



James W. Whetsell

June 11, 1925 - March 20, 2020

James “Jim” W. Whetsell, age 94 of Mattoon, IL passed away at 5:20 AM, Friday, March 20, 2020 at Odd-Fellow Rebekah Home in Mattoon, IL.

A private burial will take place on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 in Dodge Grove Cemetery. A memorial service will take place at a later date. Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, 1200 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938 is assisting the family with arrangements.

Jim was born on June 11, 1925 in Mattoon, IL the son of the late Lewis J. and Minnie A. (Strong) Whetsell. He married Thelma L. McKenzie on December 30, 1944 in Mattoon; she preceded him in death on February 3, 2019. He is survived by three sons; Tony D. Whetsell of Taylorville, IL, Shawn M. Whetsell and wife Sandy of Sullivan, IL, Matt L. Whetsell and wife Jamie of Silver City, NM; one daughter, Kayla L. Grissom and husband Fred of Mattoon, IL; nine grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild. Jim is preceded in death by four brothers and two sisters.

Jim honorably served our country in the U.S. Navy on an LST during WWII. He was employed by Roy Eaton Plumbing and Heating and a member of the UA Local 149 Plumbers and Pipefitters.

As a lifelong member of First Christian Church in Mattoon, Jim was a person

of faith and lived his life serving others. He was one of the original figures in the opening of Mattoon Community Food Center.

There was nothing more Jim enjoyed than traveling the world with his beloved wife, Thelma. He wanted to show her the beautiful places he had seen during his time in the Navy. Even in their later years at the age of eighty, Jim and Thelma still had their zest for life and drove to Niagara Falls for one of their last trips.

Jim was committed to his faith, family, and friends. He left a lasting memory on many and will be fondly remembered.

Memorials in his honor may be made to Mattoon Community Food Center, 600 Moultrie Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938.

Please visit www.mitchelljerdan.com or www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfune ralhome to light a virtual candle in his honor or share a memory with family.

Cemetery Details

Dodge Grove Cemetery

917 North 22nd Street
Mattoon, IL 61938

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAR 25 (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *James W. Whetsell*

October 08, 2023 at 07:40 PM



“ *Kayla, our condolences to you and Fred and all of your family.
Sincerely,
Cathy and Tom David*

Tom and Cathy David - March 26, 2020 at 04:51 PM



“ *Jim My favorite Navy guy! I will miss you so much! I will miss you
Laughing about not taking your tutoring lessons and sneaking to
see Thelma! Oh how much you LOVED your biscuits and gravy! I
just read your life story book we did what an amazing family and life
you had. Most of us will never know the live you and Thelma
shared. I will miss you my dear friend and it has been a pleasure
and an honor to know, love and care for you! RIP! My deepest
sympathies.....😞😞*

Penny Shinholster - March 25, 2020 at 09:09 PM



“ *Tony - I was sorry to read about your father's
death. I am keeping you and your family in my
thoughts and prayers.*



Nadine Boyer - March 24, 2020 at 11:48 PM

DT

“ *Mr. Whetsell was our neighbor in Mattoon. He was a very nice person & always good to talk to. My Dad & Mom really appreciated having him as a friend & neighbor. Wonderful man. Condolences to the family.*

Dan Taylor

Dan Taylor - March 23, 2020 at 08:02 PM

TR

“



Trudy&Gene;Chuck&Deena;Kenna&Jimmy;Karla,Ross&Kids purchased the Heavenly Light for the family of James W. Whetsell.

Trudy&Gene;Chuck&Deena;Kenna&Jimmy;Karla,Ross&Kids
- March 23, 2020 at 02:42 PM

JH

“ *Janice Haga lit a candle in memory of James W. Whetsell*



Janice Haga - March 22, 2020 at 04:32 PM

JH

I remember Him well , he helped Kayla and me get our first wedding cake to the church by carrying it later by later. He was a great guys. My sympathy to the family.

Janice Haga - March 22, 2020 at 04:36 PM

SW

Tony, Kayla, Shawn & Matt,

So sorry to see that your dad has passed. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of you and your families. Just thinking about him has brought back many memories of the 800 block of Marion in the 50's and 60s. May he rest in peace.

Stacy Womack

Stacy Womack - March 23, 2020 at 01:26 PM

DS

Tony, Kayla, Shawn & Matt,

My thoughts and prayers to all of you. What wonderful people your mom and dad were. Many fond memories and great times!

Dan Spitz - March 23, 2020 at 04:15 PM

NT

Jim and Thelma were WCTU members faithfully attending the monthly meetings... state, national and world convention. I remember many years ago when I visited my Aunt and Uncle Eva and Jesse Green that we visited Louis and Minnie Whetsell..

And jim was a good friend of my beloved brother, Howard Doty.

Norma Taylor - April 24, 2020 at 05:36 PM