



Esper Mae "Ma Bell" Bell

August 18, 1928 - December 23, 2015

Esper Mae "Ma Bell" Bell, 87, of Kankakee passed away on Wednesday, December 23, 2015 surrounded by family. She was born on August 18, 1928 to Marvin and Rebecca Stevens Page in Mount Holly, NC. Esper married Pervy Bell on June 1, 1947 in York, SC. He preceded her in death on March 11, 2001.

Esper was a hairstylist in her own salon for about 30 years. She also worked at the family furniture store in Kankakee, Graham Home Furnishings. She loved going to cracker barrel, cooking (known as "the cookie lady"), playing bingo, gardening, reading and westerns. Esper was a member of Eastern Star at the Masonic Lodge. Her world revolved around her grandchildren, but her love for her husband exceeded all.

She is survived by two sons John Bell of Sterling and Jeff (Cathy) Bell of Chicago; one daughter Iris (Gary) Graham of Kankakee; eight grandchildren Jennifer (Nate) Stout of New Orleans, LA, Jessica (Kirk Ogryzek) Graham of Grayslake, Melissa (Dave) O'Connor of Bradley, Jeffery (Kelsey) Bell of Roundlake, Nicole (Luke Sorensen) Bell of Chicago, Tim Bell of Sterling, Kevin (Tracy) Bell of Romeoville and Mindy Bell of Cedar Rapids, IA; ten great grandchildren; brother-in-law Uncle Joe Bell of NC; and friend Carol Glade. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, her brothers and sisters, special friend Katelyn Joyce and her beloved pets Wags, Trixy and Jellico.

Funeral service will be held on Monday, December 28, 2015 at 11am at Schreffler Funeral Home in Kankakee, with visitation starting at 9am. Burial will follow at Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Masonic Lodge of Kankakee #389 or Leukemia Lymphoma Society. Please sign her guestbook at www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com

Cemetery Details

Kankakee Memorial Gardens

15 South 3000 E. Rd.
Kankakee, IL 60901

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 28. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

DEC 28. 11:00 AM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Kankakee Chapel
1900 W. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-2421
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Tribute Wall



“ *Esper Mae "Ma Bell" Bell*

February 03, 2023 at 04:30 AM



“ *Esper was a wonderful mentor in Eastern Star, she always knew the correct ways and was a great and patient teacher. Her and Pervy were a wonderful, fun couple. My thoughts and prayers with deepest sympathy. Denise Schrum, PWM, OES.*



denise schrum - January 02, 2016 at 01:48 PM



“ *Esper Mae Bell, is my aunt and a great person that I love so much. she loved the eastern Star until she could not go anymore. she loved to do crafts. When I would go up there and spend the night, we would sit up making dolls and the wise men. When she came down here to Gastonia, I would take her to all the Craft Store. Uncle Pervy, would tell me don't let her buy more then we can get in the car. he was a wonderful Uncle, I know they are to gather now and having a great and wonderful time. Love you both.*

Phyllis Burlye Cain, she is my Aunt - December 24, 2015 at 04:40 PM

JG

“ Ma Bell,

You've only been gone a day and I miss you immensely. You were an amazing grandmother and I am so thankful for the countless memories that I have with you. I will miss your homemade grits, dressing up in silly outfits at Cracker Barrel, laughing non-stop, and hearing all of your knowledge about love and life. I will cherish everything that I've learned from you and will never forget you. I know you'll be there on my wedding day and sharing a few dances with Papa Bell. Merry Christmas beautiful. Love you more than birthday cake! <3

Jessica

Jessica Graham - December 24, 2015 at 01:03 PM