



Clarence E. Cox

July 24, 1924 - April 3, 2017

Clarence E. Cox, age 92 years, a resident of Vienna, passed away Monday morning, April 3, 2017, at 4:13 AM at his home.

Clarence was born July 24, 1924 near Ozark, Illinois. He was the son of Orlan and Grace (Ross) Cox.

On May 11, 1946, Clarence was united in marriage to Eleanor “Jean” Taylor in Pinckneyville, Illinois. Together, Clarence and Jean have enjoyed almost 71 years of marriage.

In addition to his beloved wife, Clarence is survived by: his children: Sharon (her husband, Dan) Huffman of Metropolis, Sheila (her husband, Charles) Douglas of Karnak, Carol (her husband Russ) Brown of Metropolis, and Reggy (his wife, Karen) Cox of Karnak; 12 grandchildren: Sarah (her husband, Lucus) Grace, Bethany (her husband, Brandon) Fisher, Brittany (her husband, Timothy) Barton, Chad (his wife, Jodie) Douglas, Nathan (his wife Bridget) Douglas, Casey Douglas, Kyle (his wife, Andrea) Sommer, Heather Cox, Brittany (her husband, Brandon) Blackburn, Kaleb Cox, Kalissa Cox and Rachelle Cox; 16 great grandchildren – Landon Grace, Lane Grace, Chloe Fisher, Cohen Fisher, Mason Barton, Jonah Barton, Harper Barton, Jaelyn Douglas, Cambell Douglas, Charlee Jo Douglas, Madeline Douglas, Morgan Douglas, Keaton Douglas, Caden Sommer, Bentley Blackburn and Roczen

Blackburn; a sister – Betty Noble of Vienna; a nephew – Ron Noble of Vienna; as well as a host of other relatives and many friends.

In addition to his parents, Clarence was preceded in death by a nephew – Terry Noble.

Clarence attended Reagan Grade School and New Burnside High School. He graduated from Vienna High School in 1942. Clarence attended Southern Illinois Normal University in Carbondale for one year prior to be drafted into the United States Army in 1943. Clarence was sent to Camp Croft South Carolina for 17 weeks training with the O3 and M-1 rifle machine gun, mortar grenades and bayonet use. He was then sent to Fort Dix New Jersey for embarkation to Manchester, England and was assigned to the 1st Division (infantry) as a replacement preparing for the invasion of Germany in World War II.

On June 6, 1944, Clarence was part of the first wave of troops to land on Omaha Beach, Normandy France. He was one of 65 that survived out of 187 in his Company E, 2nd Battalion, 16th infantry of the 1st Division and continued across France, Belgium, Germany and Czechoslovakia until Germany surrendered on May 8, 1945.

Following his honorable and distinguished service, during which time Clarence received two Purple Hearts, he returned home to resume his education. Clarence graduated from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and obtained a Masters Degree in Education from the University of Illinois, Urbana in 1949. He taught Vocational Agriculture for a total of 38 years at Cave-in-Rock, Grayville and, including 28 years, at Joppa High School. Clarence was a staunch supporter and leader in the F.F.A. (Future Farmers of America).

Clarence, along with his father Orlan, operated the United Real Estate

Agency, later Cox Real Estate, in Vienna for several years.

Clarence was a member of the Beggs-Gurley VFW Post # 5222 in Vienna. He was also a charter member of the National World War II Museum. A narrative recording of his experiences are archived in his own words at the museum. He is also commemorated with a brick engraved with his name and rank recognizing his selfless service. Clarence and Jean were faithful members of the Joppa Missionary Baptist Church.

In his spare time, Clarence was an avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed hunting and fishing. Clarence was a devoted St. Louis Cardinals baseball fan.

A service honoring the life of Clarence Cox will be conducted Thursday morning, April 6, 2017, at 11 AM at Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna. Pastor David Wright will officiate.

Burial will be in the Vienna Fraternal Cemetery. Military honors will be accorded by the Beggs-Gurley VFW Post # 5222 and the Illinois National Guard Burial Honors detail.

Visitation will be held Wednesday evening, April 5, 2017, from 5 PM – 8 PM at Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna.

Memorials may be made to the Joppa Missionary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 276, Joppa, Illinois 62953.

Cemetery Details

Vienna Fraternal Cemetery

N. 6th Street
Vienna, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 5. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Bailey Funeral Home
705 North First Street
PO Box 695
Vienna, IL 62995
(618) 658-2311
baileyfhinc@hotmail.com
<https://baileyfh.com>

Service

APR 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

Bailey Funeral Home
705 North First Street
PO Box 695
Vienna, IL 62995
(618) 658-2311
baileyfhinc@hotmail.com
<https://baileyfh.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Bailey Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Clarence E. Cox*



Bailey Funeral Home - April 05, 2017 at 12:31 PM



“ *Clarence E. Cox*

January 30, 2023 at 12:19 AM



“ *Floyd & Linda Koehler lit a candle in memory of Clarence E. Cox*



Floyd & Linda Koehler - April 06, 2017 at 10:03 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of Clarence's death. He was a first rate teacher, fisherman and role model for everyone that was blessed with knowing him. Clarence taught much more than Shop and Agricultural, he taught about life. Our condolences to the family. I am sure he is fishing in heaven! Dale & Becky Story*

