

James Jay Murray, 85

March 21, 1932 - Sept. 20, 2017

IRWIN – James Jay Murray, the son of Martin Dale and Edith Luella (Guss) Murray, was born on March 21, 1932, in Irwin. He attended Irwin schools and graduated from Irwin High School in 1951. On March 21, 1952, James married Donna Mae Fiscus at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville. James helped his father-in-law, Iliff Fiscus, farm. He served in the United States Army from February 16, 1953, to February 15, 1955. He trucked for Cox Grain, Tennant, and also did some long-haul trucking. He worked for Harlan Builders in Harlan.

On September 4, 1982, James married Dona Mae (Patten) Maule in Denison.

A lifelong Shelby County resident, James enjoyed watching the Hansen family farming activities following his retirement. He liked bird-watching, and kept parakeets. James was also a collector of John Wayne items.

James died on Wednesday, September 20, 2017, at his home in rural Irwin. He had reached the age of 85 years, 5 months, and 30 days.

James was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Donna Mae (Fiscus) Murray; his second wife, Dona Mae (Patten) Maule Murray; and one brother, Arnold "Rae" Murray. He is survived by three children, Vicki Krohn of Harlan, Ron Murray of Manning, and Kristi Murray of San Clemente, CA; two step-children, Pam and Pat; two brothers, Walter (June) Murray of Manilla, and Dale "Jr." Murray of Harlan; many step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren; and other relatives and friends.

A graveside service and burial was held on Tuesday, September 26, 2017, at the Oak Hill Cemetery in Irwin with the Helmer-Reyelt American Legion Post #150 of Harlan conducting military rites. Serving as honorary casket bearers were Janet Ladehof, Renee Hansen, and Jessie Bates. Active casket bearers were Greg Hansen, Ron Murray, Dennis Ransom, Scott Hansen, and Kevin "Hoss" Krohn.

The Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home in Harlan was in charge of the arrangements. Condolences may be left online at www.burmeisterjohannsen.com.

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FUNERAL HOME

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