

Dr. Billy Coolidge Edwards Obt.

b. 28 February 1927, Erwin, Unicoi Co., TN – d. August 2020, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, md on the 26th of December 1948, Roanoke, VA to **Ernestine Lindberg Ratcliffe Edwards**. Dr. Billy Coolidge Edwards, s/o **David Samuel Edwards** (1887-1954) & **Ida Fairfield Hyden** (1888-1987), both buried in Pine Creek Church of the Brethren Cemetery, Union Bridge, Carroll Co., MD.

Dr. Billy Coolidge Edwards, born Feb. 28, 1927 in Erwin, TN to David and Ida Edwards, one of nine children. He is survived by his loving wife and best friend of 72 years,



Ernestine Edwards, and their four children: Dawn Huntley (Phillip), Becca Kaylor (Rick), Mark Edwards (Marcia) and Ben Edwards (Andrea); and his beloved twin brother's wife, Rebecca Edwards; and his grandchildren (and great grandchildren) who adored him so : Ed Mueller & Kayla Perry (Amara), Ben Hayes, Andrew Hayes, Adrian Edwards & Harlan Knipes, Jared & Autumn Hampton, Luke Edwards, Quinton & Avery Westrich (Layla), Becca Edwards and Jon Edwards.

Bill grew up in Union Bridge, MD on a dairy farm and served in the US Army in France during WW II. Upon returning from duty he started college at Carson Newman University, where he met the love of his life— Ernestine Ratcliffe. After wedding they lived in VA, PA, and NC, where Bill worked in farm seed sales and they grew their family. In 1960 the family moved to Knoxville, TN where Bill joined his twin brother (Bennick Edwards) in insurance and real estate sales. A couple of years later Bill decided to pursue his passion and obtained a Doctoral degree in Educational Psychology at the University of Tennessee. **Dr. Edwards was a compassionate professor in the counseling center at Tennessee Tech University for 27 years, beloved by the school and Cookeville community.**

Bill and Ernie were life-long members of the Methodist Church and were active leaders at Trinity UMC in Knoxville and Algood UMC, and most recently Edgehill UMC in Nashville. Bill sang in church choir throughout his life. For decades he and Ernie kept a substantial garden and got the most joy from sharing the bounty with neighbors. Another one of his great loves was trout fishing at Twenty Mile Creek (NC) with his brothers, sons, nephews and friends, which he did for over 60 years. Bill loved nothing more than helping others and after retirement became a leader with Habitat for Humanity in Cookeville and Helping Hands Food Pantry in Nashville. In 2008 Cookeville named a street 'Edwards Lane' in honor of his volunteer service and commitment to the community. Bill was a giver his whole life. He was a family man who was happiest with his wife, children, brothers and sisters, grandchildren, nephews, nieces and great grands. He will be forever missed, always celebrated, and never forgotten.

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