



George Marvin Greer

JUN 28, 1927 - SEP 11, 2005



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George Marvin Greer, 78, of Bella Vista, Arkansas, died Sunday, September 11, 2005 at his residence, in the presence of his family. He was born in Memphis, Tennessee to Dewey Raymond Greer, Sr. and Leila Catherine Smith Greer on June 28, 1927. At birth he was taken by his grandmother Bessie Claire Fitzwater Smith for early rearing.

He graduated from Treadwell High School in Memphis, graduated from Principia College, with a degree in Economics and Business Administration. Mr. Greer did graduate studies at the Memphis Art academy and was a certified property manager.

Mr. Greer was involved in Boy Scouts for over thirty years.

He served as a Sergeant in the Army 1253rd Combat Engineers in Europe during World War II. At the request of the commanding base officer and the post chaplain he volunteered as assistant Chaplain, serving his fellow soldiers as well as German Prisoners of War. During his service he coached both volleyball and basketball and played volleyball, representing his base and touring parts of Europe.

Mr. Greer's church activities included eighteen years as a Sunday School student and over 60 years as an active church member. He held church offices and taught teenage Sunday School for thirty-five years. HE studied the Bible in group studies and college courses. After active duty in WWII he served for eleven years as a Christian Science Minister to the armed services at Millington Base in Memphis, TN.

Mr. Greer's great love was his four children; Gregory Milo Greer of Kirkwood, MO.; Geoffrey Raymond Greer of Oak Park, IL; Leila Jeanne Greer Pike of Hailey, ID; Graham Wyllys Greer of Bella Vista, AR; his three grandsons, Dane Michael Greer, Scott William Pike and Morgan Gregory Pike; his sisters Bonnie Greer Dawkins of Birmingham, AL and Berta Greer Vance of Hattiesburg, MS.



A memorial service will be held 1:00 PM, Wednesday, September 14, 2005 at the Cooper Memorial Chapel in Bella Vista, Arkansas.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the First Church of Christ, Scientist, P.O. Box 102, Gravette, AR 72726.

To sign the online guest book, go to www.nelsonberna.com

Arrangements are by Nelson-Berna Funeral Home and Crematory of Fayetteville.

Family Tribute

Thank you Dave, Barbara and Arlene. That was truly beautiful.

Thank you all for coming today to honor George Greer. Some of you have traveled great distance, some from closer by, and we appreciate your being here. Dad found a home here in Arkansas, and a large part of why he was happy here was that he made great friends. We are grateful to you for making this his home.

I am Greg, this is my brother Geof and sister Jeanne Greer Pike.

The first thing that the three of us would like to do is acknowledge our brother Graham. The past couple of years were a challenge for Dad, and Graham stood by his side. They butted heads, they had differences of opinion, but Graham's love for Dad led him to accept responsibility for Dad's care. It was an amazing act of selflessness, and we thank you, Graham.

All four of us want to thank our Aunt Berta, who has provided great comfort to us all, and to Dad. Thank you, Aunt Berta.

George Greer was a beloved friend, colleague, brother, father-in-law, grandfather, and father. We, his children, would like to speak to you about the father we called "PFDG": Papa, Father, Daddy, George. Our father was completely and utterly devoted to us and to his grandsons; he lit up whenever he spoke of Dane or Scott or Morgan.

Our father taught us many valuable lessons through his example and actions. He taught us generosity and kindness, thoughtfulness and loyalty, the value of sacrifice and the importance of



celebration? especially if it involved cooking.

Dad showered us with love the best way he knew how he fed us. As many of you know, if Dad loved you, he cooked for you. Actually, even if he didn't love you, he cooked for you. Cooking was how he expressed his deepest love and care. Thanksgiving was his favorite holiday because it brought together his two greatest loves: food and family.

At the back of the chapel today is a copy of a letter written to his mother by his commanding officer, following his tour of duty at the end of World War II. We encourage you to look it here, or at the reception afterward.

There are some amazing compliments in the letter, which opens with these words: "In more than four years in the army, I have known hundreds of soldiers, but this is only the second time that I have thought enough of one to bother his mother with a personal letter regarding that soldier. The letter, which we encourage you to read, speaks of his exceptional strength of character. This letter was written during Dad's youth, but that exceptional strength of character stayed with him throughout his life.

We saw evidence of this as we made the calls to let you know that Dad had passed on. We heard over and over what a "great guy" he was, generous and helpful to so many. This defined Dad. You should also know that he was an accomplished businessman who overcame numerous setbacks that would have caused a lesser man to give up.

