



David S. Mann

DEC 15, 1932 - DEC 17, 2012



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COMPLETE FUNERAL SERVICES

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David S. Mann, 80, of Decatur went to be with our Lord on Monday, December 17, 2012 at 6:40 pm.

Funeral services will be held Friday 11 am, December 28, 2012 at First United Methodist Church 201 W. North St. Decatur, with Rev. Miley Palmer officiating. Visitation will be 30 minutes prior to service. Memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church, Monticello Railway Museum, or Fair Havens Christian Home.

David was born December 15, 1932 in Decatur, IL, the son of Almon and Eleanor (Scranton) Mann. David graduated from the University of Illinois with an Associate Degree in Aviation Technology. He was a veteran of the Army having taught airplane mechanics. In 1962 he joined his life with Janet Lehn McMillen and her children, Scott and Deana. In 1982, he married Barbara Purviance. He was a lifetime member of First United Methodist Church. For many years his deep bass voice was heard in the choir. He worked at Ozark Airlines in St. Louis, Mo., and retired from A. E. Staley Co. He joined the Monticello Railway Museum in 1972 and enjoyed many years as a volunteer and also serving as president and track superintendent. He worked at A.E. Staley for 33 years.

Surviving is his wife, Barbara, daughter Deana (Jim) Smiley of Ft. Lauderdale, Fl.; step-sons Nathan (Carol) Purviance of West Chester, OH; Jonathan Purviance of Germantown Hills, IL; grandson Jason (Leslie) Purviance) of Fairfield, OH.; granddaughter Stacy (Travis) McBrien of Middletown, OH.; and two great-grand children. He is also survived by his younger sister, Alyson Laue of Atlanta, GA.; nieces Jennifer Laue of Sandy Springs, GA: Leslie (Kevin) Stapleton of Park Ridge, IL.; and Alexa Molnar; and two great nephews..

He is preceded in death by his parents, sister Deone Molnar and son Scott McMillen. The family wishes to thank Dr. Richard Fritz and the staff of Fair Havens Christian



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Home for the love and care given to him during his stay. A special thanks to all the family and friends who remembered Dave in their prayers.

The family of David Mann is being served by Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home.

Online condolences and memories may be shared with the family at

www.gracelandfairlawn.com.



Tribute Wall

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TS

Thomas E. Scott Jr. posted:

Dave Mann's work at the Monticello Railway Museum will be felt for a very long time. He joined the Museum in the early 1970's and hit the ground running. Dave was involved, among other things, in trackwork and helped MRM push construction of the Terminal trackage North to Blackers. He was also heavily involved in retrieving the 70# rail, ties, and other former Illinois Terminal track materials from Maroa. This material was used to build the Terminal Division track from Rankin to Blackers, including the passing track there. The material was also used to replace 56# rail from Camp Creek Yard to the Terminal side display track switch, as well as to construct both display tracks – all of which remain in daily service today. Dave Mann's timely loan to the Museum enabled it to purchase the adjacent ICRR branch line from Monticello to White Heath, the trackage we now call the Central Division. Purchase of the Central Division was a quantum leap in the development of the Museum. One thing I particularly recall is how meticulous Dave was about everything he did. Probably a result of his work as an aircraft mechanic at A.E. Staley. For obvious reasons, aircraft repairs have to be right the first time. He did a fantastic rebuild/restoration on the Museum's Ferguson tractor, which the Museum used for everything from grading the parking lot to loading coal in the steam locomotives. And he could crack a funny joke at almost anything. The Monticello Railway Museum has been very blessed with having the right people join as volunteers at just the right times. Dave Mann was one of those people.

December 22 at 1:27 PM

AW

Alex Wood posted:

Dave was a great man and very influential the Monticello Railway Museum. I've been with MRM for seven years and everyone knows we wouldn't have a 5 mile excursion line without Dave. He will be missed by all of us. My sympathy and prayers to Barb, another fine MRM volunteer.

December 21 at 8:55 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring David by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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