



Russell Sweet

July 26, 1927 - November 11, 2020

Russell Forster Sweet, 93, of Centralia, passed away Wednesday, November 11, 2020 at Deaconess Midtown Hospital in Evansville, IN.

Russell was born July 26, 1927 in Meriden, Connecticut, the son of Russell Eugene Sweet and Florence Olivia (Forster) Sweet. He married Clara Goodin on February 16, 1973 in Jacksonville, Florida and she survives him in Centralia.

In addition to his wife Clara of forty-seven years, he is survived by four children: Barbara Martin of Forest Park, GA, Russell Sweet Jr. of Jacksonville, FL, Bobbie Dee Today and husband David of Joliet, IL, and Robert Edward Anderson of San Juan, Puerto Rico; nine grandchildren: Ellery Zurcher and wife Amanda of Stockbridge, GA, Emily Dingle and husband James of Jonesboro, GA, Cody Zurcher of Forest Park, GA, Amanda Christie Blewett and husband Travis of Vidalia, GA, Adam Chester Poole and wife Ana of Blackshear, GA, Jessica Rae Today Pila and husband Jim of Lisle, IL, Johnathan Edward "Jack" Anderson of Barrington, RI, Sarah Grace Anderson of Barrington, RI and Raleigh Dean Forster Anderson of Barrington, RI; seven great-grandchildren; Niece Brenda McDade and husband Steve, Nephew Michael McDade and Niece Tina Warfel and husband Mark, and many more special friends and family.

Russell was preceded in death by his parents Russell Eugene and Florence Olivia Sweet, and a sister Barbara May Gretzky.


Russell attended the First Presbyterian Church in Centralia with his wife Clara, and was a member of Lake Forest Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Florida.

Russell served his country in the United States Coast Guard Maritime Service as a Merchant Marine during the period of armed conflict in World War II. He retired from Hollywood Brands/Leaf Candy Factory in 1992, where he worked as Maintenance Supervisor.

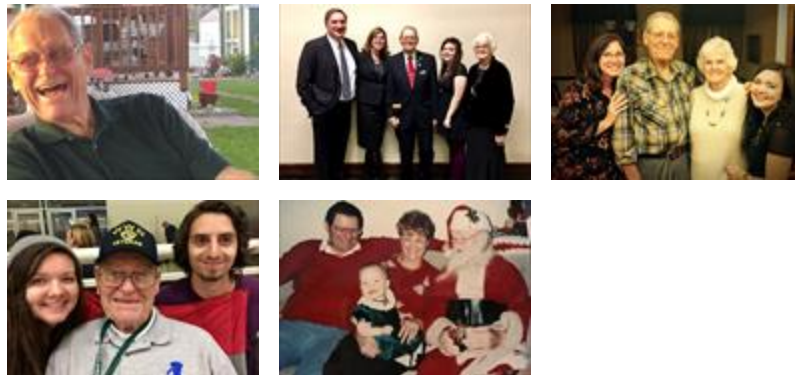
Russell was a Life Member of the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, a 67 year member, raised 1952, Masonic Advanced Island City Mizpah Lodge #635, in Long Island, NY, Both York and Scottish Rite Valley in NY and IL, 2017 Past Master of Centralia Masonic Lodge #201, Current Chaplain at Centralia #201 and Sandoval Masonic Lodges, Mecca Shriners Lodge #1 of NYC, NY, Centralia Lodge #493 Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Loyal Order of Moose, Jacksonville, FL, V.F.W. Post 2055 Centralia, American Legion Post 446 in Centralia, and was a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary along with his wife in 1977-1983.

Per Russell's wishes, cremation rites will be accorded and a Celebration of Life Service will be held at a later date. In honor of Russell, Memorial Donations may be made to the Shriners Children's Research Hospital and will be accepted by the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home at 235 North Sycamore Street in Centralia, IL 62801 (618) 532-3523, who is honored to be of service to the Sweet family. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com or the Funeral Home's Facebook page.

