

JAMES PETERSON OBT.

COOKEVILLE -- Funeral services for James Peterson, 90, will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 12, at First United Methodist Church Backsliders Classroom. Burial will be in West Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 1 p.m. until time of services on Sunday at the church.

Mr. Peterson died Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2008, in Bethesda Health Care Center after an extended illness.

He was born Dec. 21, 1917, in New London, Conn. to the late James Peterson I and Helen Patiniotis.

He lived in New York, Oregon and California. He lived in Cookeville for the past 28 years. He was born a first generation Greek in America.

He was a food service manager for 20 years with the Navy Exchange after his Army Air Corps tour of duty during World War II. Mr. Peterson was camped out in Donelson while on maneuvers in Middle Tennessee with the 8th Army Air Corps Unit. He was owner/operator of Pete's Reef, a fast food operation in Malibu, Calif. for several years before coming to Cookeville in 1980 to live with Winnie in her hometown. James and Winnie did volunteer work for their church, Rescue Mission and other organizations before his illness. Mr. Peterson was the president of the Backsliders Sunday School class from 1989 through 1990, a class filled with good friends who he acquired since living in Cookeville.

He will be remembered as a wonderful husband, a loving gather, a kind grandfather, a dear uncle and a good friend by all who knew him.

His family includes his wife of 30 years, Winnie Lee Baker Peterson of Cookeville; a son, Allen Baker of Cookeville; two daughters and sons-in-law, Arlene Watson and Ken Elberson and Merilee Ann and Joe Langley, all of Hespreria, Calif.; grandsons, Glenn Elberson, Kurtis Langley, Gary Baker II, Cameron Baker; a grandson namesake, James Joseph Langley; a granddaughter, Mandy Langley; and two great-granddaughters, Alyssa and Carla Elberson.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of four years, Barbara Wyles; his wife of 31 years, Goldie Freeman; a son, Comdr.. Gary S. Barker Sr.; a granddaughter, Dawn Elberson; a half brother, George Cotsifas; and two half sisters, Athena Cotsifas and Ina Sakalus.

Revs. Drew Shelley and Max Mayo will officiate at the services.

Whitson Funeral Home in Cookeville in charge of arrangements.

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, Oct 09, 2008

*See Hidden Hollow story in the History, Putnam Co., TN section at:

<http://www.ajlambert.com>