

FLOYD LEVI JERNIGAN SR. OBT.

b. 31 October 1932, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN – d. 13 December 2016, Pewee Valley, KY, md on the 18th of March 1954 to **Blanche Willodene (Whitaker) Jernigan**, b. 20 September 1932, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, d/o **Henry Peyton Whitaker & Nellie Clouse**. Floyd Levi Jernigan, s/o **William Luther Pleas Jernigan Sr.** (1885-1957) & **Maude Lee Eldridge** (1889-1986), both buried in Good Hope Cemetery, Livingston, Overton Co., TN.

PEEWEE VALLEY, Ky. — Funeral services will be held for Floyd Levi Jernigan, 84, of Peewee, Ky., at 2 p.m. today, Monday, Dec. 19, with Rev. Jim Powell officiating and Bro. Alan Fryrear reading scripture, at Schur Funeral Home in Peewee Valley, Ky. The burial is Tuesday, Dec. 20, at 2 p.m. at West Cemetery in Cookeville, Tenn., with Rev. Russell Flatt presiding.



Visitation is Monday, Dec. 19 from 12-2 p.m. at Schur Funeral Home, Peewee Valley, Ky.

Floyd Levi Jernigan Sr. passed away Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2016, at Friendship Manor Nursing Home, Peewee Valley, Ky.

(Pictured: Floyd Levi Jernigan Sr. taken about 1948. Courtesy of Floyd Levi Jernigan Sr.)

He was born Oct. 31, 1932, in Livingston, Tenn., the son of the late Maude Lee (Eldridge) and Luther Pleas Jernigan Sr.

He graduated from Livingston Academy in 1950. He attended Tennessee Polytechnic Institute (Tennessee Tech University), where he met Blanche Willodene Whitaker. They were married March 18, 1954.



He graduated from Tennessee Tech in August 1954, with a bachelor of science in industrial management. He served in the U.S. Army, completing his active duty in the Southeastern Signal School, Fort Gordon, Ga., as a 1st Lt. He then served in the Army Reserve.

In 1957, he became an account executive at Burroughs Corporation (now Unisys). In 1968, he joined Southern Federal Savings and Loan as managing director and vice president, a position he held until he retired in 1980.

From 1981 through 2011, Floyd worked as a consultant to financial institutions, serving as an expert witness in more than 25 different legal actions for various financial firms and government entities. He worked with 39 different clients across the country as a specialist in mergers and acquisitions, fraud investigation and claims recovery, lender liability, and data processing.

He also worked as a computer consultant, doing installs for multiple cities and businesses and operated Jernigan and Son, a framing and art business.

Locally, he will be well remembered as a hot air balloon pilot. A broken nose during a high school football game left him unable to pass a physical to be a pilot, so he instead acquired a hot air balloon commercial pilot's license, becoming the first balloonist in Jefferson County, the seventh in the state (at the time), and one of just 300 nationally. Floyd flew his balloon, dubbed "The American Spirit," in major events across the country, including the Kentucky Derby Balloon Race (1974-1980), the Kentucky Sport Aviation Weekend, the Great Forest Park Balloon Race in St. Louis, the U.S. Air Force Museum Race, the Middle

Tennessee Balloon Bash, and the national championships in Indianola, Iowa in 1976. He won the Kentucky Balloon Championship in 1978. He also created, organized and flew in the First Annual Pewee Valley Rally in 1978, Kentucky's first point-to-point balloon race, an event that continued for the next decade. He passed along his love of balloon flight by tutoring other area balloonists.

Other passions included scouting (he acquired his Eagle rank in 1948 and later served as an adult leader and advisor, receiving the Old Kentucky Home Council BSA President's Award for outstanding service in 1973), genealogy and history.

He received the Minuteman Award, the most prestigious award of The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, at the 117th Annual Congress, Sons of the American Revolution, in Williamsburg, Virg., July 9, 2007. Floyd became a life member of the Jamestowne Society in 2008, by establishing the family lineage as a burgess and landowner in Jamestown, Va.

He was a member of other boards, and in many, held leadership positions and often earned distinguished service awards, including the Kosair Crippled Children's Hospital, Camp Kavanaugh, the Louisville and Jefferson County Airport Advisory Committee, the Kentucky Balloon Society, National and Kentucky Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Kentucky Bureau of Corrections, the Kosair Shrine Temple, the Louisville Chapter of the American Business Club; the Breakfast Optimist Club of Louisville; and the Kentucky-Indiana Personal Computer Users Group; the South Oldham Lions Club, the Louisville Scottish Rite Temple, the American Legion, and the Kentucky Chapter 134 of the National Sojourners.

He was a lifelong church member, first at St. Mark, then was instrumental in establishing Watkins United Methodist Church, before he and Blanche transferred membership to Crestwood United Methodist Church.

Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Blanche, of Pewee Valley; a sister, Christine Hatch, of Farmington, Conn.; a son, Floyd Levi Jernigan Jr. and wife Barbara of Rolla, Mo., grandchildren Holly, Kyle, Floyd III, and Amy Jernigan of Rolla, Mo.; step-grandchildren Marc Hudson and wife Stacey of Gallatin, Tenn., Jay Soldi and wife Tish of Peru, Ind., David Soldi of Peru, Ind., and Ann James and husband Clint, of Meridian, Idaho.

Floyd was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Luther Pleas (L.P.) Jernigan Jr., Henry Jernigan, and Donald Jernigan, sisters Ruth Clarke, Nola Mae Needham, Velma Burroughs, Lucille Jernigan, and Anna Edith Andrews.

Pallbearers will be Floyd Levi Jernigan Jr., Floyd Levi Jernigan III, Kyle Evan Jernigan, Amy Elizabeth Jernigan, Charles Atkins, Bill Needham and John Raleigh Needham.

Honorary pallbearers will be Maurice Forbey, Joe Palladino, Arvel Leonard)Whitaker, Charles Grissett and Don Schmidt.

Memorial contributions may be made to Camp Kavanaugh Life Enrichment Center and St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

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*Read more about the Jernigan family at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>