as a child would tap dance and the patrons would tip him money to see him tap away!! There would also be square dances with a fiddler 🪕 and a caller Edgar said. Edgar said he loved his time spent with his cousins and Aunt Ted back then at the 'Blue Heaven'.

Edgar would also talk about his daughters and his wife, Wanda & when he did...there was always a smile and glow in his cheeks. He was proud of all their works and achievements. He was definitely a grand person to know.

As hard as it is to say "Goodbye" to Edgar, let the Spirit comfort you knowingly Edgar has been saying "Hello Again" to his family and friends who has gone on before him.

Rest In Peace Edgar & God Be With You Until We Meet Again...

Cousin Patricia Freukes

Cousin Janice Freukes-Joseph & Family

Patricia E. Freukes - September 10, 2020 at 04:02 AM