



Mr. Verne Luther Middleton

April 8, 1929 - July 20, 2018

Mr. Verne Luther Middleton, age 89, of Scottsboro, Alabama and formerly of Alton, Illinois, passed away on Friday July 20, 2018 at Highlands Health and Rehabilitation Center. Verne entered into heaven's joys confident in the blessed assurance of his Savior's redeeming love.

Funeral services will be held at First United Methodist Church on Wednesday July 25, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. with Rev. Steven Screws and Rev. Gary Speers officiating. The family will receive friends from 6:00 p.m. until the time of service. Burial will be in Illinois.

Verne was born in Danville, Illinois on April 8, 1929 and married his sweetheart Rita (Nee Rawlins) after his return from military service on October 7, 1955. His children Scott (Paula) Middleton of Missouri, Lori Ann (Jack) Tellor of Illinois, and Amy Lynn (Michael) Williams of Ohio greatly mourn his absence. Verne's fond grandchildren Claire, Erin (Brad), Katie (Mikey), Matthew (Lauren), Ben, Brendan, and Brynn; two step grandchildren Jason (Nicole) Tellor and Janna (Luke) Chesnut; eight great grandchildren; a nephew, Mark (Paula); nieces, Cheri (Larry) and Marcia (Richard); several cousins and their families also grieve.

Also part of "The Greatest Generation," Verne followed his two older brothers' footsteps into military service at the conclusion of WWII by immediately

enlisting in the 82nd Airborne Division upon graduation from Danville High School. He faithfully served his nation while assisting the people of occupied Japan in Sendai, the capitol of Miyagi Prefecture through that nation's post-war reconstruction. Fearless in adherence to duty, Sergeant Middleton never failed to confront higher ranked officers where situations warranted.

Verne's earliest career was as a boatman upon the Illinois and Mississippi River barges, but he soon found a job as line mechanic for Olin Corporation in East Alton. Olin assigned Verne to its NASA contract work curriculum for applied hydraulic and lubricant engineering studies at Northeast Alabama State Community College in Rainsville, Alabama.

No Memorial Day passed without Verne's patriotic presence. He was known to "out push up" marine officers 20 years his junior while proudly wearing his Airborne paratrooper boots. Verne was a passionate volunteer for U.S. Veterans and would transport his "brothers" to required medical appointments. He volunteered for local hospice. He became Alabama's, "Veteran of the Year" in 2017.

Verne always made time for young people to encourage physical fitness and sportsmanship. He was a super fan sports booster for the Roxanna IL Shells as, "the Shell Man" and in later years cheer leading the Scottsboro Wildcats' Cross Country and Track teams as, "Mr. Verne."

Verne served his Lord as a devout Christian, an active layman, and Bible scholar and teacher. The Methodist Churches of Scottsboro will miss his ministry, as will the Christian Motorcycle Association, many local friends around the long breakfast table at Scottsboro's Liberty Restaurant, and all citizens who support the U.S. Constitution. Verne was a dedicated voter.

He is preceded in death by his beloved wife of 55 years; his parents, LaVerne

and Lillian (Davis) Middleton; and his older brothers, Martin Everette and Glenn Robert.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **25.** 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church Scottsboro
1105 South Broad St.
Scottsboro, AL 35768

Service

JUL **25.** 7:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church Scottsboro
1105 South Broad St.
Scottsboro, AL 35768

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Verne Luther Middleton*

October 05, 2023 at 01:26 AM



“ *Was so sad to hear of Verne's (aka Sarge) passing. He was such a sweet man. We had lots of fun with him at Liberty. Some of my most fond memories were watching him sneak behind one of his friend having breakfast with him at Liberty who had hung his coat on the back of his chair. Sarge turned the sleeves inside out so that when he went to put the coat on it would be wrong side out. He also dressed in a vote for Trump shirt and I wore a Hillary mask at Halloween. We were the scariest couple there. He wouldn't look at me without sticking his tongue out at my Hillary mask. What joker. We loved him a whole bunch. Prayers for the family in your time of loss. He is going to fondly remembered for years to come. He always had a hug for us each Friday at Kareoke night. We will surely miss him.*

*Sincerely,
Denise*

Denise Harris - July 31, 2018 at 11:06 AM



“ Hey guys, I'm so sorry to hear what happened, and even more sorry I can't make it tomorrow. But I want y'all to know I'll never forget the impact Verne had on my life. He wouldn't want me getting all serious, but I never let that stop me in the first place, hahaha. Verne was more than a guy that came to all my cross country meets in High School. He was a mentor, a role model, and a friend. He told me once that I should never stop learning - & of all the things I'll learn in life the most important knowledge I gain is knowledge about our savior. Verne's words and life taught me that even if I get as old as he was (he wouldn't want me calling him old either but like I said, that never stopped me) I'll never know all there is to know about God. There's still always more beauty to be known, more truth to be amazed by. That's what Verne taught me, and I'll remember that forever because of him. Thank y'all for sharing that awesome guy with me.

- Cody Hasselbring

Cody Hasselbring - July 24, 2018 at 07:04 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Verne Luther Middleton.



July 23, 2018 at 10:22 PM