



Edgar Howard Elam, Jr.

NOV 25, 1923 - AUG 17, 2009



Scan to Visit

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6



Edgar Howard Elam, Jr.

NOV 25, 1923 - AUG 17, 2009

Edgar Howard Elam, Jr. Beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother and retired U.S. Census Bureau Statistician/Demographer, died peacefully at his home on Monday evening, August 17, 2009 in Leesburg, VA, surrounded by family and pets. He was 85 years old.

Born in Crossville, Tennessee, Edgar was raised a Methodist. He was the son of E. Howard Elam, an educator and Gertrude Shipman Elam. Edgar graduated from Birmingham-Southern. During WWII Edgar served in the Atlantic and Pacific with the Merchant Marines. After his discharge he attended graduate school at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill where he met and married his wife Alix.

He later completed his MS at Cornell University. Edgar and bride moved to Washington DC to work for the US Census Bureau and Aid for International Development (AID), where he spent his career assisting countries' governments in developing agricultural and population censuses. Truly a citizen of the world, his travels and service around the world marked him and his family with a unique world view.

They had extended tours in Honduras, the Philippines and Nepal. Edgar also had short assignments in Peru, Bolivia, El Salvador, Morocco and Vietnam. Ed and Alix subsequently returned to Washington and Edgar traveled extensively both abroad and in the USA. He was active in the Toastermasters club at the Census Bureau. He enjoyed many local activities such as singing in the church choir, helping rebuild a skipjack boat for the Calvert County MD Maritime museum and being involved in the Chesapeake Kennel Club.

He was also an avid photographer throughout his life. In 1989 Alix moved to Germany as an Army social worker. Ed joined her there a year later when he retired from the bureau. During his time in Germany he traveled extensively in Europe, documenting his travels with his photography. On returning to the USA they moved from MD to Virginia.



Obituary

Edgar Howard Elam, Jr.

NOV 25, 1923 - AUG 17, 2009

In Virginia he enjoyed the Lovettesville-Waterford Ruritan Club, exercising and swimming at the local Ida Lee recreation facility, participating in monthly book club discussions, and monthly meetings with the Prostate cancer support group, as well as Mondays at the Senior Center. Indeed a man of his generation, Edgar was equally at ease in intellectual pursuit, music, culture or technical study and labor.

But above all he was a family man who was unflagging in his service first to his wife and family. Active, productive and caring, he expertly undertook every form of fatherly duty as well as any conceivable wood working, construction and maintenance projects around the home. Edgar will be long remembered for his intelligent and accepting nature; as a loving father and a man of character and integrity devoted to his family and friends - as well as his country and the world.

He will be missed by many, but Ed and his deeds will live long in the hearts of those lucky enough to have known and loved him. Ed is survived by his wife of 59 years, Alix, sons Christopher and wife Sandy of Durham, NC, Jefferson and wife Mirna, of Hamilton, VA, Peter and Anne DeSantis of Silver Spring, MD, and daughter Erica Simms and husband Bruce of Broadlands, VA; grandchildren Carrie and Aaron Plumb, Kristen & Max Mironenko, Courtney Elam, Brian Simms, Lindsey Blair Elam, Jourdan Elam Simms, Mandy Elam, Jillian Simms and Cole Elam, great-grandchildren Sophie Plumb and Emma Mironenko, and canine and feline children, Bex, Sky and Rascal.

Ed is also survived by his two younger sisters, Emma Jo and husband Robert Yount of Gaithersburg, MD, and Frances and deceased husband Richard Neidhardt of Sherman, TX and several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and nephews. Services will be held on Saturday, August 29, 2009. The interment will be held at the EcoEternity-Forest at Camp Highroad near Leesburg, VA, at 11:00 a.m., followed by an informal memorial gathering at the home of Alix & Edgar in Leesburg, VA at 2:00 p.m.

18611 Gibbon Court Potomac Station Leesburg, VA 20176



Events

Edgar Howard Elam, Jr.

NOV 25, 1923 - AUG 17, 2009

Service


 **Saturday**, August 29, 2009

 11:00 AM ET

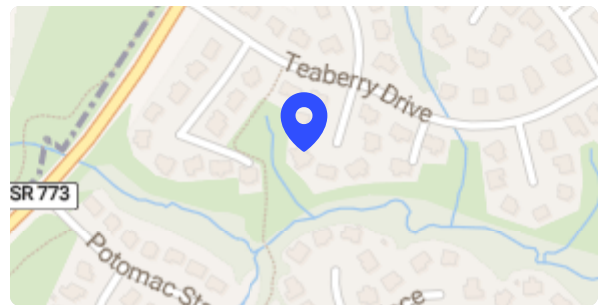
 Graveside

Service

 **Saturday**, August 29, 2009

 2:00 PM ET

 **Elam Family Home**
18611 Gibbon Court, Leesburg VA





Tribute Wall

Edgar Howard Elam, Jr.

NOV 25, 1923 - AUG 17, 2009



Anonymous posted:

It was a real pleasure to have met and known Ed. He was a lovely man and I will remember the fun times we all had in Germany.##imported-begin##Liz Smart##imported-end##

August 31 at 9:11 AM



Anonymous posted:

We were blessed to have the chance to meet such a wonderful and gentle man. His kindness and grace was overflowing and we will miss seeing his sweet smile. Your family is in our hearts and prayers.##imported-begin##The Reist Family##imported-end##

August 29 at 4:14 AM



Anonymous posted:

I am thankful that I had Ed as an uncle. He was such a kind hearted individual and always had a pleasant personality - even while surrounded by a house full of bratty nieces and nephews! I admired his intelligence and his passion for life. You will be missed Uncle Ed.##imported-begin##Karen (Sherk) Poch##imported-end##

August 27 at 5:17 PM



Anonymous posted:

Dearest Alix and family,We would like to express our sincerest condolences. Last week the world lost a true renaissance man and loving husband and father. We will miss seeing Ed's smiling face and familiar wave as he and Alix were driving through the neighborhood. The two of you are absolute pillars in our community. Words escape us to tell you how impressed and moved Lorrie and I are that you decided to bring Ed home so that he would pass away at home with dignity and in peace surrounded by his loved ones. Alix, your strength during this time has been an inspiration. You are truly a testament to what good taste and judgment Ed possessed. He will be truly missed.With heartfelt sympathy,Mark, Lorrie, and the girls##imported-begin##The St. Laurent Family##imported-end##

August 26 at 1:30 PM



Tribute Wall

Edgar Howard Elam, Jr.

NOV 25, 1923 - AUG 17, 2009



Anonymous posted:

What a wonderful life he lived!! What a blessing it must have been to be a part of it. You are in our thoughts and our prayers. Love, John and Debbie##imported-begin##John and Deborah DeSantis##imported-end##

August 26 at 7:06 AM



Anonymous posted:

Knowing Ed continues to have an impact on my life that is immeasurable. It is an honor to be part of the Elam family. Ed's love, compassion, and grace set the example for all. We will miss you everyday. All my respect, Anne##imported-begin##Anne De Santis##imported-end##

August 26 at 6:18 AM



Anonymous posted:

I will miss your smiling face on visits to DC. I up loaded the latest photo of you in July, Heaven has a great soul, ali liddle##imported-begin##Ali Liddle##imported-end##

August 25 at 8:04 AM



Anonymous posted:

We miss you PopPop. We love you and will remember you always, May God have you in his Glory. Jeff, Mirna, Mandy & Cole##imported-begin##Mirna Elam##imported-end##

August 25 at 5:07 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Edgar Howard by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit