



Eldon Chapman

April 7, 1929 - August 27, 2018

Eldon R. Chapman, 89, of Kankakee passed away Monday, August 27, 2018, at Miller Rehab. He was born April 7, 1929, in Mt. Carmel, IL to Maynard and Enola (Lancaster) Chapman. Eldon married Jacqueline Bechtel on December 22, 1956, in Herscher, IL. He proudly served our country in the Army for two years during the Korean conflict.

Eldon earned three degrees in Agriculture Education from the University of Illinois. He taught vocational agriculture and was the FFA Advisor for 35 years at Herscher High School. He was the recipient of the FFA awards from Green Hand to American Farmer Chapter, State and American Honorary FFA degrees. Eldon was a member of the Illinois Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers (IAVAT), serving as IAVAT state president in 1981-1982, and belonged to the Central Illinois Green Club. He enjoyed gardening, clock making, and assisting his son, Mark, with farming.

Eldon is survived by his wife, Jacqueline, of Kankakee, two sons and daughters-in-law: Mark (Elizabeth) Chapman of Bonfield, IL, Brent (Catherine) Chapman of Olympia, WA; and a daughter and son-in-law: Gayle (Mark) Elledge of Penfield, NY. Also surviving are six grandchildren: Jacob and Michaela Chapman; Zoe and Zachary Chapman; and Chloe and Cara Elledge; and a sister-in-law, Chloe Frooninckx of Jay, OK.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and a sister, Wanda Lazaro. There will be a private burial.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Kankakee Valley or donor's choice.

Visitation will be on Monday, September 10, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. until the time of Eldon's funeral service at 12:00 p.m. at Schreffler Funeral Home's Kankakee Chapel. Burial will be private at Pilot Center Cemetery in Herscher, IL.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Kankakee Valley or donor's choice.

Cemetery Details

Pilot Center Cemetery

Herscher, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 10. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Kankakee Chapel
1900 W. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-2421
<https://www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com/>

Funeral Service

SEP 10. 12:00 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Kankakee Chapel
1900 W. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-2421
<https://www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Eldon Chapman*

February 03, 2023 at 04:30 AM



“ *One of Mr. Chapman's proudest achievements might have been 3 students awarded the State Farmer Degree in 1965: Dennis Hertz, Brian Grob and Steve Henning. He was also featured in the Kankakee paper with Henning in a picture fronting a 7'-high corn field (FFA project) captioned, "Knee High by the 4th of July?"*

Steve Henning - August 12, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ *Sorry for your loss. Eldon was a great neighbor, friend and mentor. He will be definitely be missed, especially on tractor rides and plow days.*

Brad M. Fulton

Brad M. Fulton - September 10, 2018 at 01:51 PM



“ *I am sorry for your loss. I always enjoyed visiting with Eldon. He and I took an ag engineering class together at Pontiac in the early 60's and carpooled from the Reddick area.*

Bob Bossert - September 08, 2018 at 09:50 AM



“ *Sorry for your loss.*

Ron Ramsey - September 07, 2018 at 06:55 PM

JB

“ *Mr. Chapman changed my life in a good way. He shocked us students by saying most of us wouldn't wind up being farmers because the industry was changing -- and offered an alternative. He talked about college and took us to see The University of Illinois. Explained how to enroll and apply for scholarships. His candor and lessons served me well. Retired after 45+ years as a vocational educator I have Eldon Chapman to thank for making me aware of possibilities and how to make dreams come true. He was my mentor.*

John Bradley - September 06, 2018 at 10:41 PM

MB

“ *Keeping the Chapman family in my thoughts and prayers.*

Mr. Chapman was my most influential teacher and advisor at HHS. He gently and effectively pushed me to compete and participate in new activities beyond my comfort zone. As a result, I gained invaluable experiences like becoming a Sectional FFA Officer. He was behind the wheel and providing guidance on trips to Champaign for state FFA Foundation Award interviews, to Joliet for extemporaneous speaking contests, to Kansas City for FFA conventions. He prepared us well for team contests like soil judging and parliamentary procedure, which we won more often than not!

Michael Butz

Michael Butz - August 30, 2018 at 05:27 AM

PD

“ My thoughts and prayers to all of the Chapman family. Mr. Chapman was an outstanding teacher dedicated to his love for Agriculture and the many students he taught. In addition to all that he taught in the classroom, he went above and beyond to get students to and from various FFA related competitions and many other events that made the FFA program and VoAg at HHS one of the strongest in the state. All of us who were fortunate to have had him as a teacher have certainly benefited in our growth beyond HHS and in our careers. God Bless Mr. Chapman and the Chapman family.
Sincerely,
Paul Dubravec

Paul Dubravec - August 30, 2018 at 12:31 AM



“ So sorry for your loss. He was always an interesting man to visit with. Mark, I know you and your family will have a void, but cherish the memories.

Doug Hale

Doug Hale - August 29, 2018 at 09:23 PM

KP

“ I had the opportunity to teach in Section 10 FFA , and compete against some of Mr. Chapman's teams. I think he owned the Soils Judging Teams. I always admired Mr. Chapman for the way his FFA Teams were prepared, and he was well respected amongst the Ag Teacher's throughout the State of Illinois and beyond. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. He was an excellent teacher and a nice person to have worked with and known.
Sincerely,
Kevin Price
Milford FFA Advisor

Kevin Price - August 29, 2018 at 04:46 PM

JP

So important a man to me. Told us most of us wouldn't wind up farmers in 1956 because agriculture was changing, taught us how government worked, parliamentary procedure, how to apply for college and svholarships and took us on field trips to The University of Illinois. Exposed me to a world I never knew existed and that served me well. About 1990 we met in Dallas at the American Vocational Association Convention: He was President of the Illinois association and I was President of the Arizona asdociation but he was still my mentor. He was so important to me and the many others he served. A giant of a man in a small body.

John L. Bradley, PhD - August 29, 2018 at 10:12 PM

JP

A giant in all but body.

John L. Bradley, PhD - August 29, 2018 at 10:18 PM

DT

I had the privilege of being a Section 10 ag teacher along with Mr. Chapman when I was at Reddick. He mentored me for the entire time that I taught ag and our friendship continued after my move to Herscher Grade School. Eldon always had the best interests of his students in mind and did a tremendous job preparing students for their future.

Dave Trent - August 30, 2018 at 10:34 AM

AC

“ Mr Chapman taught me to weld in 1977 welding still to this day ,great teacher

Adam Cross - August 29, 2018 at 10:18 AM