



James R. Hardesty

January 29, 1922 - May 24, 2014

Hamlet - James Russell Hardesty, 92, died Saturday, May 24, 2014 at 5:40 a.m. at the Catherine Kasper Life Center, Donaldson, IN.

James was born at Hamlet, IN on January 29, 1922, the son of Raymond Earl and Anna (Luken) Hardesty. He is preceded in death by his parents, and brother, Donald (Elizabeth) Hardesty. He is survived by his niece, Joan Hardesty of Fairbanks, AK; his nephew, Charles (Julie) Hardesty of Findlay, OH; his niece, Sally Hardesty of Pensacola, FL; his grand-nephew, Kevin Kassel of Fairbanks, AK; and grand-nieces, Kasey (Justin) Friesner and Mallorie Hardesty, all of Columbus, OH and Margaret Hardesty of Findlay, OH. James graduated from Hamlet High School in 1939, Purdue University in 1942, and served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army during the European Theater in World War II.

James was a lifelong farmer on the 1895 Hardesty Family Farm near Hamlet, IN. James was a member of the Purdue University Presidents Council, the John Purdue Club, and Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity of Purdue. He was a member of the Hamlet United Methodist Church, the Hamlet Lions Club, the Hamlet American Legion Post #356, a former 4-H leader, served as the Director of the Starke County Historical Society, the Director of the Starke County Scholarship Committee, a member of the WNIT Directors Circle, the Northern Indiana Community Fund Board, the Starke County Scholarship Fund, the Starke County Farm Bureau, Indiana Farm Bureau Co-op Board Trustee, the IFBCA Director District 1, the Davis Township Advising Board,

was a Director of the Hamlet State Bank, (later 1st Source Bank of Starke County), and the Ancilla College Board of Trustees.

Awards received by James Hardesty during his lifetime included the Henry F. Schricker Service Award and the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Ancilla College.

Funeral services will be Saturday, June 7, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. Central Time at the Hamlet United Methodist Church. Burial will follow at the Fletcher Cemetery, Hamlet where military graveside services will be conducted. Friends may call Friday from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Rannells Funeral Home, Hamlet Chapel and Saturday at the church one hour prior to the service. Memorial contributions may be given to the Hamlet United Methodist Church, the Starke County Community Foundation or the Ancilla Fund.

Tribute Wall

JG

“ Thank you Jim for all you have done for our community and thank you for always being such a good friend to my grandfather.

Jayme Jernas Goetz - April 29, 2018 at 07:22 PM

TJ

“ Jim was a special man. He blessed many lives because of his love for Starke County. I am thankful and blessed to have Jim in my life.

Terri Johnson - April 29, 2018 at 07:22 PM

MP

“ Jim was such a gentleman. He had a deep love for God, his church, love for the Poorhandmaids of Jesus Christ, his community, and country. Jim was always proficient and what he needed to do or get done or expected to be done. He enjoyed life and great conversation. Jim gave to what special causes needed attended to. He really loved his family fully and close friend and Pastor Rose. Jim was a very gifted man.

*Deepest sympathy and blessings,
Margie Pixey/Chapalin & friend
Catherine Kasper Life Center
Donaldson, IN*

margie pixey - April 29, 2018 at 07:22 PM

BA

“ Jim was one of the most interesting men I ever met. A consummate businessman and old-school gentleman, he cherished his relationships with his neighbors, his community, his God and Country. His integrity was of the highest, and he took very seriously his obligation to leave the world a better place than he found it.. We used to talk at length on a variety of subjects, from farming to travel to the economy and world affairs, and I will greatly miss those conversations. I will always remember his kindness to my family, and we mourn his loss..

Bob Ax - April 29, 2018 at 07:22 PM

SP

“ The Hardesty family was kind enough to share Jim with me on several occasions that I visited the area, and also when he visited Pensacola, FL. I have read other comments left on this site, and I see that I was already beat to the sentiment that Jim was definately one of the most interesting men I have ever known. He had a passion for knowledge and shared it with others. The time with Jim I will remember most fondly with a smile on my face, was the evening we spent sitting around the farmhouse kitchen table enjoying sips of a special libation from a faraway land, while enlightening each other with Army and Navy experiences from our past. I know for a fact that Jim's spirit is quite safe and at peace. We shall meet him again one day.

Samuel Pratton - April 29, 2018 at 07:22 PM

RP

“ *My grandmother Lorraine Delattre from Michigan used to say wonderful things about Jim and she always wanted to visit him on the farm. I was just thinking of contacting him when I saw the sad news. Sorry I did not get to talk with him about the family history and the farm. My sympathies to all of you.*

Rima

Rima Petrossian - April 29, 2018 at 07:22 PM