

Graves, James W. 2013

James Warren Graves, 90, died at Meritus Hospital following a short illness on January 12, 2013. Mr. Graves, formerly of Clear Spring, Md., has resided at NMS Nursing Home since September 2009. Warren was preceded in death by his wife of 58 years, Stella Marie Hendershot Graves, and six brothers and four sisters. Born in Leonardtown, Md., Jan. 2, 1923 he was the son of the late Mary "Molly" Attaway Downs Graves and Benedict Francis Graves. As a young man he worked for the CCC until enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1941. He served in the South Pacific during WWII as a forward observer in the battles for the Philippines. Wounded on the island of Leyte in December of 1944 Warren was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. Upon returning to the states he received an honorable discharge in September of 1945. He worked for Samuel Horst of Maugansville making fine cabinetry prior to engaging full time in farming. The Stella and James Graves registered Holsteins were recognized as one of the top herds in Washington County during the 1950's and 1960's. He retired from dairying in 1984 but continued raising beef cattle and growing grain until the 1990's. Warren is survived by one daughter, Marina Kaye Ridenour and husband Lester; three granddaughters: Stephanie Ann Dyer and husband Gil, Suzanne Marie Ridenour and special friend Scott Bunker, and Beth Allison Smith and husband Darren Smith all of Clear Spring, Maryland; four great-grandchildren: Stefan Brooks Shingleton and wife Jennifer of Clear Spring, Alexis Dawn Hudak and husband Brandon of Frederick, Maryland, Alex Joseph and Patrick Jay Smith both of Clear Spring; and two great-great-grandchildren, Malea Beth and Elena Lynn Shingleton both of Clear Spring, Maryland. Also, surviving is a very special nephew, Donald "Donnie" Graves, and niece's, Janice McKay and husband Joe, Angie Nashwick and husband Bob, Barbara Tippet and husband James, and nephew Charles Wise all of Southern Maryland. Services will be held at the Kelso-Cornelius Funeral Home in McConnellsburg, on Tuesday, January 15th at 11 a.m. Family will receive visitors one hour before the service. He will be laid to rest at Union Cemetery beside his wife. Officiating is Rev. Elaine Swinehart, pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Clear Spring as requested by Mr. Graves. The family requests the omission of flowers. In addition, the family invites all guests to a luncheon at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in McConnellsburg, 220 N. 3rd St., immediately following the graveside services.

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