Dad's last professional position was as administrator at the Village, a retirement community not far from here. His work at the Village was very important to him; he made a point of connecting with each and every individual there. We are very proud of the work that he did there, using his sharp business sense to put the Village on a sound financial footing.

Speaking of business sense the four of us, his grandsons, and many of you in this chapel, can attest to the fact that one of his great business skills was his ability to obtain free labor! He taught his children the value of hard work by having us work hard! His chore lists never ended.

Even when Dad's day job was that of a businessman, he was always a farmer at heart. George means tiller of the soil and our dad was exactly that.



We learned about this early on. When we kids were very young, we moved to a new subdivision outside of Memphis. Dad was very proud to bring his young family to our new house in this pristine suburban neighborhood. The neighbors all had beautiful flower gardens and immaculate lawns.

We watched our new house be built and, as soon as we were settled in, Dad contributed to the neighborhood beautification program by putting in a fence in the back yard and bringing in some goats.

I guess the fence wasn't quite good enough, because we were always getting calls from irate neighbors about goats eating their flowers.

This developed into a pattern. No matter where we moved, animals seemed to follow. We later came to understand the reason for this?

It was because Dad cherished his summers as a boy on his grandparent's farm in Mount Ida, Arkansas. In fact, he bought his own Arkansas farm to mirror that one. None of us will ever forget weeding our father's garden, both as children and as adults. His garden was never small, but it was one of his greatest pleasures and the source of our greatest aches.

On this farm, he found peace in his later years. His garden and animals, from livestock to household pets, filled his heart with contentment and fulfilled a lifelong dream.

Our father was a jokester and kept his sense of humor to the very end. It helped him through the hardest struggle of his life. He never once wavered from his beloved Christian Science.

Dad fought with determination and deep faith, his cherished sister Berta and his children by his side.

His battle is over, his burden is lifted. He is smiling down on us because he knows he did his job well. He taught well. He lived well. He was a good father and grandfather. He has earned his peace and is soaring high on eagle's wings.

Good-bye dear father. We love you forever.

Your devoted children - Greg, Geof, Jeanne and Graham.



Obituary

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Visitation Date Time No Visitation N/A Visitation Location There will be no visitation Service
Date Time Wednesday, September 14, 2005 1:00 PM Service Location Cooper Memorial
Chapel in Bella Vista, Arkansas



Tribute Wall

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JM

Jenny Collins (Cousin By Marriage) posted:

We are so sorry to hear about George. He was a very special person and Bubba and I loved him dearly. I remember our trip to St. Louis area in 1984 and we came by and stayed a couple of days in our camper. Geoff and Tina our daughter went canoeing. We really had a special time. After that, George sort of called him and Bubba, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. When he would call us he would always ask for the Kid. I will miss him deeply, and I know that George and Bubba are in their heavenly home having a big time with Aunt Woola. Love to all of you and my thoughts and prayers are with you all. Jenny

August 30 at 9:41 AM

VG

Vince Clark (Friend Of Greg Greer) posted:

Greg I can see now why fishing and the outdoor life were so near and dear to your heart. I have never met your father personally, but I have met him through you, he did his most important job quite well. May God bless and Take care, Vince.

August 30 at 9:41 AM

DF

Don And Janet McClead (Friend) posted:

George and his family were the first to befriend us as we moved into the community of Bay View. Our children were 1 and 1/2 and 4. One of the memories, which is no surprise to you kids, is that he loved to cook chicken for frequent picnics. We have stayed in contact with your dad, a truly beloved man, via e-mail and have joked between us that George wasn't great on letters, but loved to forward gems to us. We shall miss those gems. The last letter we received was after a big and important move. He was happy in this move and was so very pleased to have the blessings of his children. Greg was right on when he stated that George adored his children and grands! We also love his family. So surprised with George's homegoing. Thanks for letting us know. He holds a special place in our hearts that is just the shape of George! Love D and J

August 30 at 9:41 AM



WF

Willis P. Anderson (Friend) posted:

George was a dedicated Christian Scientist and served the Christian Science movement in many ways. My wife and I met George in St. Louis and became friends in the early 1990s. We were members of the same branch Church in Valley Park, Missouri. After moving to Springdale to become the Administrator of The Village, Inc., George encouraged us to move here which we eventually did. He chose one of the nicer homes for us to live in. We had many many social times together and also worked together in supporting The Village. As mentioned by others, George loved his four children and three grandchildren very very much. A few years ago George purchased a farm and extended an open invitation for us to visit when ever we could. We did that and often brought visitors with us from The Village who also enjoyed George's hospitality and the amenities of his farm. We all had many happy visits and were blessed with his generous distribution of veggies from his spacious gardens. No doubt, that his love of Christian Science, family, friends, and farming are still in active mode!

