

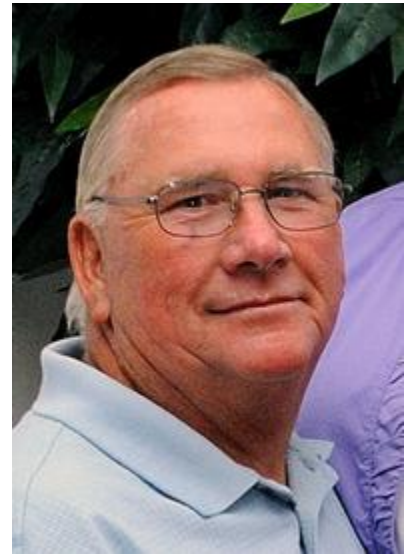
William Edmonds

Bethalto | Wednesday, February 15 2012

William Gerald (Jerry) Edmonds, 66, always said, "I'm a soldier and a soldier never runs from battle." He used this motto in his battle of leukemia. On Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 5:30 am at the Siteman Cancer center in Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri he went home to be with his Lord.

He was born on February 5, 1946 in Guntersville, Alabama, to William Trine and Ruby (Henry) Edmonds.

He married Marsha Freer on April 8, 1967 in Bethalto. She survives.



Jerry honorably served his country in the U.S. Army and in the U.S. Army Reserves for 31 years retiring as a Chief Warrant Officer 3. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War and Desert Shield as well as serving in Europe under NATO command and was stationed at the NIKE missile base in Grafton, Illinois. He also worked for the Federal Civil Service as a heavy mobile equipment specialist.

He was a long time member of the First Baptist Church of Bethalto where he currently served as a deacon and trustee and many years he served as a youth sponsor and preschool teacher. He also participated in numerous mission trips to build churches as well as disaster relief for hurricane Katrina in Louisiana and Texas. For several years he was involved with Boys and Girls Club of Bethalto and the Bethalto Khoury league coaching ball teams.

He could always be found either in his large garden, on a boat with his fishing gear or in his garage tinkering with an engine. He always said that his greatest joys in life were to see his daughters married and to hold his granddaughters in his arms.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two daughters and sons-in-law, Cheryl and Daniel Dingeldein of Nashville, Tennessee and Angie and Alex Betts of Bethalto; seven grandchildren, Alena and Annalise Dingeldein both of Nashville, Tennessee, Shelby and Riley Edmonds of Bethalto, A.J., Alexis and Aaliyah Betts of Des Moines, Iowa; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Gail and Ray Luke of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and Ann and Charles Haygood of Hahira, Georgia; a brother, Randy Tate of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; his mother-in-law, Erma Freer of Bethalto and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be from 2 to 5 pm Sunday, February 19, 2012 at the First Baptist Church of Bethalto. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am Monday, February 20, 2012 at the church with Pastor Chip Faulkner officiating.

Burial will follow at Rose Lawn Memory Gardens in Bethalto with military honors.

Memorials may be given in lieu of flowers to Vision Plus of the First Baptist Church of Bethalto. Please send donations to the funeral home.

Elias, Kallal & Schaaf Funeral Home in Bethalto is in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences and guestbook may be found at www.eliaskallalandschaaf.com