



Calvin Mitchell

February 3, 1932 - January 30, 2014

Calvin Mitchell, age 81 of Searcy, died Thursday, January 30, 2014 in Searcy. He was born February 3, 1932 at Black Oak, Arkansas to Elmer Mitchell and Myrtle Penter Mitchell. He was a member of College Church of Christ and owner of Calvin Mitchell Leather Company.

Calvin Mitchell spent every day of his life focused on his love of God, family and his country. As a sailor, businessman, husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, church leader and elected official, he made it clear through his actions and words that no goal was too ambitious for anyone that's willing to pray, work hard and treat others with love and respect.

Calvin and Joyce married in 1952 and embarked upon a lifelong voyage together. That voyage took them to St. Louis from 1958-1981, where they raised three daughters, Vicki, Nan and Julie, while Calvin served as an executive at Prince Gardner and as an elder at Glendale (later McKnight Road) church of Christ. In the early 80's, Calvin and Joyce decided to start the Calvin Mitchell Leather Company in Arkansas, which they ran together as a family business until their retirement. In his "spare time," Calvin again answered the call to public service as an Alderman in Searcy for 14 years. In that role, Calvin brought his experience as a business owner to the decision-making process of local government.

His love for Joyce and his daughters only grew as those daughters married and added grandchildren to the family. Each grandchild and great grandchild has countless fond stories of visits with Papa and Grandma and their kindness and tenderness.

Calvin was a larger than life figure that will be missed by everyone that knew him. A towering, handsome man that never met a stranger, he delighted in making jokes at his own expense just to see the laughter of others. His family is confident that he is now busy chatting up his new neighbors and asking how he can help make things better in his new home as he prepares for our eventual family reunion there.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Joyce Gibson Mitchell; three daughters, Vicki Mitchell of Searcy, Nanette Mitchell Lynn and husband Andy of Germantown, Tennessee, Julie Mitchell Wolfe and husband Chris of Searcy; seven grandchildren, Todd Mitchell and wife Kelly of St. Louis, Traci Smith of Little Rock, Mary Margaret Lynn Fish and husband Seth of Mito, Japan, Emily Lynn Wickliff and husband Daniel of Memphis, Madison Wolfe of Searcy, Jake Wolfe of Searcy, Luke Wolfe of Searcy; one great-granddaughter, Zoe Smith of Little Rock; two brothers, Wayne Mitchell and wife Catherine of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and Larry Mitchell and wife Debbie of Booneville, Arkansas. He is preceded in death by his parents, Elmer and Myrtle Mitchell; one granddaughter, Jill Nicole Vignery; and one sister, Norma Dacus. Visitation will be Monday from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. at Powell Funeral Home. Funeral services will follow at 11:00 a.m. at Powell Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will be Monday at 3:00 p.m. at Oaklawn Cemetery in Jonesboro. Arrangements by Powell Funeral Home of Searcy. www.powellfuneralhome.net

Tribute Wall

LI

“ *Uncle Calvin, you were a wonderful man, a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Your infectious personality, always made people feel better. I will miss you greatly! Our thoughts and prayers are with Aunt Joyce and the girls; as well as the grandkids. We love you all!*

Larry Dean Mitchell II - February 10, 2016 at 02:49 PM

LM

“ *JOYCE & GIRLS AND GRANDS, WE ARE GOING TO MISS HIM TERRIBLY. HE WAS ALWAYS MAKING OUR FAMILY LAUGH. SUCH A WONDERFUL SENSE OF HUMOR. WHEN WE ARE AT YOUR HOME WE ALWAYS FEEL WELCOME AND SPECIAL. WE LOVE YOU GUYS AND YOU ARE ALWAYS IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS. LOVE, LARRY & DEBBIE*

LARRY & DEBBIE MITCHELL - February 10, 2016 at 02:49 PM

FC

“ *Joyce & family...I'm so sorry for your loss. Calvin was one of the kindest gentlemen I've ever known. Beyond the outward success was a man with a true sense of the real and a very big heart. He will be sorely missed. Flave*

Flave Carpenter - February 10, 2016 at 02:49 PM

DP

“ *Vicki, Julie, Nan, Mrs Mitchell as well as the rest of the family..I'm so sorry to hear about Calvin. 13 years I worked at Calvin's and have many memories. May God's peace be with each of you! Love and prayers..Darlene Piker*

Darlene Piker - February 10, 2016 at 02:49 PM

RW

“ I was very saddened to hear of Mr. Mitchells passing.. I worked for the Mitchells in the 90's and seldom saw Mr. Mitchell without a smile on his face. There are many fond memories of those days. Jimmie Moye, Dorothy Williams, and Mr. Mitchell are probably all together now in heaven talking of old times in the leather factory. My thoughts and prayers go to all the family. May God give you all peace and comfort at this difficult time.

Rhonda Williams - February 10, 2016 at 02:49 PM

TS

“ Hi Nan and family, We are thinking of you, your sisters and your Mom in this great loss. The Psalmist says, "The Lord is near the broken hearted and comforts the crushed in spirit." I know you are all experiencing this comfort in this time of deep grief. We love you. Terry and Charlotte

Terry and Charlotte Smith - February 10, 2016 at 02:49 PM

SH

“ We are saddened by the loss of Calvin. Our thoughts and our prayers are with you at this time. We had planned to be there at the funeral along with Brandi, James, George and Pauline, but due to road conditions we had to change our plans. If possible, we will be at the burial this afternoon, but if not, please know that we will be thinking of you. Our love to you all.

Shelba Lea and Alicia Howell - February 10, 2016 at 02:49 PM

DC

“ Several years ago before Calvin sold his business my brother and I was doing a little job for him. He wanted to discuss it over lunch so he took us to Gerald's BBQ. We sat in a booth and ate our lunch and visited for probably a hour & a half. It was so nice visiting with him, he was such a nice man!

David Conley - February 10, 2016 at 02:49 PM

BM

“ We are so sad to hear of Calvin's passing. He was a great friend to me and my family (Sherral and Wanda Marsh) for many years. He was a compassionate and warm person to know. We enjoyed many happy times with Calvin. He will be missed so much by all of us. I am proud to have known him.

Bill and Denise (Marsh) Morton - February 10, 2016 at 02:49 PM

JW

“ Mr. Mitchell visited with us when we started LeadAR. His products were excellent, well made and useful in giving speakers gifts and they appeared before the classes. I observed him to be a fine Christian and most likeable individual. My wife and I visited the store many times.

J.B. Williams - February 10, 2016 at 02:49 PM