



Merle Cales

August 22, 1922 - February 21, 2017

Merle Cales, 94, of Bolivar, MO passed away Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at National Healthcare in Joplin, MO.

Merle Elmer Cales was born August 22, 1922 to Elmer J. and Mae French Cales on a farm southwest of Burden, Kansas and departed this life February 21, 2017 at NHC in Joplin, Missouri at the age of 94.

He attended school for two years at a one room country school before moving to Winfield, Kansas. While in high school he participated in basketball, baseball, and tennis. He graduated from high school in Winfield, Kansas in 1940 and attended St. John's college. While playing baseball, the manager of a semi-pro club from Cessna Aircraft in Wichita, Kansas asked him to try out for the team. He played semi-pro baseball in both state and national tournaments.

While working at Cessna, he met Wilma Thomason whom he married October 30, 1943. Shortly after their marriage he was drafted into the army and spent two and a half years in the South Pacific. Upon returning home he went back to college to finish his education. He received his B.A degree in education from Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas and his master's degree from Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado. He spent thirty-seven years in the education field before retiring and moving to Bolivar, Missouri in 1987.

He was a member of the United Methodist Church and served as a lay leader

and lay minister for many years. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and Eastern Star for fifty years.

Merle was an avid hunter and fisherman. He also spent many hours on the golf course and enjoyed working in his yard and garden. He was proud of the time he spent working with the city of Bolivar on Parks and Recreation committee.

Merle was preceded in death by his wife, Wilma of 68 years, by four brothers, and a grandson, Nathan. He is survived by his daughter, Jean Lunt, of Lamar, Colorado and his son, Dr. Dwaine Cales (Margaret) of Joplin, Missouri. He is also survived by his sister, Alma Mae Leavell of Winfield, Kansas, five grandchildren, and fifteen great grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

A celebration of life will be held at the Butler Funeral Home in Bolivar, Missouri on Saturday, February 25, 2017 at 2 PM. Visitation will be held the hour prior. Memorials may be made to Compassus Healthcare at 2650 E. 32nd St. Suite 100, Joplin, MO 64804 in Merle's name. Interment will be at Greenwood Cemetery in Bolivar, Missouri.

Cemetery Details

Greenwood Cemetery

S. Dunnegan Ave.
Bolivar, MO 65613

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 25. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Bolivar
407 E. Broadway
Bolivar, MO 65613
(417) 326-5233
<https://butlerfuneralhome.com/>

Celebration Of Life

FEB 25. 2:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Merle Cales*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *Merle Cales*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *Our association with Merle Cales was through the Bolivar Methodist Church. When my husband was well enough to attend church we sat across the isle from Merle and Wilma. Merle would come across the isle and he and John would trade humorous comments about wives and marriage. he had a great personality and a wonderful sense of humor. Our thoughts and prayers go to his family, God Bless You.*

Carolyn and John Spiegel

Carolyn Spiegel - March 01, 2017 at 08:41 PM

BC

“ My husband Derral and I were sorry to hear of Merle's passing, and were out of town which meant we missed his service. My father-in-law Ed Cloyd was a good golfing buddy of Merle's and Derral and I played with Wilma and Merle occasionally at the Bolivar Golf Club. I was on the Board of the club with Merle as president and had much respect for his talent in organizing and getting things done which would benefit the whole. Merle was a great guy and a friendly neighbor who always had a corny joke to tell! Our condolences to your family on your loss.

Brenda and Derral Cloyd

Brenda Cloyd - February 27, 2017 at 11:13 AM

SE

“ I will always remember Merle, because he came into the nursing home at a time that I was feeling a little rejected. He would always make me laugh. We would pretend to fight and the nurses would come running to stop us. He made me feel like a granddaughter. I have met his family and they are as lovely as he was. My sorrow goes out to your family. Even though it is hard to lose a dear one. Merle often talked about how much he missed his wife and he is with her in heaven. Sharon England

Sharon England - February 25, 2017 at 03:43 PM

DW

“ Dyanna Winchester sent a virtual gift in memory of Merle Cales



Dyanna Winchester - February 25, 2017 at 12:41 PM

DW

“ *My life was so blessed to have had the opportunity to know Merle. He would come to my table in the mornings with his coffee and we would talk about everything. He would make me laugh so hard. He would share his life stories with me and how he loved his wife and his children. I miss my friend and will always have him in my heart.*
Dyanna Winchester @ NHC

Dyanna Winchester - February 25, 2017 at 12:39 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Merle Cales.*



February 24, 2017 at 12:36 PM

EK

“ *I was fortunate enough to have an opportunity to visit my friend, Merle, from our church on many occasions. We talked and laughed (and laughed and laughed and laughed) about so many things. There were things that were very important to Merle, like his Lord, his deeply loved Wilma, his church, baseball, civic duty, and dancing. I so enjoyed every chance I had to go see Merle, both here in Bolivar and in Joplin, and I will always remember his wit and his robust laugh. I know heaven is a much funnier place now thanks to him. God bless you Merle.*

Ed Kurtz - February 22, 2017 at 04:40 PM

TA

“*Merle was an outstanding friend of mine. We fished, golfed, joked and had a blast together. He loved his family so much and relished his fishing, golf and flower gardening. We fished and played golf regularly and I will always think of hm when I enjoy those activities in the future, though not as much without him. He was so emblematic of the men of WWII, strong of spirit and full of determination, so much like my own father. I'll wave at you every time I go by on the golf course you loved so much.*

ted allen - February 21, 2017 at 09:20 PM

EJ

“*We truly loved Mr. Cales, and enjoyed his marvelous sense of humor! He was a former neighbor of my father, Mr. Leonard J. Paxton, in Lakewood Hills. Mr. Cales came over to Parkview for several Christmas parties with my father, and their mutual friends, Kathy and John Borawski. Both my father and Mr. Cales wore their red sweatshirts, and had a great time laughing together. Whenever we drive to Bolivar to visit my father, we always pass by both my father's former house on S. Maple Circle, and Mr. Cales' former home on Oakland. We had so many happy memories at both places. We send our thoughts and prayers to all of the family. "God bless you."*

Most Sincerely,
T.W. & Evie Jones in Colorado Springs, CO.

Evie Jones - February 21, 2017 at 02:01 PM