



Willard Clark Lyons Sr.

June 20, 1923 - July 14, 2018

Willard Clark Lyons, Sr., AD1, US Navy (Retired), slipped the ugly bonds of illness and went to be with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, joining his precious wife, Ann, on July 14, 2018.

Known as Dad, Papa and Uncle, Willard was born in Mulberry, Florida on June 20, 1923, the second son of Willard Arthur Lyons and Annie Lara Sampler Lyons. He joined the Navy when he was 17 years old and, after completing Airman Mechanics School, was assigned to the USS Hornet, CV-8, at the beginning of World War II. He served on that ship until it went down on October 26, 1942 during the battle of the Santa Cruz Islands. Having to abandon ship, he embarked on the USS Juneau and disembarked 16 days before she went down, killing all but 10. He knew he had an angel on his shoulder. During his 20-year career, he served on a total of 11 ships. He was proud to have served but humble, saying, "I was glad I could serve. I was just doing my job."

Shortly after returning stateside, while in Los Angeles to visit his little sister, he met "the one woman who was meant for him", as he always said. As she worked in Los Angeles and he was stationed in San Diego, allowing them to only see each other on weekends. That was enough. After 6 dates, they were married on August 7th, 1944. At the time of her passing, they had been married for 60 years, 8 months and 16 days. He knew it down to the day.

After retiring from the Navy in 1960 and moving to Bartlesville, Willard became a mail carrier and, after retiring from the Postal Service in 1978, took up the hobby of wood working as he began another career as a painter of houses, one of which was the Frank Phillips Mansion.

He loved to tell stories of his service and, once in a while, of the escapades he and his brother, Carl, shared. He was so proud to be a grandpa and great-grandpa, saying it was difficult to convince people that he was 27 years old since he had a great-granddaughter who is 24!

Willard was predeceased by wife, Ann, one grandson (Phillip), his parents, his brother Albert Carlton Lyons, and sisters Mildred Lyons Russiff and Ruth Agnes Lyons Ervin. He is survived by two children, Marjorie Smith and Willard Clark Lyons, Jr. (Calveta), 7 grandchildren: Monica (Peter) Njoo, Kim (Tracey) Barnett, Wes (Carmen) Smith, Clay (Jennifer) Baker, Darla (Michael) Wilkinson, Whitney (Anna) Smith, LeeAnn (Jeremy) Frazier and 9 great-grandchildren.

The family wishes to thank Drs. Hancock and Mehrle and their staffs, Karen Bowman and all the drivers at Bartlesville Wheelchair Ambulance, all of our friends who have been so generous with their time, support and prayers with special thanks Debbi Jones, RN, of Houston, TX and Upendra Karmacharya for their kind, compassionate care.

Visitation will be held at the Davis Family Funeral Home - Dewey Chapel, 918-534-3030, 113 S Osage (HWY 75), Dewey, on Thursday July 19 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

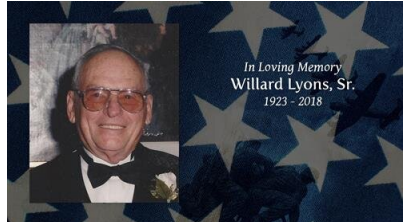
Funeral Services will be held 2 p.m. on Friday, July 20, at the Davis Family Funeral Home – Dewey Chapel, interment to follow at the Dewey Cemetery.

Services are under direction of Cater Davis and the Davis Family Funeral Home – Dewey Chapel. Online condolences and remembrances may be shared at www.davisfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Davis Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Willard Clark Lyons Sr.*



Davis Family Funeral Home - July 19, 2018 at 04:29 PM

KG

Beautiful

Kimberly Glover - July 19, 2018 at 06:45 PM

PC

Praise God for this amazing gentleman. What a wonderful tribute!

Pam Coleman - July 20, 2018 at 04:10 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Willard Clark Lyons Sr..*



July 20, 2018 at 12:23 AM

MW

“ Willard and Ann Lyons are two of the kindest people I have ever met. Their love for each other was like none other. Oh, and the stories they would tell were absolutely Priceless.

Willard's service not only to our country but to our community was a blessing beyond words.

He was always humble and kind, a man who was very dedicated to family and friends. He set the example for all with his love of God, Family and our Country. Thank you Marjorie for taking such good care of him. You are an amazing daughter and friend. Blessings to you and your family.

Love, Mary Wright and family.



Mary Wright - July 17, 2018 at 11:47 AM

DW

“ Through his daughter Marjorie, I came to know Willard over the last 10 years. When I would see him, he most often would have his WWII USS Hornet, Navy hat on. Even as he got older, he was still "tough as an old boot" (said with admiration) ... just ask Marjorie. I can remember the time he was in a nursing home for a short period and my wife and I took some ice cream sundaes for he and Marjorie into the room. We were not sure if he would want it ... but guess what? He said he was going to eat one, because he was not going to sit there and watch the rest of us eat ice cream and him not have any. That's the Willard I remember ... a life well lived.

D.K. Walsh - July 16, 2018 at 11:46 PM

PC

“ Though I never met Mr. Lyons, I did have the joy of meeting his daughter Marjorie. He must have been a wonderful Dad to have raised such an amazing daughter. I wish I could have personally thanked him for his service to this great country. May he rest lovingly in his Saviours arms. Praise God from whom all blessing flow!

Pam Coleman - July 16, 2018 at 08:50 PM

KG

“ I have several memories of this GLORIOUS man. Too many to share. Marjorie brought this man into our lives several years ago with Dr. Wilkins and our office crew. He brought a smile to our faces every time we got to see him. He used to try to convince us we needed to keep him because Marjorie either stole him or some other story. He made us smile, laugh and even make us work. LOL. I can remember a particular story when he was in the hospital once and a co worker and I brought him a bag of bite size snickers because that was the ONLY way he would do physical therapy for the staff. This was something Willard continued to pay back as you will even with Dr Hancocks office now. He used to bring our staff boxes of chocolate or Marjorie would make us cookies for holidays. Marjorie THANK YOU for allowing us these years with your father. THANK YOU for allowing us to laugh and listen to his stories and enjoy his presence. Willard is going to be GREATLY missed but I know I have one heck of an angel watching over us everyday. We love you Willard
Kimberly

Kimberly Glover - July 16, 2018 at 08:19 PM