Tribute Wall

 Bobbie
Dee
Today

“ 27 files added to the album Memories Album



Bobbie Dee Today - December 12, 2020 at 08:18 AM

RT

“ Dear Mrs. Sweet - this is Betty and Robert Tracy. We have been friends of Bobbie and David for many years. Betty was a nurse with Bobbie, and I worked with David at the City of Naperville. Please accept our condolences on your loss. We never met you or Russel but we often heard Bobbie speak of you both in high regard and Love. We too have lost loved ones and know it hurts. Find solace in knowing a fine man like Russel is with the Lord, free of pain and suffering, and at Peace. Your family is in our prayers for comfort and Peace. May God Bless!

Robert Tracy - November 17, 2020 at 11:27 AM

MM

“ I am heart broken, I just saw this wonderful man sitting outside the post office getting donations for Shriner's. My Heart goes to Clara and family. I am truly Blessed to have known him. Your Kindness will always be a Sweet memory.

Mary Martin - November 14, 2020 at 11:11 AM

LD

“ Aunt Clara, my heart is broken for you and wish I could be there with you. Although my moments with Uncle Russ were more frequent when I was much younger and less as I grew older, the thing I remember most was his smile, his laughter and his seemingly love for life and his family and how he and you would laugh often with one another. He is now home with our Heavenly Father and with so many who have gone on before...I can imagine him smiling largely as he walked through the “pearly gates” and giving a shout out “I’m home” to Mom and Dick, among so many others.
I love you much and sending many prayers and hugs to you and your family...

Lisa Dickson - November 14, 2020 at 09:07 AM

DE

“ A very great man who led in hospitality,friendship and welcoming at the Presbyterian Church.Russell made a terrific difference for good.

Dr Edwin Evans - November 13, 2020 at 10:52 AM

LA

“ Clara,
Russell was a good man and will be missed by all. Wish I could be with you. I'm sorry.
Love you,
Lori

Lori Aarons - November 13, 2020 at 08:05 AM

BW

“ God gained an angel. Will miss you.

Brenda White - November 13, 2020 at 06:59 AM

BM

“ *Love you Dad
Barbara Jane Sweet Martin*

Barbara Sweet Martin - November 12, 2020 at 11:33 PM

PB

“ *My dear Clara and Bobbie Dee. I am so very sorry to hear about Russell!! What an Honor to go to Gods Military Army in Heaven, on our Earthly Veterens Day! Perfect fit! My thoughts and Prayers are with you both, and all the family! What a great man! 🙏*

Peggy Beal - November 12, 2020 at 11:19 PM

CH

“ *Thinking of you Clara...you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Charlotte Howe*

charlotte howe - November 12, 2020 at 09:15 PM

BF

“ how Very Blessed and Very Fortunate I am...
it's October 2, 1977...
and I'm residing in Peoria, Illinois...
I'm sitting at my kitchen table after church...
having a cup of coffee...
my phone rings...
it's Mr. Sweet calling my home inquiring...
"might you be Bob French from New York?!"...
I tell this inquiring Gentleman Mr. Sweet...
yes, I'm Bob French...but I'm born and raised in Chicago for some
26 years...
now living in Peoria working professionally...
and at that very moment...
I recall My Dad speaking quite often about "Sweet Red"...his "Best
Friend" from his young days in New York...
I tell Mr. Sweet...
"My Dear Dad...his name also is Bob French...a New Yorker born
and raised...
My Dad loved riding horses...
My Dad now an Architect living in Chicago for many years"...
and on that Sunday October 2, 1977...
some 30+ years passing since Mr. Sweet and Dad French parted
company in New York going off to WWII...
Mr. Sweet finding His "Best Friend Bob French" from New York...
and also meeting His Son Young Bob French...
and how Fitting this Veterans Day November 11, 2020 Truly Is...
now some 43+ years passing since my Sunday phone call when I
first met My Mr. Sweet...
Our Friendship Enduring and Growing Stronger and More
Meaningful with Every Passing Day...
to Know Mr. Sweet...
is to Know a Real and Kind Gentleman...
Forever and Ever...
I Carry Our Friendship in My Heart
(albeit broken today).

We Love You Mr. Sweet and We Always Will.
Young Bob French and Wife Stacie
(from Chicago)

Bob French - November 12, 2020 at 11:46 AM