



## Willard James Arnold

November 28, 1924 - August 5, 2009

Willard James Arnold was born November 28, 1924 in Richland, Missouri. He was one of three children born to the union of the late James Floyd and Mamie Ethel (Manuel) Arnold.

Willard went home to be with his Lord the morning of August 5, 2009 at his home near Richland, Missouri, surrounded by his loving family, at the age of 84 years, 8 months and 8 days.

Willard attended the Elm Grove one-room schoolhouse, and graduated from Stoutland High School in 1941. He attended two years of college in Springfield, Missouri.

With the start of WWII, Willard desperately wanted to serve his country, so he lied about his age to join the Army. He was a paratrooper in the invasion of Normandy beach and the Battle of the Bulge. For his honorable and faithful service, PFC Arnold was awarded the Victory Ribbon, American Theatre Ribbon, European African Middle Eastern Theatre Ribbon with one bronze star, Good Conduct Medal, Four Overseas Service Bars and the Distinguished Unit Badge.

While at a USO dance in Franklin, Georgia, Willard met Euckle Edith Cook. They were married on February 15, 1945. Willard and Euckle were blessed

with two children, Mary Yvonne, and James David. Euckle preceded Willard in death on December 18, 1990.

Though Willard and his family lived in several areas of the country over the years, Richland was always his home. Over the years he owned and operated successful businesses in insurance and real estate. Willard was the owner/broker of Tri-County Realty in Richland and later moved the office to Lebanon, and continued to be an active member of the Richland and Lebanon communities for many years. He was a long time member of the First Assembly of God Church in Richland and the American Legion Post 240.

Willard had a life long love of music. He began singing at age 16 as part of the Ozark Jubilee on KWTO Radio in Springfield. At some point in his career, he sang with Red Foley, Slim Wilson, Porter Waggoner and Jr. Hayworth. He was a pallbearer for his friend, Slim Wilson. In the early 50's, he was on the radio in Sacramento, Stockton and Modesto, California, with Fred Lamb and the Maddox Brothers. Along with many other musicians, Willard entertained many with his mandolin and sweet voice as often as he could. While he had several successful careers, it was always music that taught his soul to sing, even into his final days.

Willard was dearly loved, and will be sadly missed by his loving wife of 18 years, Lora Arnold of Richland; two children: Mary Yvonne Reed (Doyle) of Ada, Oklahoma and James David Arnold (Kris) of Sumner, Washington; Lora's children: David Cain (Shirley) of Branson, Lori Fincher (Larry) of Richland, Julie Claiborn (Mike) of Montreal and Phoebe Long (Mike) of Camdenton; many grand and great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

In addition to his parents and his first wife, Willard was also preceded in death by a daughter, Vicki Pasley, brother, Wilbur Arnold and sister, Era Craig and

his granddaughter, Kenya Reed.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 A.M., Saturday, August 8, 2009 in the Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Richland with Pastor Nathan Sheridan officiating. Speakers Bob Payne and GEN (Ret) Mark Juneau recalled special memories of Willard. The gospel group Gospel Express played and sang "Amazing Grace", "He Hideth My Soul" and "Peace in the Valley". Other recorded music selections played were "Daddy's Home" and "Go Rest High on That Mountain". Serving as escorts were Kevin Reed, Bryan Reed, Jonathan Cain, Derek Cupps, Matthew Arnold, Cory Arnold, Logan Reed, Aaron Fincher, Kyler Reed, Rylan Reed, Robert Reed, Christopher Leazer, Mason Arnold, Cayden Arnold and Andrew Darr.

United States Army of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and American Legion Post 240 of Richland provided military honors. Burial followed in the Mt. View Cemetery near Richland, Missouri. Services were under the direction of Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Richland.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Willard James Arnold to the Mt. View Cemetery Fund and may be left at the funeral home.

Online condolences may be left at [www.richlandmemorialchapel.com](http://www.richlandmemorialchapel.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Memorial Chapels and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Willard James Arnold*



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**Memorial Chapels and Crematory** - August 05, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Willard James Arnold*

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January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM



“ *Sorry for you loss, Wishing you and your family strength and peace. Kenny Dalene McDaniel and Family##imported-begin##Dalene McDaniel##imported-end##*

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August 08, 2009 at 11:10 PM



“ *We were sorry to hear of Willard passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.##imported-begin##Charley and Joyce Fritts##imported-end##*

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August 08, 2009 at 08:41 PM



“ Our sincere sympathy to the Arnold Family in your time of sorrow. Willard's mother (Mamie) and my grandmother, (Sylvia Ballenger) were first cousins.##imported-begin##Duane and Helen Pemberton##imported-end##

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August 08, 2009 at 04:25 PM



“ We are sorry for your loss. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Melissa Hankins-Stradt##imported-end##

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August 07, 2009 at 11:13 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.. "Let me..find refuge under the shelter of your wings.". Psalm 61:4##imported-begin##Linda and Don Goforth ##imported-end##

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August 07, 2009 at 08:42 AM



“ You are in our prayers, during your time of lose.##imported-begin##Bill and Becky Starner##imported-end##

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August 06, 2009 at 12:02 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Willard's passing. My husband and I enjoyed doing business with him. Willard was always very sweet and comical. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. God Bless.##imported-begin##Danny & Cheryl Jennings##imported-end##

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August 06, 2009 at 11:18 AM



“ I live in NY now and am so sad I cannot attend the services. Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you. I loved every time I got to play music and sing with Willard. I'll never forget him.##imported-begin##Terri Rivers##imported-end##

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August 06, 2009 at 07:52 AM



“ You are all in our thoughts and prayers in the loss of one so dear to all of you. We will continue to pray for each of you in the days ahead.##imported-begin##Martin and Georgia White##imported-end##

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August 05, 2009 at 10:24 PM



“ Pop, Thank You so much for all the wonderful times you gave to us and for loving my Mom. You were such a hard worker, you had such a passion for life. I'll never forget all the times we went to the Nutrition Centers to watch you play your mandolin. I Love You Pop with all my heart and I'll see you again real soon.##imported-begin##Larry and Lori Fincher##imported-end##

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August 05, 2009 at 09:24 PM