George M. Wells

December 1, 1931 - November 23, 2020

George M. Wells, age 88 years, a resident of Paducah, Kentucky and a former longtime resident of Peoria, Illinois, passed away Monday morning, November 23, 2020, at 2:36 AM at his home in Paducah.

George was born December 1, 1931 in Simpson, Illinois. He was the fifth of six children born to George and Eunice (Street) Wells.

On July 27, 1990, George was united in marriage to Carmen (nee Phelps) Breeden at the Simpson Baptist Church. She survives.

Other survivors include: his daughters – Karen (John) Hill of Peoria, Vicki Covey of The Villages, Florida, Connie Johnston of Peoria, Pat (Brad) Grimm of Peoria, and Diane Wells of Chicago; a stepson – Robin (Melissa) Breeden of Paducah, Kentucky; grandchildren – Brad (Miea) Levery of Cheyenne, Wyoming, Alyse (Sammy) Treesh of Lexington, Kentucky and Elena (Blair) Wrye of Paducah, Kentucky; great grandchildren – Blake, Brooke, and Kaleb Levery and Harrison and Norah Treesh; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and many friends. George leaves a special niece, Joan Faulkner-Owen and her husband, Richard Owen, of Vienna.

In addition to his parents, George was preceded in death by: a son-in-law – Steve Covey; and his siblings – Lindel C. Wells, Hayward Wells, John S. “Jay”

Wells, Alma Rita Parmele, and Coy Wells.

George was a U.S. Air Force veteran. He was a longtime employee of Caterpillar, Inc. where he served as a line chief at the Peoria plant. George attended barber college in Peoria and was licensed as a barber on November 16, 1971. He was a licensed barber for 49 years and, along with Steve Kerley, operated George's Barbershop in Vienna. George continued barbering until declining health prevented him from working.

George was a 53 year member of the Masonic Fraternity. He was a member of Taylor Lodge # 98 A.F. & A.M. in Eureka, Illinois. He was also a former member of the Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

George and Carmen were members and worshipped at First Baptist Church in Paducah.

George loved barbering and looked forward to going to work each day, serving his many customers who brought him much joy, with their stories. he was a "people person" in his element, when socializing with his many friends, and never met a stranger. Next to that, he loved traveling. He and Carmen made many happy memories on the road in their motor home traveling with friends all over the United States. They volunteered their services at campgrounds and hosting at RV resorts. George also enjoyed woodworking and made many handcrafted items which he and Carmen offered for purchase at many craft shows.

A graveside service honoring the life of George Wells will be conducted Wednesday afternoon, November 25, 2020, at 1:00 PM at Gilead Cemetery, 4385 Gilead Church Road, Simpson, Illinois. Pastor David Faulkner will officiate. Interment will follow.

There will be no public visitation. Those attending the service are asked to gather at the cemetery at 12:45 PM Wednesday.

Customarily accepted social distancing guidelines are to be observed. Additionally, the wearing of a face mask or covering is strongly encouraged.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1905.

Cemetery Details

Gilead Cemetery

4385 Gilead Church Road
Simpson, IL

Previous Events

Graveside Service

NOV **25**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Gilead Cemetery
4385 Gilead Church Road
Simpson, IL

Tribute Wall

George M. Wells

January 30, 2023 at 12:19 AM

BJ

Barbara Jeffress lit a candle in memory of George M. Wells

Barbara Jeffress - November 28, 2020 at 06:52 PM

SC

Sheryl Cobb lit a candle in memory of George M. Wells

Sheryl Cobb - November 27, 2020 at 08:40 PM

SC

Carmen I'm so sorry to hear of George's passing. Praying he is at peace and without pain. God's presence will guide and comfort all of you. I chose a blue candle to honor George's service to the Air Force and our country.

Sheryl Cobb - November 27, 2020 at 08:48 PM

CR

Colette & Rick lit a candle in memory of George M. Wells

colette & Rick - November 27, 2020 at 11:45 AM

HH

Carmen, you have my sympathy. It didn't know George Washington hat well but I really thought a lot of him. He was easy to talk to. I enjoyed when all of us would get together when you came to Illinois.

