

Eldon Leon Burgess Obt.

b. 10 March 1931, Smith Co., TN – d. 23 December 2014, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, md on the 31st of October 1959, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN to **Reba Carol (Gentry) Burgess**, b. 10 May 1940. Eldon Burgess, s/o **Harvey McMillan Burgess** (1904-1979) & **Nellie Ann Howell** (1908 - ?), both buried in Brush Creek Cemetery, Smith Co., TN.

(Source: Tennessee State Marriage record, Putnam Co., TN, pg. 278– Eldon Leon Burgess married 31 October 1959, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, age 28, b. 10 March 1931, address: 1327 Mississippi Ave., Cookeville, TN to Reba Carol Gentry, age 19, b. 10 May 1940, address: 524 Laurel Ave., Cookeville, TN. Name of parent, guardian or next of kin of female: Edith Gentry, mother, 524 Laurel Ave., Cookeville, TN).

COOKEVILLE — Long-time legendary WHUB Radio announcer/sportscaster Eldon Burgess, 83, of Cookeville, died Tuesday morning, Dec. 23, 2014, in NHC Cookeville after a long battle with Parkinson’s Disease. Funeral services will be conducted at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, at Cookeville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Burial will follow in Crest Lawn Cemetery.



Family will receive friends Saturday from 11 a.m. until service time at the church.

He was born March 10, 1931, in Smith County to the late Harvey McMillan and Nellie Ann Howell Burgess.

Mr. Burgess attended school in Brush Creek and worked on his family’s farm before attending TN School of Broadcasting.

His broadcast career began in January of 1956, when he moved to Cookeville to begin **working at WHUB. Over the next 40+ years, he became a household voice in this area.** He was among the best known names and voices on the radio in the Upper Cumberland, in particular in his long-time role as half of the “Gene and Eldon” sportscasting team. Together, they called thousands of basketball, football and baseball games over the years, traveling the nation to cover Tennessee Tech and Cookeville Cavalier Sports. Eldon and Gene were inducted into the TTU Sports Hall of Fame in 1996. Cookeville High honored him by naming the pressbox at Eddie Watson Stadium in his honor. He was inducted into the Cookeville Cavalier Football Hall of Fame on Aug. 2 of this year. He was a long-time member of the Cookeville Evening Lions Club and was once named “Lion of the Decade.” His love for people, service and the community continued after retiring from WHUB. He worked at Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home for several years and greeted visitors with a warm smile.

He will be fondly remembered as a kind and thoughtful people person. He was proud of his family and was a loving husband, brother, father and grandfather. He was a member of the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, where he served as an elder and Sunday school superintendent. He also loved to garden and to fish.

Mr. Burgess is survived by his wife of 55 years, Carol Gentry Burgess (whom he married Oct. 31, 1959, in Cookeville); two daughters and sons-in-law, Missy and Drew Rawlins of Nashville and Amy and Danny Crooks of Cookeville; three grandchildren, Andy Rawlins, Madison Crooks and Natalie Crooks; a sister and brother-in-law, Ann and Lee Armstrong of Nashville; a brother and sister-in-law, Bill and Linda Burgess of Brush Creek; a brother-in-law, Sidney Williams of Brush Creek; and special friend, Karen Whittaker Robinson of Cookeville.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two sisters, Wanda Williams and Helen Mabe VanStrander.

Memorial contributions are encouraged and can be made to the Cookeville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church Capital Fund, 565 East 10th St., Cookeville, TN 38501.

Lee Webb, Ron Thurman, Al Middleton, Mike Davidson, Eddie Farris, Jeff Peek, Liz Fournet, and Teresa Galey will serve as pallbearers.

Dr. Charles McCaskey will officiate the services.

Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements (931) 526-6111. You may share your thoughts and memories at www.hhhfunerals.com

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN: 24 December 2014

*Read more about the people of Putnam Co., TN & surrounding areas at:
<http://www.ajlambert.com>