



## Joe Mac Merrell

October 4, 1930 - January 8, 2016

Mr. Joe Mac Merrell, of Elkton, Tenn., passed away peacefully on Jan. 8, 2015, in Fayetteville, Tenn., following a lengthy illness. He was 85.

He is preceded in death by his parents, David Harris and Sarah Reviea Merrell, and his sister, Helen Merrell Currin.

Joe was born Oct. 4, 1930, in the Bunker Hill Community of Giles County, Tenn. After graduating from Beech Hill High School, he joined the United States Army. He married Jeanene Bass Merrell on June 6, 1954. After earning a Teaching Degree from Middle Tennessee State University, Joe taught at Elkton High School for 29 years. He was an active member and Deacon at Elkton Baptist Church. He also served as Music Director at the church for 30 years. Joe loved music, especially the smooth four-part harmony that came from quartet singing. He was a member of the Gideon's International. Joe loved to garden, and he especially enjoyed sharing the bounty with friends and family. His garden was always the prettiest around. He raised cattle on the family farm until he was in his 70s. His favorite hobbies in his early years were training dogs and quail hunting. He helped establish the Giles County Quail Hunters Association.

Joe is survived by his loving wife, Jeanene; a son, Greg Merrell and wife Jackie of Ardmore; a grandson, Ben Rolin and wife Mari-Anne of Elkton; a great grandson, Wyatt Rolin of Elkton; a nephew, Barry Currin and wife Kim of Cleveland; and, a great nephew Grant Currin, also of Cleveland.

Visitation will be held Saturday, Jan. 9, from 10 a.m., until 1 p.m., with the funeral at 1 p.m., at Elkton Baptist Church, Elkton, TN. Interment will be at Giles Memory Gardens, Pulaski, TN.

Bennett-May-Giles County Funeral Home in charge of arrangements for Joe Mac Merrell.

# Comments

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“ What a wonderful teacher and man of God. His was a man of great integrity. It was an honor to have been taught by him both at school and at church.

**Deborah Tankersley** - February 09, 2016 at 11:07 PM

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“ Greg, so sorry to hear of your dad's passing. You and your family will be in our prayers.

Greg & Pam Bottom

**Pam Bottom** - February 09, 2016 at 11:07 PM

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“ Roger and I loved Mr. Joe and loved hearing Mr. and Mrs. Merrell sing together. I was honored to be able to play the piano for them at Elkton Baptist Church. They were so kind and helpful to me when I started teaching at Elkton School nearly thirty years ago. We are keeping your family in our prayers. We know you miss him, but he is well now and singing in Heaven's choir. God bless all of you.

**Susan Tidmore Holley** - February 09, 2016 at 11:07 PM

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“ I so hate to hear this. Mr Merrell was a huge part of my life. He taught me in elementary school, mom and dad still have the wooden boot remover I made for them in 7th grade wood shop. One big lesson I learned was two fold. I threw a rock through a window of an outbuilding he owned next to the church. As a child I tried to cover it up. My father, instead of beating me, made me tell Mr. Merrell what I had done. I had to be accountable (lesson 1) and I was scared to death. Mr Merrell told me he forgave me and actually patted my head and back, but he also told me to never do it again to anyone. I was like 6. That was 40 years ago, and that forgiveness (lesson 2) I saw is how I treat people today. My parents did a great job raising me, but men like Mr Merrell polished us right up!! I am on duty tomorrow and sadly cannot be there, but prayers of comfort and healing are with all of you.

Scott Storey

**scott storey** - February 09, 2016 at 11:07 PM

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“ Sharing memories of Joe Mac Merrell is a very easy for all of us that have known him since the early 1950's and later. He became a member of the Bass family by taking Jeanene Bass , our cousin in the 50's as his wife and immediately fit in to the family as if he had been born a Bass. He was always, on all occasions, a mild and gentle person and was beloved by all.

We will send a memorial, in memory of a good Christian & dignified life for you, Joe merrell to Martin Methodist College. RIP Joe Merrell.

We Love you,

Bill & Billie Bass  
Athens, AL

**Billy B. Bass** - February 09, 2016 at 11:07 PM

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“ Lit a candle in memory of Joe Mac Merrell

**Tom Sumners** - February 09, 2016 at 11:07 PM

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“ Mr. Joe was a man who truly loved God and his family and showed those around him what true friendship was. Such an inspiration to all of us that loved him.

**Thomas and Margaret Storey** - February 09, 2016 at 11:07 PM

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“ Will always remember Mr. Merrell. Wonderful teacher and a fine man. Taught me to love science. God bless you Mrs. Merrell

**Emily Billings** - February 09, 2016 at 11:07 PM

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“ Greg and Ms Jeanene, so sorry to hear of Joe's passing. I knew that Joe had declined in health. He was a wonderful man. I will keep you lifted up in prayer.

Amy Eslick Sexton(Merrell)

**Amy Sexton** - February 09, 2016 at 11:07 PM



“ Mr. Merrell was a fine man and teacher. Greg, I'm sorry for your loss.

Christie Holley Horn

**Christie Horn** - February 09, 2016 at 11:07 PM

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“ I am so sorry. Prayers for your peace and comfort. Aunt Avis Henderson, Sharon and Marilyn sure loved him. He will be missed.

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Janice Tomerlin-Finley When tomorrow starts without me  
And I'm not here to see  
If the sun should rise and find your eyes  
All filled with tears for me

I wish you wouldn't cry  
The Way you did today  
While thinking of the many things  
We did not get to say

I know how much you love me  
As much as I love you  
Each time that you think of me  
I know you will miss me too

When tomorrow starts with out me  
Please try to understand  
That an angel came and called my name  
And took me by the hand

The angel said my place was ready  
In heaven far above  
And That I would have to leave behind  
All those I Dearly Love

But When I walked through Heaven's Gates  
I felt so much at home  
When GOD looked down and smiled at me  
From his golden throne

He said This Is Eternity  
And All I promised you  
Today for life on earth is done  
But Here it starts a new

I promise no tomorrow  
For today will always last  
And Since each day's the exact same way  
There is no longing for the past

So When Tomorrow starts without me  
Do not think we're apart  
For every time you think of me  
Remember I'm right here in your heart.

**Janice Tomerlin - Finley** - February 09, 2016 at 11:07 PM

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“ Joe was a good person, coach, friend and a neighbor in Bunker Hill. My thoughts are with Mrs . Jeanne and Greg. God bless you

**Tom Sumners** - February 09, 2016 at 11:07 PM