



Eli Foster Jr.

December 9, 1925 - September 8, 2021

Eli Foster Jr. age 95, of Mattoon, IL, passed away at 10:14 AM, Wednesday, September 8, 2021, at his daughter's residence in Mattoon, IL.

A funeral service in his honor will be held at 10:00 AM, Saturday, September 18, 2021, at Dodge Grove Cemetery, in Mattoon, IL. Reverend Marlon Williams Sr. will officiate. A visitation will be held from 9:00 AM to 9:45 AM at Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, located at 1200 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938.

Mr. Foster was born on December 9, 1925, to the late Eli Sr. and Mattie (Collins) Foster. He married Nellie Mae Drayton on October 26, 1947, in Edwards, MS; she preceded him in death on March 18, 2017. He is survived by one son, James E. Williams and wife Clarice of Birmingham, AL; one daughter, Yvonne Steward and husband John Sr. of Mattoon, IL; ten grandchildren; nineteen great-grandchildren; and thirteen great-great grandchildren; seven sisters, Mattie Taylor, Mae Thompson, Beulah Johnson, Clara Nickerson, Margret Washington, Rena Foster, and Linda Foster. He was preceded in death by one great-great grandson, and seven brothers, KC, Lee Authur, Rayfield, Willie Dale, Robert James, John Sr., and Russell Foster.

A longtime and faithful member of Second Missionary Baptist Church, in Mattoon, IL, Mr. Foster served as a deacon. Sadly, with his health declining, his attendance became less frequent over the past couple years. Eli was employed at the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad as laborer for numerous years. Always a hard worker, Mr. Foster strived to meet the needs of every family

member.

He had a passion for vegetable gardening and took great pride in his garden, and his produce fed his family, friends, and neighbors. He enjoyed WWE Sunday Night Smackdown while eating his favorite pizza. However, hours spent on the “nosey porch” with his wife and co-pilot, Nellie Mae, were the times he treasured greatly. The family feels at peace knowing they are together again in heaven.

Mr. Foster will be fondly remembered for his love and devotion to family. Please visit www.mitchell-jerdan.com or www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome to light a virtual candle in his honor or share a memory with the family.

Cemetery Details

Dodge Grove Cemetery

917 North 22nd Street
Mattoon, IL 61938

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 18. 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM (CT)

Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home Ltd.
1200 Wabash Ave
Mattoon, IL 61938
(217) 234-8828
contact@mitchelljerdan.com
<https://www.mitchell-jerdan.com/>

Service

SEP 18. 10:00 AM (CT)

Dodge Grove Cemetery
917 North 22nd Street
Mattoon, IL 61938

Tribute Wall



“ *Eli Foster Jr.*

October 08, 2023 at 07:40 PM



“ *Trichell Humes lit a candle in memory of Eli Foster Jr.*



Trichell Humes - September 21, 2021 at 08:52 PM



“ *Over 30 years ago I was lucky enough to work on a project where Eli was working as a railroad flagger. I spent several hours over a few months talking to Eli each day. I will never forget all his stories, all that I learned from him, and how much I enjoyed our conversations. After that project I often stopped by to say hi and spent some time with him out on the porch. He always made me feel welcome and I was always glad to be there. Eli made a definite impact on my life, and I am thankful to have known him.*

Jamie Callison - September 17, 2021 at 03:30 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Eli Foster Jr..*



September 17, 2021 at 01:42 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Eli Foster Jr..*



September 17, 2021 at 01:38 PM



“ *To all the family of Eli Foster I want to give my most sincere condolences. Eli and I worked together for several years and I say, what most already know, that he was a genuine PRINCE of a man and I know he, like his dear wife will be deeply missed by many, many people. I for one, am a better person for having known him. With sincere sympathy to his whole family,
Bill Duggan*

Bill Duggan - September 16, 2021 at 01:18 PM



“ *To: Mr. Fosters family I pray for comfort and peace during this difficult time. Mr. Foster was the kindest man that I had the privilage of dealing with when he came to pay his water bill. You all were very blessed to have him on earth and now you can look forward to spendning eternity with him in Heaven. God Bless.*



Judy B - September 16, 2021 at 12:22 PM

MG

“ So sorry for your loss. I always loved driving down Richmond ave seeing both of them sitting outside together on the porch or Eli working in his hard garden. I was raised just right down the street from them. Very sweet couple i will miss seeing them sitting outside together on the porch. 🙏🙏

Mona Gordon - September 16, 2021 at 12:05 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Eli Foster Jr..



September 15, 2021 at 12:11 PM

PM

“ So sorry for your loss. Prayers to family a d friends. Paula (Butler) Murphy and Tiare Douglas.

Paula Murphy - September 15, 2021 at 08:48 AM

CS

“ Me. Foster was a pillar for Mattoon. What a wonderful family he raised.

Clyde Self - September 15, 2021 at 08:19 AM