

NO PHOTO **Shelton, Verlan**

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Verlan L. Shelton, 90, of Kirksville, Missouri, passed away Tuesday (November 9, 2010) at his home under the care of Hospice of Northeast Missouri.

The son of Pervia and Florence (Steele) Shelton, he was born November 1, 1920 in Unionville, Missouri. On September 25, 1949 in Unionville, Missouri, Verlan was united in marriage to Barbara Lee Gillum who preceded her in death on January 12, 1991.

He was also preceded in death by his parents; one daughter, Ann; his brothers, Hubert Shelton and Edwin Shelton; and his sisters, Evelyn Shelton, Carol Lightfoot, Francis Vestal and Marjorie Burns.

Verlan is survived by one son and daughter-in-law, Charles and Elta Shelton of St. Petersburg, FL; one brother and sister-in-law, Donald and Betty Shelton of Creston, IA and two sisters and a brother-in-law, Norma and Jim Clubine of North Manchester, IN and Laura Moore of Homeland, CA.

Verlan received his education in the Putnam County schools and farmed until entering the United States Army in 1942. He was honorably discharged in 1946 after serving his country with honors including the Purple Heart, two Bronze Stars and the Good Conduct Medal. Verlan then attended the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri where he received a Bachelors degree in Science. From 1948 to 1953, Verlan taught Agriculture classes to returning war veterans and primary school in Putnam County. From 1955 to 1961, he worked as an insurance adjuster for MFA in Columbia and later in Joplin. From 1961 to 1994, Verlan owned and operated the Shelton Insurance Agency. In 1968 he obtained his real estate brokerage license and then expanded his business to include both real estate and insurance. In 1969 he opened the H & R Block office in Kirksville, which he also operated until his retirement in 1994.

Verlan was a member of the Lions Club from 1964 to 1989, serving as past president, club photographer for a number of years and was a recipient of a Master Key. He also volunteered for the Adair County Public Library delivering books to home-bound residents, and delivering food for the Meals on Wheels program for several years.

Verlan enjoyed photography and over the years numerous photos of general interest by him were published in the Kirksville Daily Express. He was an avid lover of wild life and for many years maintained bird feeders and marlin bird houses in his back yard. He also loved to be outdoors whether it was hunting in the Rocky Mountains or looking for mushrooms in the local area. And to stay fit later in retirement, he could be found either on his daily walk or bicycle ride; cutting firewood or on the dance floor. Verlan also enjoyed gardening, especially growing flowers and tomatoes. But above everything else he enjoyed spending time with his friends and family.

Funeral services will be held 2:00 p.m. Saturday (November 13, 2010) at Travis-Noe Funeral Home in Kirksville, with Reverend Jim Lawley presiding.

Family will receive friends Saturday (November 13, 2010) for one hour before service time. Interment will follow the service at Lipp Cemetery in Putnam County.

Pallbearers will be Brad Gillum, Del Shelton, Ed Shelton, Keith Vestal, Philip Burns, Randy Shelton and Rick Shelton.

Expressions of sympathy in memory of Verlan Shelton may be made to Hospice of Northeast Missouri. Memorials may be left at or mailed to Travis-Noe Funeral Home, P.O. Box 306, Kirksville, MO 63501.