



John L. Schafer

February 27, 1924 - July 10, 2019

John L. Schafer of Salem, Missouri passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at the age of 95. John was born on February 27, 1924 in Bunker, Missouri to the late William Calvin, and Stella (Williams) Schafer.

John proudly served his country in the United States Army during WWII. John was awarded many medals for his service that also include 2 Bronze Stars, and a Purple Heart. After returning home from the war, John married the love of his life, Miss Esther Mooney on May 4, 1946, this union was blessed with a daughter. In 1968, John and Esther bought a little farm outside of town where they raised a few cows, and planted gardens to harvest the food they would have during the winter months. He went to work for Theo Ziske as a repairman for office equipment, working on typewriters, adding machines, and cash registers, he would later work in the St. Louis area doing the same. After moving his family back to Salem, John went to work at Ft. Leonard Wood in the Civil Service. After he retired in 1984, he returned to the "job" of his heart, farming the land that he loved. By this time he had gained a son-in-law, and his pride and joy, a grandson, David Dittman. He loved his family and spending time with them was a top priority for John. Sadly he lost his wife Esther, in 2007 after 61 years of marriage. John was a member of the Masonic lodge for over 52 years, and was very active in district 29 until his health no longer permitted. He was a loving father, grandfather, brethren, uncle, and friend to all, and will be greatly missed by all that knew and loved

him.

John is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Pat and Karl Dittman, of Salem, MO; grand-daughter-in-law, Stephanie Dittman, of Salem, MO; great-grandchildren, Mallorie and Dawson Dittman, of Salem, MO; sister-in-law, Zelda Schafer, of Jerseyville, Illinois; his lodge Brethren of Salem Lodge #225 A.F. & A.M.; a host of nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. In addition to his parents John was preceded in death by his wife Esther Schafer; brothers, Arvil, Willis, Lesley, Arnold "Toad" Schafer; sisters, Ruth "Lizzy" Watson, Alice Tinker, Ellen Light, and Carrie Wisdom; grandson, David Dittman.

Funeral service will be held on Saturday, July 13, 2019 at 11:00AM at the Salem Chapel of the James & Gahr Mortuary with Pastor Tim Hill officiating. Interment with Full Military Honors will be at the Green Forest Cemetery with JD Steelman, AJ Seay, Steven Sewell, Chad Smith, and Jeff Cawthon serving as pallbearers. Visitation for family and friends will be held at the Chapel on Friday, July 12, 2019 from 5-7PM, and a Masonic Service at 7PM.

Cemetery Details

Green Forest Cemetery

Salem, MO

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 12. 5:00 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/>

Masonic Service

JUL 12. 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

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

Service

JUL 13. 11:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *John L. Schafer*

January 30, 2023 at 04:37 AM



“ *John L. Schafer*

January 30, 2023 at 02:54 AM



“ *i did not know Great Uncle John and Aunt Esther's Anniversary was the day before my birthday. I always felt i was named after my great Aunts. I only met them a couole of times when i was young but they left a ladting impression on me. I remember visiting the farm and Uncle John taking us out to the pasture in his pick up to visit his cows. I was amazed when the cows all came at his call and came right io to him looking for attention from a friend. He had a gentleman's demeanor and a handsome southern accent. At the family reunion he was with all of us the younger generation. He played baseball with us and was a good pitcher and had more energy then most of the teens. I think the last time I saw him. I knew we were always welcomed back anytime with the proverbial southern hospitality but life seemed to always be too busy. Heaven has reclaimed a good man and Aunt Esther is reunited with her John ♡♡♡*

Esther Freedlund Becker - July 12, 2019 at 09:04 PM

PS

“ So sorry for your loss. He will be missed deep in my heart, where he has always been. Have memories of being at the farm, sitting down to a GREAT TASTING biscuits & grave made by Aunt Esther. Sending Hugs & Prayers Paula Schafer

paula schafer - July 12, 2019 at 08:20 PM

CL

“ Salem Masonic Lodge #225 shares your loss of such a wonderful and great man who always gave of himself to better his fellow man. Amazing teacher, trainer and just overall a awesome individual..! He will be greatly missed..!

Clay Lindsay - July 11, 2019 at 12:26 PM