



## W.C. Whitley

December 9, 1917 - March 1, 2016

W.C. Whitley, Jr., 98, of Bald Knob, passed away March 1, 2016. He was born on December 9, 1917 in Bradford to Clyde and Auneen (Hodges) Whitley. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 61 years, Montine Richards Whitley. He is survived by his sons, Billy Whitley (Kelly) and Rick Whitley (Holly); his daughters, Debbie Hill (Tom) and Susan Cox (Richard); his grandchildren, Kristen Richardson (Justin) and Kayla Fairbanks (Allan), Alexis and Brett Whitley, Ryan and Ally Burgess, Sarah, Anna, Elizabeth, and Mary Claire Hill, and Whitley, Laura, and Rebecca Cox; and his great-grandchildren, Izzy and Isaac Richardson and Aiden and Cade Fairbanks.

Growing up he worked as a soda jerk in his father's drugstore, managed his parents' gas station, and raised a bale of cotton to pay for a year of college. After graduating from the University of Arkansas with a B.A. in Business in 1941, he supervised a chemical factory in Maumelle.

During World War II, he enlisted in the Navy and received officer's training at Harvard University. He served in the South Pacific on a patrol craft that directed several island invasions including the Battle of Okinawa, which lasted for months and involved Kamikaze attacks on his ship. He was the executive officer of his ship and attained the rank of Lieutenant (jg). W.C. celebrated the end of the war while docked in Pearl Harbor.

After the war, W.C. operated the Bald Knob Lumber Company and worked diligently well into his nineties. He loved the long-term relationships with his loyal customers.

W.C. held numerous leadership positions in his church and civic organizations, including serving on the Bald Knob School Board. He considered the day he married Montine the best day of his life. They lived their lives side by side, whether it was working at the lumber yard or playing golf. They were each other's best friend. His devotion to her was beautifully expressed in how he loved her well during her long-term illness, rarely leaving her side.

W.C. was happiest when spending time with his family. He had a great sense of humor and made his family laugh with his sayings and jokes. Family gatherings ended with Daddy telling his children and grandchildren how proud he was of them. He was a true gentleman and treated everyone with kindness and dignity. He will be dearly missed.

The family wants to thank his caregivers for their kindness and love for Daddy and Dr. Ransom, Dr. Henderson, Dr. Robinson, and Dr. Lim who treated him with great care and respect.

Visitation will be held Saturday, March 5, 2016 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Bald Knob. Funeral Services will begin at 2:00 p.m. Interment with military honors will follow in the Shady Grove Cemetery by Powell Funeral Home Bald Knob-Judsonia. Memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church. [www.powellfuneralhome.net](http://www.powellfuneralhome.net)

# Tribute Wall

BC

“ CW always shared such wisdom in our Sunday School class. He was a man of honor and will be remembered kindly by many. Prayers of peace for all of his family and friends.

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**Billie Cornett** - March 30, 2016 at 10:47 AM

RN

“ Rick, I am so sorry for your loss. Your dad was s great man in the community and lived by so many. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family,

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**Renee Joyner Norwood** - March 30, 2016 at 10:47 AM

BW

“ Our thoughts are with you. His Whitley legacy reminds all of us how to live our lives and to enjoy everyday of it! He was very special to Rebekah and our side of the family.

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**Bob and Amanda Wunnenberg** - March 30, 2016 at 10:47 AM

GT

“ So sorry to hear about the passing of Mr. W. C. Whitley. I rented a house from him many years ago. He was a great land lord. May God comfort you at this time.

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**Georgia Tucler** - March 30, 2016 at 10:47 AM

TW

“ This is what I know about a man that I had the privilege of calling 'father-in-law' for 15 years. His greatest joy and accomplishment in life was his wife, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. There was no prouder moment than when we would sing at the Bald Knob UMC Homecomings in front of the congregation. His life demonstrated the importance of family. I believe he'd be happiest being remembered by all who knew him as a man who loved his family. You will always be alive in my heart.

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**Teresa Whitley** - March 30, 2016 at 10:47 AM

PS

“ Susan and family, I am so very sorry for your great loss. Love and Prayers.

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**Paula Scott** - March 30, 2016 at 10:47 AM

KA

“ I am so honored to have had WC and Montine as clients for several years. They were the most precious couple. Their love for each other and their family was very evident. I would like to thank his Children for allowing me to be a part of their Dads journey the past few years. I witnessed such a strong love between a Dad and his Children. WC was a true Gentleman. His presence was with such certainty about life. When he spoke it was with kindness and respect always. I've always heard the saying: (actions speak louder than words). It didn't seem that way at all with Mr. Whitley. It was more that his words were the same as his actions. They were one in the same

*I will miss him greatly*

*My thoughts and prayers are with his precious family. Love and Respect Karron*

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**Karron** - March 30, 2016 at 10:47 AM

JM

“ *Debbie and family:  
I was saddened to learn of the passing of your father. My thoughts  
and prayers are with you and all your family. Jim*

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**Jim McDonald** - March 30, 2016 at 10:47 AM

RN

“ *So sorry for your loss. Best Regards, Rick*

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**Rick Newberry** - March 30, 2016 at 10:47 AM

BD

“ *So sorry for your loss. May God Bless all of you and comfort you in  
the days to come.*

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**Brenda Heard Davidson** - March 30, 2016 at 10:47 AM