



## Gerald Eugene Hester

November 27, 1935 - December 11, 2016

Gerald Eugene Hester, 81, of Winchester passed away peacefully Sunday, Dec. 11, 2016, at the Scott County Nursing Center in Winchester. He was born, Nov. 27, 1935, in rural Scott County, the son of Albert and Pauline Blair Hester. He married Wanda M. Ransom, Dec. 31, 1955, in Aley.

Surviving is his wife, Wanda; six daughters, Eva Jo Hester of Robinson, Patti (Daryl) Quigg of Jacksonville, Barbara (Craig) Lashmett of Winchester, Joyce (Brian) Surratt of Chapin, Connie (Barrie) Holzer of Winchester, and Janice (Angelo Rosa) Hester of Mattoon; nine grandchildren, Traci (Grant) Thomas, Tim (Celeste) Lashmett, Jenny Quigg, Phillip Lashmett, Corey Holzer, Jacob Surratt, Wes Lashmett, Jessica Holzer, and Jenna Surratt; three great grandchildren, Gabrielle Thomas, Genevieve Thomas, and Anthony Jack "AJ" Lashmett; and one sister, Janet Baughman Savage of Jacksonville. He was preceded in death by three brothers, John, Glenn, and William Hester; and two sisters, Agnes Harriet Coats and Flora Beth Andrews.

Gerald began his working career helping area farmers and at the Aley Brickyard. In 1953, he became a member of Laborers International Union Local 253, joining the Springfield Local 477 in 1955. The first major job he worked on was the construction of the Meredosia bridge in 1955. He was involved in the construction of the Winchester Grade School and route 97 through Springfield. Through the Union, Gerald helped lay asphalt for Sankey Brothers Construction. One of his favorite memories was the day when the monitor system went out of the paver. The operator wanted to shut down the job until the system was working properly, but "Jake" or "Red" as he was called, said, "No, we will run it the way I learned. Get out the string line." He was already respected by most of his peers, but after that, he earned the respect of all younger laborers who thought "they knew it all". The last 30 years of his employment was with Sankey Brothers Construction, Inc. He was a 50 year plus member of the Royal Neighbors.

He enjoyed riding snowmobiles and 4 wheelers, accompanied by his beagle dog. Despite having polio as a child, Gerald was an expert slalom water skier. He loved taking his

family, especially his grandchildren, camping, boating, water skiing, minibike and 4-wheeler riding.

Funeral services will be held 10:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 16, 2106, at the Daws Family Funeral Home in Winchester with interment in the Glasgow Cemetery. Visitation will be held Thursday from 4:00 until 7:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to the Scott County Nursing Center or the Scott County Dog Rescue.

# Cemetery

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**Glasgow Cemetery**

IL,

# Events

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**DEC** **Visitation** 04:00PM - 07:00PM

**15**

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Daws Family Funeral Home - Winchester  
657 N. Main, Winchester, IL, US, 62694

# Comments

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“ Eva,  
Our deepest sympathy on the loss of your father. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. ~Steve and Janet Jenkins

Janet Jenkins - December 16, 2016 at 10:35 AM

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“ So Sorry for your loss and all of you are in our thoughts and prayers

Carl and Chris Ator

chris - December 15, 2016 at 03:11 PM

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“ Patti,  
Sorry for the loss of your dad, and sorry for the loss for the rest of your family also.

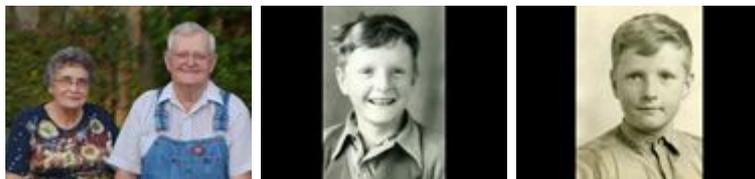
Richard & Marilyn Lovkamp

R & M Lovkamp - December 15, 2016 at 11:41 AM

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“ 134 files added to the album LifeTributes



Daws Funeral Homes - December 14, 2016 at 06:55 PM

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“ To Eva,  
Everyone at Lawrence Crawford Association extends our deepest sympathy for your loss. You are in our prayers, may your Father rest in peace.

Lawrence Crawford Association for Exceptional Citizens



**Michael Pierce** - December 14, 2016 at 02:51 PM

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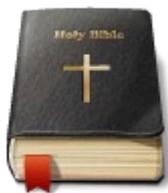
“ So sorry for your loss. I have lot's of memories from my younger years with Jake. He was always fun to be around & was always ready to help anyone who needed it. He loved playing "pranks" on his friends, but could take it when they were played on him. I remember rabbit hunting with him several times & water skiing on the river. Always enjoyed talking to him at the family reunions. May you rest in peace. Jack Carriger

**Jack Carriger** - December 14, 2016 at 08:44 AM

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“ So sorry for your loss. Prayers and hugs.



**Roger & Joy Graves** - December 13, 2016 at 04:01 PM

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“ Love and Sympathy from the children of Gerald's Uncle Jimmy and Aunt Mildred Blair Ellison, your Northern Illinois cousins: James (deceased), Joyce (deceased), Ruth (deceased), Paul, Floyd, Calvin (deceased), Loretta, & Mary. Our family never could get enough visits at Aunt Pauline's. I have so many memories of our trips to Scott County and staying with the Hesters. I remember Gerald and Bill the most because Gerald was a year older and Bill a year younger than I. I remember one day these two irritated Aunt Pauline who sent them for switches, sat them on a log pile, and switched the legs -- the 2 boys just hollered their lungs out and then said to us later: that didn't hurt a bit. Another time, Gerald came back home to Erie with us. When we were almost home we passed a hitch-hiker. Gerald was a bit puzzled, and then said "Well, I supposed someone COULD walk this far". Memories, memories, memories. Enjoy your memories. I've been in California since the late 50's; I did manage to make one Blair reunion, but I've been so out of touch. I miss the Hesters!  
Floyd Ellison

**Gerald Hester's cousin Floyd Ellison** - December 13, 2016 at 03:18 PM



“ Thank you for sharing some of your memories of Dad.

**Patti Quigg** - December 13, 2016 at 07:57 PM

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“ You are in our thoughts and prayers,

JoAnn Chumley & The All Occasion's Staff



**JoAnn Chumley** - December 13, 2016 at 02:14 PM