



Mr. Louis E. Smisson Jr.

December 29, 1923 - July 9, 2015

Louis E. Smisson, Jr., of Ranburne, Alabama, passed away peacefully at his home on Thursday, July 9, 2015. He was 91.

Louis was born at his family's home west of Fort Valley, Georgia on December 29, 1923, to Louis Edgar Smisson and Mary Louise Carter Smisson. He was one of four children. He graduated from Fort Valley High School and attended Georgia Tech. He joined the U.S. Air Force and learned to fly B-17 Bombers. He flew missions during WWII from North Africa, Italy, and Germany, and then later joined his older brother, Frank, as a test pilot at Wright Patterson AFB. After the war, he joined the Georgia Air National Guard. His unit was called into duty at the beginning of the Korean War. With his previous flying experience, he was assigned to the Air Force where he served in Greenland, France, and various bases in the U.S. He and brother Frank worked together managing the air lift in Lebanon. Louis retired as a Major after 20 years in the Air Force. He then worked at Lockheed Martin in Marietta, Georgia.

He married Martha Larry Beck, the daughter of Larry Price and Nannie Maude Hearn Beck, of Bowdon, Georgia on May 16, 1953 in Atlanta, Georgia. They had two children, Louis E. Smisson, III of Dutton, Alabama and Larrie Maude Smisson of Marietta, Georgia.

He attended Ranburne First United Methodist Church and was a member of

the American Legion Post 0019. As a gentleman farmer, he grew yearly crops of blackberries and muscadines that were enjoyed by friends and neighbors alike.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 59 years, Martha; his parents, Louis and Mary Louise Smisson, his brother and sister-in-law, Frank and Mary Lou Gilbride Smisson; brother-in-law, Leo Harris; and two nephews, Lon Smisson and Christopher Bernard Smisson.

Survivors include his children, Louise III and Larrie; his sister, Fran Harris, and her children, Olivia, Cecelia, and Ben; his brother, Carter, and his wife, Mary, and children, Walton and Pamela; and his niece, Heidi Smisson, the widow of nephew, Christopher, and their son, Sylar Smisson.

The family is forever indebted to this loving and caring staff, JoAnn Daniel, Heather Spear, Sandy Parks, and Aline Parrish. Their dedication to "Mr. Lou" allowed him to remain in his beloved home.

A memorial will be held on Sunday, July 19, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. CST at Ranburne First United Methodist Church. Rev. Chris Cone will officiate. In accordance with his wishes, Mr. Smisson's body was cremated and his remains will be interred with his wife at Bowdon City Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Air Warrior Courage Foundation (P.O. Box 877, Silver Springs, MD 20918, awcf@airwarriorcourage.org) or Ranburne First United Methodist Church (11 Church Dr., Ranburne, AL 36273).

Cemetery Details

Bowdon City Cemetery

Johnson Street
Bowdon, GA 30108

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL 19. 1:00 PM (CT)

Ranburne First United Methodist Church
21041 Main Street
Ranburne, AL 36273

Tribute Wall



“ *Lou, what a great person. He loved Martha and wanted to honor her. We had a good visit with him in March. We are unable to attend the memorial but our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends.*

Becky and Terry.

Rebecca Singletary - July 17, 2015 at 11:11 AM

“ *R.I.P. Lou, you can see clearly now and walk without pain. We enjoyed visiting with Lou and Martha and remembering the past. Our prayers are with the family and his helpers that allowed him to stay in his own home.*

Terry and Becky Singletary

Becky Singletary - July 15, 2015 at 10:30 PM