August 30 at 9:41 AM

SC

Shirley Collins Farino Byrd (Second Cousin) posted:

My dear Family and cousin's. Cous as George called me. My Dad, Edward Calvin Collins was the first grandchild. His Mother, Lestle Smith. Daddy's the one that named Aunt Woola who we all loved and cherished so very much, Aunt Leila the Mother of George. He couldn't say her name. He too spent most of his childhood in Mt. Ida with Great GrandMother Smith. And his stories of the love and good times, and working times there melted over to me and my brother Bubba, Ed Collins, Jr. My love of animals and the outdoors. At 63 yrs. I have a horse and a cat. And the greatest pleasure is being out in the woods, near to God, and riding the trails. I remember Daddy telling me about the old mules he rode at Mt. Ida and he even made a special trip to take me and Bubba and our family's one summer to Mt. Ida. to show us where he spent so much of his childhood with his Grandparents. I have three sons, Chris, Bobby and Mike Farino and one grandson Mikey. George and I stayed in touch by email. But, I didn't realize just how sick he was. I kept asking when I could come to Arkansas and bring my horse. I visited George when he still live in St. Louis. I came up with my sister-in-law Joan Farino. When I told her George had passed, she described our visit, his cooking and how much we enjoyed ourselves with him. Once you met George you didn't forget him. I think that is a Smith/Collins/Greer trait. Remember the Family Re-unions at Sardis, Ms. and the T-Shirts. That was George's idea for sure. My husband Ross died Oct. 11, 1984 and Daddy died Oct. 15, 1984. I really didn't know the world was going around. George came and stayed with me for a week. Helping me mentally and spiritually getting back together. To say that George was a special soul is an understatement. George worked in many ways in so many lives. My Grandmother and his mother were the only children, daughters of Betsy and Edward Smith. This family has grown and instilled that love of family in their children. I've seen it. I'm proud of it. And I will miss my dear Cous George.

September 24 at 7:00 PM



RS

Ralph Godsy (Friend Of Greg's) posted:

I did not know about his passing. Thank you for sending this memorial page. Had not seen George for years until about 15 years ago when he moved to Arkansas and contacted me. We had a nice phone and email friendship. I was in Sunday School with Berta. Berta, and all of the family, may you continue to rejoice in all the wonderful memories you have created and know that he is still progressing! Sincerely, Ruth

August 30 at 9:41 AM

CG

Carly Christie (Friend/ Merigold's Granddaughter) posted:

I didn't know George very well, but when I did meet him this past summer, he was a very kind-hearted man and I could tell he really loved everyone around him very much. He was very funny and always made me laugh when he would talk about my Grandmother. I did have an odd experience when I went to Arkansas to see him. He had asked me to paint his toenails exactly like I had done my fingernails. So I did it and it was really weird. And at first I thought he was joking but then as time went on he kept asking me "So when am I going to get my toenails painted, Carly?" At first I thought it was strange but now I'm not so sure. I may have not known him very well but I did love him very much. And I know he will be looking down upon us and smiling.

August 30 at 9:41 AM

KF

Kevin Points (Family Friend) posted:

We are very sorry for your family's loss. George meant so very much to my mom, and their renewed friendship brought her much joy over the last several months. Please know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers.

August 30 at 9:41 AM

MF

Mike Watkins (Friend) posted:

I thoroughly enjoyed my visits with George. His love for his family and "Little Dog" was very evident. I know he will be missed deeply.

August 30 at 9:41 AM



Tribute Wall

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JF

Jack Mathis (Friend) posted:

George is the type of man that you are glad to know. He has a good sense of humor and is comfortable with spirituality. It comes natural to him. I never feel judged by George, and therefore am willing to share my more private thoughts with him. He is always ready, willing and able to tell the "real truth" about any situation. I know he calibrates high in his level of humanity, and I am sure he is making continued spiritual progress. None of the good he did for people is ever lost, and I am sure there are many lives he touched that we may never know. I will miss him until I hear from him and see him again. He is a good man.

August 30 at 9:41 AM

SG

Sandy Alan Gaynor posted:

To my friend, and mentor, George.... I miss you, and miss your kindness, fatherly advice, and friendship! I also truly enjoyed our shared times with Berta and Willis Anderson during game nights, particularly playing Rummikub! I know God is with you now, may you find forever peace :)

September 24 at 7:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring George by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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