



Mr. Lyle J. Cotton

April 3, 1928 - May 20, 2013

Lyle J. Cotton, 85 of Bluffton, passed away at 8:15 a.m. Monday, May 20, 2013 at Heritage Pointe in Warren.

A lifetime resident of Wells County, he graduated from Ossian High School in 1946 and served with the U.S. Marine Corps.

Mr. Cotton served 28 years as Bluffton City Court Judge. He also worked 45 years as a sales representative/agent for New York Life.

He was born April 3, 1928 in Fort Wayne to Forest G. and Cleona H. (Hoover) Cotton. His marriage on July 27, 1947 was to the former Gladys R. McAfee, who survives.

Mr. Cotton was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Bluffton. He also was active in Bluffton Masonic Lodge #145, attaining Scottish Rite 33 Degree, Order of Eastern Star in Waynedale. He was secretary of the Bluffton lodge for 23 years and was a Past Worthy Grand Patron for the State of Indiana Eastern Star in 1977-78. Lyle always took pride in working with the Boy Scouts and obtained the highest honor, The Silver Beaver Award. He was very active in the GOP, and was awarded the Abe Award in 2010.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Claudia Ann (Richard) Gipson of Dillsboro, IN, and a son, David M. (Kathleen) Cotton of Lynnwood, WA.

Also surviving are eight grandchildren, Jason T. (Karie) Gipson, Alysa Shay Gipson, O. Bryce (Valerie) Gipson, Ian D. (Angel) Cotton, Dylan S. Cotton,

Matthew S. Cotton, Joshua F. (Brandie) Cotton and Daniel C. Cotton.

Other survivors are eight great-grandchildren and two sisters, Betty E. Inman of Bluffton and EuDora J. Yager of Panora, OH.

He was preceded in death by a son, Steven F. Cotton, and a daughter-in-law, Judy A. Cotton.

Calling hours will take place from 5 to 8 on Thursday and from 2 to 8 on Friday at Thoma/Rich, Chaney & Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

A funeral service to celebrate Lyle's life will be at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, May 25 at the First United Methodist Church with Rev. Greg Rittenhouse and Rev. Larry Ray officiating. Burial will follow at Prospect Cemetery in Uniondale. Military Honors will be preformed by the American Legion Post #111 of Bluffton and the United States Marine Honor Guard.

Perferred memorials are to First United Methodist Church or the Epworth Forest Improvement Fund.

Friends can send online condolences to www.thomarich.com

Cemetery Details

Prospect Cemetery

0094 West 900 North
Uniondale, IN 46791

Previous Events

Service

MAY 25. 10:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
325 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Lyle J. Cotton*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - May 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mr. Lyle J. Cotton*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *Dearest Gladys and Family,
We are indeed saddened to learn of our Brother Lyle's passing and will forever cherish the many happy hours we spent together as Masonic Brothers. Thank you for sharing part of his life with us, we will remain forever grateful of our friendship with Lyle and he will forever have a special place in our hearts.
We will keep your family in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.*

*Respectfully,
Fort Wayne Valley – Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite
Lonnie Maggart, MSA - Hospitaler*

Lonnie Maggart - June 01, 2013 at 07:01 PM

JP

“ Hello Gladys and Family,
We are so sorry for your loss. Lyle was a wonderful man. He will be missed.
Know that he will always be with you in your heart. We are thinking of you at this sad time, saying a prayer, and wishing you comfort in all the wonderful memories you and Lyle have shared. Sincerely,
Jim and Joan Phelps.

Joan Phelps - May 30, 2013 at 10:06 AM

VJ

“ Mom and I went to Branson with Lyle and Gladdy 3 times and we had a great time. I know he was a great patriot. I enjoyed picking on him. He had a wonderful sense of humor. I have many good memories of him. May God bring you peace. Valerie Wilson Jackson, Ossian and Doris Ann Wilson (Mom), Bluffton

Valerie Jackson - May 29, 2013 at 11:47 AM

BA

“ We wish to pay our respects to a good friend. Bill and Pat Anthis BC
A47666@GMAIL.COM

BILL AND PAT ANTHIS - May 28, 2013 at 05:00 PM

KB

“ Cotton Family, I am so sorry that I was unable to attend the calling or funeral for Lyle. As we all know Lyle is quite the guy in terms of friendships, a fantastic singer and a great family man. I will always remember Lyle in wonderful memories. My heart goes out to all of you at this time.
Kris Bushee

Kristine Bushee - May 27, 2013 at 09:11 AM

SY

“ Steve And Jan Yager lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lyle J. Cotton



