



# Raymond Woodrow Russell

February 3, 1917 - May 10, 2015

Raymond Woodrow Russell February 3, 1917 ~ May 10, 2015 Raymond (Woody) Russell, born February 3, 1917 , 98 years old, went to be with the Lord Sunday, May 10, 2015. He lived the last 5 years in the care and home of his daughter, Mary Lynn Berner in Broken Arrow, OK. Prior to that he enjoyed retirement in Lake Placid, FL for 30 years with his beloved wife, Gladys, who preceded him in death July 6, 2009. During retirement he enjoyed fishing regularly in Lake Placid, also, excelling in shuffleboard, stain glass, and playing pinochle. He and Gladys traveled throughout the US and many foreign countries. Woody worked with professionalism and strong work ethic at Westerheide Sheet Metal in E. St. Louis, IL prior to retirement. After returning from WWII he worked as an apprentice at Eddings Brothers Sheet Metal in Carbondale, IL. He served as a gunner on the B17 in Europe during WWII flying 50 missions over enemy occupied countries. He was a devout Christian man who served the Lord in the Southern Baptist Church wherever he lived. He was known as the man to go to for help and could always come up with a solution for a problem. He was very creative and had a very successful life, but, humbly denied it. Woody was the youngest of 11 children and is survived by 2 daughters, Mary Lynn Berner, Broken Arrow, OK and Janice Kay Gallant Bluffton, SC, 3 grand children, Michael Berner, Betsey George, and Joshua Gallant, 4 great grand children and nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service in his honor was held Saturday, May 30, 2015 at 11:00 am at Mary Lynn Berner's home with fellowship meal immediately following. In lieu of flowers, donations Can be given in his name, to: Rhema Bible Church, 1025 W. Kenosha St., Broken Arrow.

# Comments

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“ I had only been around Woody twice in the years after I married my husband (his grandson) because Woody lived far away. Not long after his wife passed away he moved to our area and I was really glad. Over the next (close to) 5 years I was able to get to know him and love him like my own grandfather. We spent a lot of time together. My husband, Michael was also able to spend a lot of time with his grandfather and learned a lot. The respect between the two of them grew more and more. Both my daughters were able to get to know their Great Grandfather too. Woody was able to attend the wedding of one daughter and the his graduation of my other daughter. What a blessing to our whole family. We were able to share many special times with him including birthdays, holidays, the Christmas Train, trip to the zoo, a family baptism, & a ride on a restored B-17 bomber. Woody got to know us and we were able to get to know him. I am SO thankful that we have had the last 5 years with Woody. He is a precious, kind, & humble man. I am so happy that God allowed us to have this time with him. Woody has and will ALWAYS have a special place in my heart. I have never met anyone like him and doubt I ever will. He was special in so many ways. I am thankful that Woody is now in Heaven and that we will see him again one day. I was privileged to get to know him and miss him dearly We love you Woody! ~Kim Berner

**Kim Berner** - June 05, 2015 at 11:02 AM