

John Robert Birdwell Obt.

NEWPORT -- Funeral services for **John Robert Birdwell**, 64, of Newport, will be held at 2 p.m. EST Saturday, Jan. 6, in the sanctuary of First United Methodist Church, 212 Washington Ave., Newport, Tenn. Burial will be in Union Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 10 a.m.-noon EST Saturday in the chapel of the church.

Mr. Birdwell died Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2007, at home, after a year-long battle with cancer.

He was born Nov. 30, 1942, in Cookeville to the late Leanon J. and Mary Watson Birdwell.

Mr. Birdwell graduated from Cookeville High School and joined the Army in 1960. After an honorable discharge, he worked with the National Security Agency in Washington, D.C., then moved to Maryville in 1967. Mr. Birdwell had a 25-year career as an insurance agent for Colonial Life. He was a member and deacon of Maryville Church of Christ.

After returning to Cookeville, he married **Jeanne Yater Wilson** in 1999 and lived the last years of his life in Cookeville and Newport, where he was active in his community. He was named Citizen of the Year in 2004 by the Newport/Cocke County Chamber of Commerce. He and Mrs. Wilson were members of Cookeville United Methodist and moved their membership to First United Methodist Church in Newport.

His family includes his wife, **Jeanne Birdwell**; two daughters and sons-in-law, Lori and Brad Skaggs of Knoxville and Pam and Tony Cook of Lavergne; a sister, Patsy Standifer of Cookeville; four grandchildren, Cole and Caroline Skaggs and Sarah and Carter Cook; an aunt, Emma Featherston of Crossville; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Janice Birdwell Jackson; a brother, Alan Birdwell; a nephew, Jeff Jackson; and special cousin Jim Ragland.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Family and friends may sign the guest register online at www.manesfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements by Manes Funeral Home, 363 E. Main St., Newport, TN 37821, (423)623-6952.

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John Harvey Birdwell Sr. md Martha Chaffin =
John Harvey Birdwell Jr. md Martha Jane Kirby
John “Johnny” Dudley Birdwell md Annie Magnolia Jackson =
Leanon Jay Birdwell md Mary Watson =
John Robert Birdwell md Jeanne Birdwell

*See Chapter 4 at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>

*See Alan Watson Birdwell Obt. – Birdwell files.