



Richard A. Blackburn

April 12, 1932 - June 28, 2018

Richard A. Blackburn, age 86 of Gays, IL peacefully passed away at his home, Thursday, June 28, 2018.

A celebration of life will be held at 12:00 P.M., Saturday, July 14, 2018 at Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, 1200 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938; Reverend James Dona will officiate. Burial will take place at a later date. The visitation will be held from 10:00 A.M. until the time of service.

Richard was born April 12, 1932 in Gays, IL the son of Guy and Mildred (Wetherell) Blackburn. He married the love of his life, Janet Fuller on July 21, 1969 in Snow Hill, MD. He is survived by his wife, Janet Blackburn of Gays, IL; one daughter, Robin Renfro and husband John of Los Angeles, CA; one son, Danny Blackburn and wife Debbie of Windsor, IL; eight grandchildren, Nichole Saylor and husband Rob of Toledo, IL, Tracy Wright and husband Todd of Mattoon, IL, Danielle Bennett and husband Drew of Winchester, KS, Barbara Gibbons and husband Andrew of Decatur, IL, Spencer Blackburn of Windsor, IL, Justin Renfro of San Diego, CA, Joshua Renfro of Los Angeles, CA, Christian Renfro of San Francisco, CA; five great-grandchildren; and one sister, Carol Cothorn of Gays, IL. He is preceded in death by his parents; one daughter, Barbara Gottman; and one brother, Robert Blackburn.

Richard proudly served our country in the Navy, stationed in Chincoteague, VA. Richard was a representative of United Steelworkers Union and former employee of Associated Springs. He was a member of Gays Christian Church in Gays, IL and Mattoon's Eagle Club. Richard was a true "Navy Man", he

enjoyed his Jack Daniels, spending time on the water, fishing, camping, and traveling. He loved his friends and family and will be missed greatly.

Memorials in Richard's honor may be made to Coles County Humane Society, 6818 N. Co Rd 1120 E, Charleston, IL 61920 or Lincolnland Hospice of Sarah Bush Lincoln, 1004 Health Center Dr., Mattoon, IL 61938.

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.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 14. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

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

Service

JUL 14. 12:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

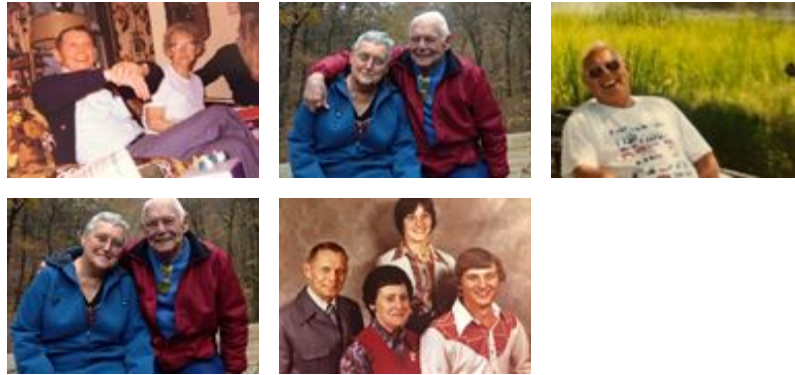


“ *Richard A. Blackburn*

October 08, 2023 at 07:40 PM



“ *24 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home - July 13, 2018 at 10:27 AM



“ *My condolences to the family. I knew Dick for several years now. He helped me get my job at Associated Spring in 1972. He was a good friend of my Mom and Dad's. He is in a better place than we are now. I saw him at my Mom's visitation in March of last year.*

*Gary Montgomery
Red Oak, TX*

Gary Montgomery - July 03, 2018 at 10:03 AM

GK

“ *Rest In Peace, my good Friend and Buddy. Janet, Dan and Robin, I offer my deepest thoughts and prayers to each of you for your loss. I pray that God will guide each of you to peace of heart and the knowledge that Richard's battles on earth are through.*



Friend and Buddy are the words I thought of, but we were so much more than that to each other. We saved each others job several times, when quitting started moving to the top of our list. We shared problems, concerns and an abundance of laughs with each other and yes, we may have even shared one or maybe two glasses of Jack Daniels together too. It is so emotional to look at his picture and know, he's not with us any longer. Knowing his long fought battle is over, brings me a lot of comfort. I know, Richard, Jim Kelahan, Burl Hand, Bob Means and Ed Cline are probably organizing a reunion in heaven right now.

*Rest In Peace Brother,
George Knecht*

George Knecht - June 30, 2018 at 03:02 PM