Howard Heck - November 26, 2020 at 08:57 PM

HH

George was one of my best friends. I will really miss him. I enjoyed our phone calls. Howard Heck

Howard Heck - November 26, 2020 at 08:54 PM

DB

Dorothy Bacon lit a candle in memory of George M. Wells

Dorothy Bacon - November 26, 2020 at 05:47 PM

MF

We all loved Uncle George and will definitely miss his smile and his stories! Prayers and love to you, Aunt Carmen — Angie, Billy, Kirsten and Brayden

Meadows Family - November 25, 2020 at 10:08 PM

VK

Valerie Kinkade lit a candle in memory of George M. Wells

Valerie Kinkade - November 25, 2020 at 05:44 PM

DH

Dennis And Pat Harner lit a candle in memory of George M. Wells

Dennis and Pat Harner - November 25, 2020 at 10:21 AM

DF

George cut my hair for years. Had many conversations with him, and I considered him a good friend. He was one of the reasons I joined the Masons. Kind of ironic that my wife found the back scratcher that gave me when he closed his barber shop last week. It hangs in our bathroom now. I live in St. Louis now, and I regret not heading down to Paducah to see him. My heart felt condolences go out to George's family. You will be in my thoughts and prayers. He will be missed.

David Fairless - November 24, 2020 at 10:05 PM

Uncle gorge we will miss you ! love Samuel and sherry wells

Sherry Reighgard - November 24, 2020 at 07:22 PM

CF

I will miss my Uncle very much. The last one i had. I will remember spending time with him on my lunch hour and having lunch together many days. we would talk of many things of the days gone by. So sorry for all of our loss.

Richard and Joan Faulkner-Owen

Rest now and know you will be missed and that you were loved.

c joan faulkner - November 24, 2020 at 05:19 PM

MH

Joan, Sorry for your loss❤️❤️ will keep you in my prayers 🙏

Mary Lou Hynes - November 24, 2020 at 09:33 PM

DP

Debbie Poe lit a candle in memory of George M. Wells

Debbie Poe - November 24, 2020 at 03:07 PM

WB

Wm & Nancy Belford lit a candle in memory of George M. Wells

Wm & Nancy Belford - November 24, 2020 at 01:07 PM

DM

Carmen, So sorry to hear of your loss, George was a good man and will be missed by many. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Donnie and Jolene

Donnie and Jolene Morris - November 24, 2020 at 10:45 AM

DJ

Aunt Carmen, Sorry for your loss. Have you in my thoughts and prayers.

Donna Jeffords - November 24, 2020 at 10:18 AM

SR

Sheri Robinson lit a candle in memory of George M. Wells

Sheri Robinson - November 24, 2020 at 06:55 AM

DP

Davis And Pat Prewitt lit a candle in memory of George M. Wells

Davis and Pat Prewitt - November 23, 2020 at 10:48 PM

Jeannie McCall lit a candle in memory of George M. Wells

Jeannie McCall - November 23, 2020 at 10:07 PM

CH

Aunt Carmen you are in our thoughts and prayers..love and hugs!

Chris and LaRae Harner - November 23, 2020 at 09:22 PM

FB

Faye Bowman lit a candle in memory of George M. Wells

Faye Bowman - November 23, 2020 at 09:21 PM

MR

Mark Racey lit a candle in memory of George M. Wells

Mark Racey - November 23, 2020 at 09:19 PM

DB

Dorothy Bacon lit a candle in memory of George M. Wells

Dorothy Bacon - November 23, 2020 at 08:28 PM

NB

Nancy Breeden lit a candle in memory of George M. Wells

Nancy Breeden - November 23, 2020 at 08:14 PM

MP

George was great man.

Matthew Prewitt - November 23, 2020 at 08:10 PM

RS

Rev. Richard & Vickey Swiney lit a candle in memory of George M. Wells

Rev. Richard & Vickey Swiney - November 23, 2020 at 08:06 PM

WF

Wanda Florey lit a candle in memory of George M. Wells

Wanda Florey - November 23, 2020 at 07:54 PM