



## Joseph E. Elam Sr

December 14, 1928 - December 14, 2023

BONITA SPRINGS, FL – Joseph E. Elam of Bonita Springs, FL (formerly of Knox) passed away peacefully in his sleep on his birthday, Thursday, December 14, 2023 in his home. He was born in Magoffin County, KY to the late Benjamin Franklin and Lona (Howard) Elam on this same date in 1928.

Joe lived in Bonita for twelve years coming from Knox. On April 19, 1947 he married the love of his life, the late Shirley L. (Bradley) who preceded his death on December 17, 2017. He was a life-long Farmer in Starke County and also drove school bus within the county for many years. Joe worked also worked at the Studebaker plant in South Bend as well as 26 years as a Security Guard at US Steel Works in Gary. He enjoyed fishing and was a self-proclaimed “tree hater.”. Most of all, Joe was truly one of a kind, a unique man. He was extremely special to his family and loved them all deeply.

Joe is survived by two children Susan Heath and Joseph (Valerie) Elam Jr. all of Bonita Springs, FL; seven grandchildren Josie Smith, Nikki Conley, Tina Mejia, Raymond Cowen, Raynae Cowen, Brandy Elam, and Joseph Elam III; sixteen grandchildren Rachel Rider, Ethan Conley, Tanner Mejia, Layla Mejia, Raymond Cowen III, Cooper Cowen, Gracen Cowen, Spencer Berg, Pamela Berg, Jackson, Berg, Brayden Elam, Marianna Elam, Emilio Elam, Olivia Elam, Micah Elam, and Lennox Elam; and three great-great grandchildren Emma Rider, Virginia Rider, and Margaret Rider. He is preceded in death by

his parents; wife; two daughters Billie Jo Pawlik and Pamela Joy Cowen; three brothers Charles, Jack, and Bill Elam; and one sister Catherine Elam.

Visiting hours will be from 4:00 to 7:00 CST Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at the Rannells Funeral Home, Hamlet Chapel. Funeral Services will be at 1:00 CST Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at the funeral home with additional viewing one hour before the funeral. Burial will follow at Eagle Creek Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## Eagle Creek Cemetery

Knox, IN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **19**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Rannells Funeral Home - Hamlet Chapel  
102 W. Davis Street  
Hamlet, IN 46532  
(574) 867-3321  
rannellsfh@mchsi.com  
<https://www.rannellsfuneralhome.com>

## Visitation

DEC **20**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Rannells Funeral Home - Hamlet Chapel  
102 W. Davis Street  
Hamlet, IN 46532  
(574) 867-3321  
rannellsfh@mchsi.com  
<https://www.rannellsfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

DEC 20. 1:00 PM (CT)

Rannells Funeral Home - Hamlet Chapel  
102 W. Davis Street  
Hamlet, IN 46532  
(574) 867-3321  
rannellsfh@mchsi.com  
<https://www.rannellsfuneralhome.com>

## Burial

DEC 20 (CT)

Eagle Creek Cemetery  
Knox, IN

# Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joseph E. Elam Sr.*



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December 18, 2023 at 07:47 PM



“ *Gary C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph E. Elam Sr.*

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**Gary C.** - December 18, 2023 at 07:47 PM



“ *He was one of several wonderful farm neighbors who always had a great story. He will be missed.*

*Ray & Lisa Whitcraft*

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**Ray & Lisa Whitcraft** - December 17, 2023 at 06:15 PM



“ *3 files added to the album Tribute Wall*



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**Kristopher R. Rannells** - December 17, 2023 at 12:24 PM

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“ Will miss my Cousin Joe greatly. Lost for words as we had many years of special times together. If the walls could talk. Rest in peace with Shirley, Billie Jo, and Pam. 🙏❤️



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Tony Williams - December 14, 2023 at 06:24 PM