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## George Edwin Pulliam

MAY 16TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

### George Edwin Pulliam Obituary

**George Edwin Pulliam**, age 94, of Bernie, MO, passed away on May 15, 2016 at his home, surrounded by family and friends. He was born to Georgia Ethel Cox Pulliam and the Rev. Sam W. Pulliam on September 19, 1921, in Doniphan, MO.

He started school at Spain Elementary, a one-room school near the Tucker community in rural Ripley County, and was a 1939 graduate of Essex High School. Ed attended the University of Missouri at Columbia before and after WWII, graduating in 1948 with a degree in Agriculture Economics.

During WWII, Ed served as a B-17 pilot with the 92nd Bombardment Group in the European Theatre. This experience shaped his values, beliefs, and actions for the remainder of his life.

On February 28, 1954, he was married to Frances JoAnne Buster of Muscatine, IA. They were the proud parents of a son, Joseph Edwin (Adaina), a daughter, Sarah Beth, grandchildren Joe Ryan (Marti) and Adam (Kaleigh) and great-grandchildren Katie, Allie, Hayden and Hali.

Edwin had a profound love of family, his country and the land. He was a conservationist at heart and worked to promote modern farming techniques. He was instrumental in developing drainage systems still in use in the area, extending reliable telephone service to rural areas, and establishing rural water districts. Ed spent many years serving the farmers and agricultural community in Southeast Missouri as

Executive Director of the Stoddard County ASCS office.

He had a strong faith, influenced by his upbringing and his military service, and was an active member of the Bernie United Methodist Church. He believed strongly in the importance of progressive public service and served many years on the Bernie School Board of Education. He was also a member of the VFW, American Legion, AMVETS, and the Kiwanis Club.

Ed also believed strongly in the value of hard work and was happiest when tending to a herd of cattle, caring for a stray animal, or working on the family farm near Bernie. He often spoke of growing up during the Great Depression, the family horses, Minnie and Molly, the family dog, Ted, and working long hours in the fields for 50 cents a day.

In addition to his wife Frances, his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Edwin is survived by his sisters, Lillian Shublom, of Merriam, KS. and Rosemary Walker, of Bloomfield. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Earl Samuel and Joe Carl, who died in early childhood.

Visitation will be held at the Bernie United Methodist Church from 4:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, May 18, 2016.

Funeral services will be held at the church at 1:00 P.M., with Rev. Ron Dunavin and Rev. David Fowler officiating.

Interment will follow at the Missouri Veteran's Cemetery, in Bloomfield, MO. Rainey-Mathis Funeral Home of Bernie, Missouri, will be in charge of all arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you donate your time to a worthwhile project or make a memorial gift to the Stoddard County Children's Home, the Meals on Wheels program or your favorite charity.

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