



Lester S. Pitchford

November 12, 1919 - September 8, 2015

Lester Stanley Pitchford, age 95 of Richview died Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at Good Samaritan Hospital in Mt. Vernon. He was born on November 12, 1919 in Washington County at the home of his parents Raymond A. and Margaret M., nee Zapp Pitchford. After graduating grade school from Whittenburg School, he took over responsibility of the family farm in rural Richview. He expanded the farm to include livestock and grain as well as maintaining orchards and marketing the fruit and strawberries to the local area. At one point in the 1960's he had over 100 acres in strawberries as well as 100 acres of orchards. Annually, he would also purchase and transport pecans from the south to be sold at his market. As the farm operations expanded throughout the years he saw the need of grain storage and crop inputs be made available to the small farmers and began Pitchford Elevator in 1965. Mr. Pitchford was involved in many business endeavors throughout the years but was especially interested in the banking industry as his grandfather, Alfred Pitchford was one of the founding directors of the Richview State Bank. Upon his grandfather's death he was appointed to the board of directors and served in this capacity well over 60 years. In this role, he oversaw the bank grow from one location as Richview State Bank to three locations now known as Community Trust Bank with expansion into the Centralia and Nashville market. He placed great importance on the value of an independent family owned business as an integral part of a small community and was proud that six generations have been involved in the bank as well as the farm and

elevator for which he ensured would continue well into the future. It was important to him to invest and reinvest in his surrounding community providing employment and economic development for the area he loved. Lester married M. Lorraine Russell on December 28, 1940 in Robinson, Illinois and she survives. Also surviving are two daughters, Nancy Roethemeyer and husband Don of Richview and Sharon Creed and husband Gary of Waterloo, Illinois. Six grandchildren Brian Grathwohl and wife Michele of Richview; Sheila Burcham and husband Matt of Nashville; Amy Stevens and husband Josh of Nashville; Angela Creed and husband Ed Hengel of Columbia, Scott Creed of Waterloo; and Nicole Creed and husband Jeff Fleece of Prospect, Kentucky. Thirteen great grandchildren, Stephanie Grathwohl, Curtis Grathwohl, Justin Grathwohl, Emma Grathwohl, Brittany Burcham, Danielle Stambaugh and husband Jonathon, Brooke Burcham, Lucas Knepp, Abby Knepp, August Hengel, Macie Hengel, Nicholas and John Fleece. One great great grandson, Leland Stambaugh. Surviving siblings include Marie Finke of Missouri and Marjorie Murphy of Ohio. Preceding him in death are his parents, a brother Wesley Pitchford, sister Viola Reed, and son-in-law Curtis Grathwohl. Funeral Services will be held Saturday, September 12, 2015 at 11:00 A.M. at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home in Centralia with Pastor Steve Upchurch officiating. Visitation will be held from Friday, September 11, 2015 from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. at the funeral home and also, Saturday morning from 9:00 A.M. until the time of service. Memorial Donations may be made to the Smile Train or to the Richview Cemetery Fund and will be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home in Centralia which is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

DL

“ I called on Lester since 1977 in the equipment business and he was one of the finest individuals I ever did business with! I learned much with every visit and enjoyed Lester's unique sense of humor. I looked forward every year to seeing/talking to him @ the Southern Illinois Fertilizer Conference and will dearly miss that this year! There is a saying "Carve your name on hearts, not marble". Lester definitely carved his on mine and I will miss him but hold many fun memories in my heart. Sincerely, Don

Don Van Lyssel - September 13, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ You are in our prayers and I respected your business acumen. God Bless. Terry and Gaby Sorgenfrey, Chatham, IL

September 11, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Our deepest sympathy for your loss. Prayers for the family.

Gene Opp - September 11, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ Sorry for our loss, you will be in my thoughts and prayers. Please accept my sincere condolences.

Michael Patterson - September 11, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Sorry for your loss I our prayers. Gary and Teresa Hake

September 10, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Sorry for your loss. He will be truly miss.*

September 10, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *May your hearts soon be filled with wonderful memories of joyful times together as you celebrate a life well lived.*

Ja;ne Pigg - September 10, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *You are all in our thoughts and prayers, Tom & Martha Polczynski*

September 10, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Thinking of all of you at this difficult timewith deepest sympathy , Charlotte Howe and Greg Kleeman*

Charlotte Howe - September 10, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *He was a great person.Prayers to family and friends He will be missed by many.*

September 09, 2015 at 12:00 AM