

James F. Purnell

Wells Tannery, 80

On Saturday, June 25, 2016, at 9:30 p.m., the Lord took James Franklin Purnell, 80, by the hand and led him into eternal life with Him.

He was born on the family farm, November 1, 1935, in Wells



Township, Pa., a son of the late Walter and Goldie (Mellott) Purnell.

He served his country as a radio operator with the United States Army's 34th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion at the end of the occupation in Germany. He was honored to sing with a choir, which performed Handel's "Messiah" for a Christmas concert while in Germany.

He met his future bride, Delores Irene Knepper, while working as a milk tester. They were married at Center Church May 11, 1957. For 50 years he was a dairy farmer, and together they taught six children the value of a hard day's work.

As a lifelong farmer, he served on many committees for farm-related concerns. He was a member of the Fulton Farm Bureau, and served as president for several years. He drove school bus six years for Forbes Road School District, transporting many Wells Valley youths to school at Forbes Road School District.

A follower of Jesus, he taught Sunday school at Wells Valley United Meth-

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odist Church where he was a member for many years. He was on the board of directors for Fulton County Medical Center for 11 years, and served a six-year term on the Forbes Road School Board. He was also a member of the Forbes Road Lions Club.

He liked to hunt and read, and used the local library extensively. He was often seen riding on his golf cart, and enjoyed taking his grandkids for rides. He enjoyed looking for birds with his wife and seeing God's handiwork in nature. He also enjoyed working in the garden, once the wife got him educated on how it needed done... "her way."

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, and their children: Diana Jones and companion, Ray, Chambersburg; Richard Purnell, Tulsa, Okla.; Lisa Noll and husband, David, Mifflinburg; Michael Purnell and wife Drema, Wells Tannery; Glenda Akers and husband Gregory, Waterfall, and Becky Dennis and companion Kerry, York; 15 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; a sister, Dorothy Weaver and husband Joe, Harrisburg; and a brother, Kenneth, Broken Arrow, Okla.

He was greatly loved and will be missed greatly by his family.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m., Wednesday, June 29, at Center United Methodist Church, Three Springs. Pastor John Wiley, Pastor Rachel Horst and Pastor Faith Anderson officiated. Interment was at Center Cemetery.

Arrangements were by M.R. Brown Funeral Home, Hustontown.