



Caldwell, Kelley Jay

Mountain Home, AR

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Kelley Jay Caldwell, 86, of Mountain Home, AR passed away August 5, 2011 at his home in Mountain Home. He was born at home in rural Anderson County, Kansas on December 5, 1924, the eldest son of Harry Hugh and Esther Maureen (Nickell) Caldwell.

He married Betty Johnson on June 10, 1951 in Wichita, Kansas and celebrated their 60th anniversary earlier this summer. He lived his life as a humble servant of his Heavenly Father, being baptized at age 11 into the church of Christ and conducting Bible studies and teaching Bible classes most of his adult life, baptizing others, as well as conducting several weddings. He helped establish the church in Fort Scott, Kansas and through his years, served the Lord's church as a preacher, deacon, and as an elder for 28 years at congregations at Little Rock, Arkansas and Nevada, Missouri. He was a member of the Mountain Home church of Christ.

Kelley Caldwell served in the U.S. Army during World War II in the 96th Infantry Division, seeing combat in the battles of Leyte, Philippines and Okinawa, where he was decorated with two bronze star medals for bravery while extracting his wounded comrades from the battlefield under severe enemy fire. He attended The University of Kansas, receiving a degree in Electrical Engineering in 1949 and worked as an executive and business consultant for Key Industries for 46 years at locations in Fort Scott, Kansas, Tompkinsville, KY, Little Rock, AR, and Nevada, MO.

He loved raising and grafting pecan trees, hunting and fishing on his farm in Kansas, and dearly loved writing stories for his grandchildren and writing on his book "The Second Most Interesting Time in History." He is best remembered for his sense of humor, positive outlook on life, and his wonderful smile.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Betty Caldwell of Mountain Home, AR; 1 daughter, Kathleen (Michael) Lowery of Huntsville, Alabama; 3 sons, Daniel (Lisa) Caldwell of Little Rock, AR, Bruce (Patricia) Caldwell of Mountain Home, AR, and Samuel Orr of Nevada, MO; 1 sister Darlene Stalder of Wymore, NE, and 1 brother Dean Caldwell of Sedalia, MO; 11 grandsons, 1 granddaughter, 1 great granddaughter, and 1 great grandson. He was preceded in death by his parents, 1 sister Asenath, and 1 son Ernie Orr.

Visitation will be from Noon to 9:00 PM Monday, August 8, 2011 at Roller Funeral Home with the family receiving visitors from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. A funeral service conducted by Danny Fox of Rogersville, MO will be held 10:00 AM on Tuesday, August 8, 2011 at the Mountain Home Church of Christ. A Military Honor service and internment will be at the National Cemetery at Fort Scott, Kansas on Wednesday, August 10, 2011.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Paragould Children's Home, 5515 Old Walcott Rd., Paragould, AR 72450 or to Hospice of the Ozarks.