



J Levi Rhinehardt

July 20, 1921 - September 6, 2020

J. Levi Rhinehardt, age 99, of Bluff City, TN, passed away Sunday afternoon, September 6, 2020 at The Waters Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Center located in Johnson City, TN. Born July 20, 1921 in Young Harris, GA, he was the son of the late Bessie Sargent and Levi Rhinehardt.

In April 1941, J. L. graduated from Towns County High School in Hiawassee, GA and began his college career at Young Harris College. However, in December 1941, he felt called to enlist in the United States Navy, where he served his country honorably in World War II. He was deployed on the USS Andromeda (AKA-15) Andromeda-class attack cargo ship where he served as a naval pharmacist mate and gunner. His tour began in North Africa where he participated in four invasions, including the liberation of Italy. Following this, his ship was directed to Okinawa where he participated in the largest naval flotilla ever assembled for invasion. His ship was then redirected to Japan and was off the coast when the atomic bomb was dropped, and he participated in the occupation of Japan. He was discharged in February 1944.

Following service to his country, J. L. went to work for The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) as an electrician and electrical foreman, building substations in parts of seven states. He retired after 35+ years. While working in Bristol, he went into the Western Union to wire money to his family in Northeast Georgia and met the love of his life, Nina O'Dell. They were married on January 22, 1948 in Bluff City, TN.

In addition to his parents, J. L. was preceded in death by his loving wife of sixty-one years, Nina O'Dell Rhinehardt, two brothers; O. L. Rhinehardt and C. L. Rhinehardt, and four sisters; Lucille Jennings, Clara Love, Daphne Thomas, and Ann Segrest. He leaves behind to cherish his memory, three daughters; Jean Noe (Minor), of New Albany, IN, Patricia Bush (Tim), of Malvern, OH, and Ginger Carver (Leonard), of Bluff City, TN, as well as two sons; Jimmy Rhinehardt (Annette), of Johnson City, TN, and Jerry Rhinehardt (Beth), of Bluff City, TN. J.L. and Nina were blessed with seven wonderful grandchildren; Nicole Koble (Brady), Nathan Bush (Carrie), Ashley Esquiagola (Anthony), Lindsey Clem (Steven), Jessica Woods (Aaron), Jared Rhinehardt (Rebecca), and Molly Casper (Heath), as well as eleven precious great-grandchildren; Piper Koble, Rowan Koble, Ethan Bush, Ashlyn Bush, Nina Esquiagola, Delia Esquiagola, Sullivan Clem, Willa Clem, Adelynn

Rhinehardt, Lewis Casper, and Baby Girl Woods (arriving December 2020). He is also survived by his brother, H.L. Rhinehardt (Ruby), two sisters; Betty Dyer and Virginia Bradley, and many nieces and nephews who were all dear to him.

As a young man, J. L. accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior and was baptized at the Woods Grove Baptist Church in Young Harris, GA. Throughout his life, he set a wonderful Christian example for all who knew him. He served on the board at Bluff City Christian Church, was appointed as a trustee of Avoca Christian Church, and most recently was a member of Poplar Ridge Christian Church.

J.L. was an avid farmer. He loved riding his tractor, filling his barns with hay, and planting an enormous garden, often sharing his harvest with family and friends. J.L. placed great value on hard-work, reliability, and the development of fortitude, in himself as well as others. He was extremely proud of his family, and enjoyed sharing a meal with guests, many being students from Milligan College. Throughout his life, J. L. enjoyed fishing, a game of horseshoes, playing Rook, and in his later years, playing golf. Additionally, he was a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and a proud member of the NRA. He also loved to have breakfast at Hardees with all his buddies.

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the staff members of The Waters Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Center for the loving care they provided during the past two years.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made in memory of J. L. Rhinehardt to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), 1840 Holston Drive, Bristol, TN, 37620, as they become an integral part of the newly developed nonprofit Impact Community Center of Bluff City, TN.

A private graveside service for J.L. Rhinehardt will be held at the Poplar Ridge Cemetery, Piney Flats, TN with Mr. Evan Wolf officiating. A celebration of life service will be held at a later date.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Sullivan County is mandating that all citizens who live in or visit wear masks or facial coverings in public. Also, social distancing recommendations must be observed.

Cemetery

Poplar Ridge Christian Church Cemetery

206 Poplar Ridge Church Road

Piney Flats, TN, 37686

Comments



“ Beth, Ginger, Jerry, Jimmy and all who loved Mr. Rhinehart- I am sorry for your loss. He was a wonderful man & many good memories come back to me. I will be praying for you, may your faith and good memories sustain you during this time.

Penny Prince Parker
Maryville, TN

penny parker - September 13, 2020 at 03:49 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of J Levi Rhinehardt.



September 11, 2020 at 04:54 PM



“ We lift you up into the arms of our father, may you find great peace in the many memories you share as a family.

Nick and Dana

NickandDana Wallen - September 11, 2020 at 09:15 AM



“ I'd never met Levi until he and my dad Gene were at the Waters together. He always raised his hand and said hello. As soon as I saw him I knew Jimmy and Jerry (I was at Milligan when they were) were his sons as they looked so much alike. I loved reading about his life. Thinking of you during this difficult time.

Cindy Jarrett Schade

Cindy Schade - September 11, 2020 at 08:49 AM



“ Ginger,
I am so sorry to hear of your loss.
May God give you strength and hope during this difficult time. May your memories
bring you lasting comfort
Karen Smalling Morris



Karen Morris - September 10, 2020 at 06:28 PM



“ Our love and respect to all the Rhinehardt family at the lostt of JL. We enjoyed some
of that Bluff City love as college kids and this gracious man was a real example to us
all. Much goodness be upon you all. Tim and Marcia Ross

Timothy Ross - September 10, 2020 at 10:53 AM



“ Always one of my favorite uncles.. . We love you. I hope you're talking about farming
to my brother, Mitchell, in Heaven and calling him "Satchell" as you always did. I
know the joy that you must be experiencing to be reunited with Nina. What a
wonderful and generous life you have led. Love you all and prayers for your family.
We love you all.

Michelle Rhinehardt Pyrlík - September 09, 2020 at 06:43 PM



“ When I was a young boy, he would fix sassafras tea when I visited. When I got older,
he once spoke to my class about his experience in the Second World War. The
patriarch of a tremendous family is now experiencing peace and joy!!

Randall Gilmore - September 09, 2020 at 05:26 PM



“ May God bless all of you as you live with the wonderful memories of all the years at church & home gatherings living in this physical & spiritual journey. I Love all of you. May God help us to live to see them again soon.
Terry & Diane Denton



Diane Denton - September 09, 2020 at 04:26 PM



“ Jean and Pat,
Please accept my sincere condolences for the loss of your dad. You were truly blessed to have him in your life for 99 years. My prayers are with both of you at this time.
Carole Grizzle Jersey

Carole Jersey - September 11, 2020 at 10:20 AM



“ We are so saddened to hear this news. He was a wonderful person and we loved him dearly. You are all in our prayers.
Cleatis and Marion Boling

Cleatis & Marion Boling - September 15, 2020 at 10:40 AM