

Raymond Earl Burch

Raymond Earl Burch, son of Ned Raymond and Lucretia Elizabeth McCracken Burch, was born April 12, 1938, in Laclede County, Missouri. He departed this life Wednesday, April 9, 2014, in the Eldon Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, in Eldon, Missouri, at the age of seventy-five years, eleven months, and twenty-seven days.

On September 22, 1972, he was united in marriage to Bertha Ann Redden Mitchell, and they shared thirty years before her passing on February 6, 2002. He was also preceded in death by his parents; and two sisters, Barbara Holldorf, and Leona Wilson;

Raymond is survived by two sons, Raymond Burch, Jr., and his wife, Virginia, of Fulton, Missouri, and James "Pudd" Mitchell, and his wife, Linda, of Belle, Missouri; two daughters, Joyce Bales, and her husband, Teddy, of Dixon, Missouri, and Sandra Mitchell, of Fort Worth, Texas; nine grandchildren, Jessi, Lucretia, James, Judy, Brent, Hannah, Kelly, Elise, and Abigail; eleven great-grandchildren; a foster brother, Randy Hall, of Lebanon, Missouri; two foster sisters, Julie Lane, of the State of Florida, and Ginny Ouellet, of Oceanside, California; a special friend, Louise McCowan, of Richland, Missouri; as well as a host of other relatives and many friends.

He was born and raised in the Brownfield community in Laclede County, Missouri, and graduated from Lebanon High School. He then served his country faithfully in the United States Navy from December 7, 1956, until October 28, 1960. After being honorably discharged from the Navy, he returned to the Lebanon area for a while. In 1967, he began working for the United Auto Workers Chrysler plant in Fenton, Missouri. He made his home in Cedar Hill, Missouri, for several years, and then in 1978, he and Bertha made their home in Belle, Missouri. Raymond retired from the Chrysler plant on May 17, 1991. He then worked for Legends Bank for a time and also ran a mowing service for a few years. In 2004, Raymond returned to his farm in the Lebanon area.

Raymond had made his profession of faith in Christ and was a member of the Brownfield Baptist Church, near Lebanon.

In his spare time he enjoyed being outdoors where his favorite activities were hunting and fishing. He was a gifted musician and loved playing the guitar, the harmonica and singing. He especially liked playing for the dances at the Hughes Senior Center in Lebanon. His family was very important to him and he greatly enjoyed spending time with his family.

Raymond was a loving father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and was a caring neighbor and friend. We celebrate his life and know that his family and friends will treasure the wonderful memories he made for them throughout the years.