Steve and Jan Yager - May 26, 2013 at 08:20 PM

CM

“ Cotton Family, Wayne and I would like to express our deepest sympathy to your whole family. Lyle and Gladys were great neighbors and friends, and were missed when they moved . Gladys and Mom share the memories of the Rockcreek HS days at Heritage Pointe. I know your family has had many hard times as well as good, but I know your faith will carry you through. We wanted to let you know you are in our thoughts and prayers. Cindy Monticue

Cindy Monticue - May 26, 2013 at 10:51 AM

MG

“ We were so sorry to hear of Lyle's passing. We have wonderful memories of Lyle and Gladys; Lyle sang at our wedding 51 years ago and even though we moved from Bluffton in the 70's, whenever we came to visit Lyle always had a big hug for us. He was a great man and will be missed. Paul and Marilyn Grimes, Kentwood MI



Marilyn Grimes - May 25, 2013 at 07:19 AM

KB

“ Cotton Family, Sorry to hear about the passing of Lyle. We got to know him and Gladys several years ago and Lyle was a great help to me in the Masonic Lodge .He was a great guy and he will be missed. Ken and Patty Boots



Ken and Patty Boots - May 24, 2013 at 08:16 PM

DW

“ Dale And Barbara Wilburn lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lyle J. Cotton



Dale and Barbara Wilburn - May 24, 2013 at 04:56 PM

NH

“ Gladys, Claudia, Dave and families:

Please accept our sincere condolences from the family of C. Robert and Jane Reusser. Mr. Cotton will be missed by the entire community....he left a great legacy! Heaven has a new wonderful voice; I hope your memories and love sustain you in these next few days and weeks. We are praying for you and your family.



Nancy Reusser Halstead, Carlsbad, CA, Carol Reusser Foltz, Greenwood, IN, Donna Reusser Penrod, Bluffton, IN, John Reusser, Bluffton, IN, Tim Reusser, Brownsburg, IN, Dave Reusser, Liberty Center, IN, Brian Reusser, Geist/Indpls, IN and their families.

Nancy Reusser Halstead - May 23, 2013 at 12:32 PM



“ *Serene Green™ Bouquet For Sympathy was purchased for the family of Mr. Lyle J. Cotton.*



May 22, 2013 at 01:02 PM



“ *Gladys - my thoughts and prayers are with you during this time. I have so many memories of you and Lyle and OES. So many smiles, songs and special memories that I will never forget.*

Sara Boardman

Sara Boardman - May 22, 2013 at 11:31 AM



“ *Dear David, Claudia and family: My first memory of your dad/mom were of a striking couple who would liven up the life of a chapter room when they would enter and begin greeting people as they entered the room. It was always such a delight to see the two of them at a star gathering in my early days of living in Huntington. Then I had the great fortune to be their pastor not once, but twice. I have many memories of spending time with them on Emmaus weekends, sharing in worship, sitting around the table at church or working along side them at church, singing in the choir, being in their home and making the trip to Israel in addition to many other experiences with them. I am sorry about Lyle's passing. I know that we will see him again in a better place. He is rejoined with Steve, Judy and other family, singing praises to our Lord. I give thanks and praise for Lyle and pray God's blessings upon you at this time.*
Pastor Cindy

Cindy Osgood - May 22, 2013 at 11:03 AM



“ *Lyle will be greatly missed by his family and community; As a Judge, he beautifully blessed our marriage in performing our wedding ceremony/dinner at the Rittenhouse in Oct., 2001; he brightened many of our New York Life Christmas parties with his gift of singing and fellowship. Gladdy and his children were his world - we express our sympathies on his passing to Gladdy and his family. Lyle will always have a special place in our hearts. We have lit a "Nylic Blue" candle in your memory, Lyle.*



*Diane & Doug Weating
Former Nylic Office Ass't and lifetime friend*

Lynn James - May 21, 2013 at 10:24 PM

DH

“ *I am sorry to read about Lyle. He was fun to be around at church. I remember him in the Bethel bible study. Gladys, you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers here in Houston.*



*Love,
Debbie Heckman*

debbie heckman - May 21, 2013 at 07:23 PM

DM

“ Lyle will be missed by all that knew him and especially those that shared Boy Scout camping and Explore Scout outings. He always went the extra mile to make the scouting experience enjoyable. I will never forget when I was tapped out in an Order of the Arrow ceremony he was there to make it that much more real to me as a boy experiencing it.
Thank you Lyle.

Doug Myers

Doug Myers - May 21, 2013 at 03:02 PM

DM

“ My condolance to the family



dave masterson - May 21, 2013 at 08:51 AM

VK

“ So very sorry to hear the news of Lyle's passing. He and Gladdy were such wonderful people. I remember singing with him in The Fantasticks and several other times. He was always so positive with a bright and inspiring outlook for life. He will be graetly missed by his community and Carlton and I.

Vickie Kibellus - May 21, 2013 at 08:37 AM