Dale Story - April 05, 2017 at 06:00 PM

AB

“ *Anita Bullock lit a candle in memory of Clarence E. Cox*



Anita Bullock - April 05, 2017 at 09:11 AM

JS

“ *John & Nadene Slack lit a candle in memory of Clarence E. Cox*



John & Nadene Slack - April 05, 2017 at 08:21 AM

BD

“ *I spent most of my childhood and teenage years around Clarence. There is a lot great memories with Clarence and Family. He was a very giving man and certainly helped a lot of people. He will be missed and I pray comfort for family.*

Billy Dry - April 05, 2017 at 08:16 AM

AN

“ *I did my student teaching with Mr. Cox in the fall of 1985 at Joppa. He was the reason I received my first teaching job at Joppa. I was so thankful and will always remember my friend Mr. Clarence Cox.*
From: Anthony Nelson

Anthony Nelson - April 05, 2017 at 07:45 AM

DH

“ Dennis & Pat Harner lit a candle in memory of Clarence E. Cox



Dennis & Pat Harner - April 04, 2017 at 09:09 PM

WD

“ Clarence was always a very positive individual, and was very much a people person, which bode well for his decision to enter the teaching profession, where he was an excellent person to mentor the many young people that he encountered.

Wayne Dunn - April 04, 2017 at 06:59 PM

CT

“ Carla (Weekly) Tapley lit a candle in memory of Clarence E. Cox



Carla (Weekly) Tapley - April 04, 2017 at 04:17 PM

GG

“ Gina And Eliza Goines lit a candle in memory of Clarence E. Cox



Gina and Eliza Goines - April 04, 2017 at 03:41 PM

LF

“ Love, Chad, Jacey, Jenna, & Families purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of Clarence E. Cox.



Love, Chad, Jacey, Jenna, & Families - April 04, 2017 at 01:50 PM

CH

“ Cheryl Harris lit a candle in memory of Clarence E. Cox



Cheryl Harris - April 04, 2017 at 12:35 PM

RS

“ Rickey Harner And Sue lit a candle in memory of Clarence E. Cox



rickey harner and sue - April 04, 2017 at 12:20 PM

TW

“ So very sorry for your families loss. Tom & Devon Wilke

Tom & Devon Wilke - April 04, 2017 at 09:48 AM

CH

“ *Crystal Hastings lit a candle in memory of Clarence E. Cox*



Crystal Hastings - April 04, 2017 at 08:48 AM

RR

“ *Rosemary (McCuan) Rouse lit a candle in memory of Clarence E. Cox*



Rosemary (McCuan) Rouse - April 04, 2017 at 08:02 AM



Mr. Cox was so special in many ways. Am glad to see such a listing of his wartime service and family. My uncle Jay Paul Neal was at Utah Beach nearby. Wish I could be there to see all his family come together for a celebration of his life.

Nancy Porter - April 04, 2017 at 08:48 AM

JR

“ *Jerry And Nancy Rann lit a candle in memory of Clarence E. Cox*



Jerry and Nancy Rann - April 04, 2017 at 07:38 AM

PS

“ *Peggy Jean Smoot lit a candle in memory of Clarence E. Cox*



Peggy Jean Smoot - April 04, 2017 at 07:11 AM

AW

“ *Aleatha Wright lit a candle in memory of Clarence E. Cox*



Aleatha Wright - April 03, 2017 at 09:38 PM

LV

“ *Len And Brenda Valentine lit a candle in memory of Clarence E. Cox*



Len and Brenda Valentine - April 03, 2017 at 09:34 PM

VN

“ *My favorite memory of uncle Clarence was going up to the lake house and going fishing he was a joy and an honor to be around. Prayers for the family and sending love. Vicki Noble .*

Vicki Noble - April 03, 2017 at 06:14 PM

MS

“ Mike & Nancy Solomon lit a candle in memory of Clarence E. Cox



Mike & Nancy Solomon - April 03, 2017 at 05:14 PM

MS

Sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers for the family

Mike & Nancy Solomon - April 03, 2017 at 05:15 PM

JT

“ So very sorry for your loss, my heart and prayers go to all. We shall all mourn the loss of this wonderful man.



Joy (Necie) Trammell - April 03, 2017 at 02:32 PM

RB

“ Rich And Karen Brumley lit a candle in memory of Clarence E. Cox



Rich and Karen Brumley - April 03, 2017 at 01:25 PM

JF

“ *Jim And Ruth Flanagan lit a candle in memory of Clarence E. Cox*



Jim and Ruth Flanagan - April 03, 2017 at 01:21 PM

BR

“ *Bobby Rentfro lit a candle in memory of Clarence E. Cox*



Bobby Rentfro - April 03, 2017 at 01:06 PM

LM

“ *Larry And Carolyn McGill lit a candle in memory of Clarence E. Cox*



Larry and Carolyn McGill - April 03, 2017 at 12:56 PM