



William Lester Hoots

September 4, 1921 - March 28, 2013

William Lester Hoots, 91, passed away March 28 at 2:28 p.m. at Scott County Nursing Home.

He was born September 4, 1921 in Frogue, Kentucky, the son of Travis and Trannie King Hoots. The family moved to Illinois in 1922 where he spent the remainder of his life.

He married the former Mildred Cummins in 1943 in St. Louis, Mo. Together they had 3 children: Cheryl (husband J.R.) Partlow of Southaven, MS., Lanny (companion Susie Cottler) of Patterson, IL, and Michael (wife, Missy) of White Hall, IL. He is also survived by grandchildren Amy Branscum, Amanda McCollum, Travis Hoots and Jessie Hoots, a sister, Mildred Cummins, and numerous great grand children. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mildred, a granddaughter, Dawn Merrill and a sister, Ruby Gilmore.

He spent the majority of his life serving his country, first as a gunner in the 91st Bomb group during WWII. He completed 25 missions on his first tour of duty flying out of England. After a short leave he was back flying combat missions on B-17s with the 303 bomber group. On November 26, 1944 his plane was shot down over Germany. He was taken prisoner of war, escaped in April 1945 and was picked up by the British. His other later assignments included flight engineer and crew chief out of bases in Dayton, Ohio, Limestone, Maine and Blytheville Arkansas, Kadena, Okinawa, and Rantoul, Illinois. He also served 18 months in Vietnam. His final duty was at Ellsworth AFB in South Dakota where he retired in September 1970.

During his many years of service he received the following metals and citations: Air Crew Wing, Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, Air Medal with six silver oak leaf clusters, Presidential Unit Citation, AF Outstanding Unit Award with two bronze clusters, Prisoner of War medal, AF Good Conduct metal, Euro-African-Middle Eastern Campaign with two bronze stars, WWII Victory medal, Vietnam service medal with one bronze star, AF Longevity Service medal with three bronze clusters, Republic of Vietnam campaign medal, Military Training Instructor Ribbon, Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.

After retirement, he resided in Patterson, IL and worked for the Jacksonville Developmental Center as a security guard.

He will long be remembered for his love of machinery (particularly old trucks and tractors) his love of country, his quick laugh, and his immense vitality, and his love of life and his family.

Memorials are suggested to the Scott County Nursing Center or the Richwood Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Richwood Cemetery

Rural route
Roodhouse, IL 62082

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 1. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Daws Family Funeral Home - Roodhouse
202 West Franklin
Roodhouse, IL 62082
(217) 589-4311
mackeydawsfuneralhome@yahoo.com

Service

APR 2. 10:30 AM (CT)

Roodhouse First Baptist Church
East Side of Square
Roodhouse, IL

Tribute Wall



“ *William Lester Hoots*

January 28, 2023 at 11:11 AM

RM

“ *We are so sorry for the loss of your father. Ron and I had planned to be at visitation, but we had a conflict. We are sending our sincere sympathy and prayers to all of you.*

Ron and Carol Martin

Ron and Carol Martin - April 03, 2013 at 11:58 AM

JM

“ *Mike, Lanny and families;*

*So sorry to learn of your loss. You and yours are in our thoughts and prayers.
Joe & Shelly Mason*

Joe & Shelly Mason - April 02, 2013 at 10:35 AM

BM

“ *Jo Ellen and I send our sympathy. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
Bob and Jo Moulton*

Bob Moulton - April 01, 2013 at 09:09 AM

JC

“ *Lanny (and family),,*

Saddened to learn of the passing of your father. He had a most distinguished and impressive military career. By looking at his "young" age of 91, it appears that he also had a very long 2nd "career" wth his retirement. Few have such an honor and opportunity to do so. Do not hesitate to make contact if there is anything needed by you and / or your family.

J.P.

James P. (J.P) Cunningham - April 01, 2013 at 02:53 AM

RM

“ Lanny, Mike and family,
Sorry to hear of Lesters passing. He was a fun person to be around I enjoyed those times. I will keep you all in my prayers.

Randy Million

Randy Million - March 31, 2013 at 08:48 AM

DF

“ Lanny and family,
So sorry to hear of your father's passing. Please know that you are in our prayers!
May you find comfort in knowing that your father is once again with the love of his life.

Debbie and Jerry French

Debbie and Jerry French - March 30, 2013 at 10:23 AM