



Virgil Lee Fergason

MAR 1, 1932 - AUG 24, 2011



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Virgil Lee Fergason

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Decatur- Virgil L. Fergason, 79, of Decatur, passed away Wednesday, August 24, 2011 at Decatur Memorial Hospital with his family at his bedside.

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Virgil will be held 11:00 a.m. Saturday, September 3, 2011 at Christ United Methodist Church in Decatur, Illinois. A visitation will be from 5-8:00 p.m. Friday, September 2, 2011 at Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home. Interment with "Flight Home" ceremony will be at 2:00 p.m. in Graceland Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be directed to Christ Methodist Church.

Virgil was born March 1, 1932 in Carrollton, Missouri the son of Virgil A. and Lois (Buckner) Fergason. He spent his childhood years on a farm in his hometown. Virgil completed a year and a half of studies at the University of Missouri and then served his country in the United States Air Force for four years during the Korean War. He came back from the service and returned to the University of Missouri receiving his B.S., M.S., and PHD.

He published several papers while at the University, and belonged to Gamma Sigma Delta, Sigma I, and the American Genetic Association. He taught at the University of Missouri in 1965 and in 1966 before he accepted a position as Research Director at Bear Hybrid Corn Co. in Decatur, Illinois.

In 1982 he joined the National Starch and Chemical Co., as Research Director in their seed division. He established a research station in Decatur where he specialized in developing specialty corn until his retirement in 1996. He developed two patents, 1984, Starch Thickener and 1994, Low Amylopectin Starch. He also, wrote a chapter in a book in 1994, Specialty Corns.

Virgil is a past member of the Evening Lions Club, American Legion Post 105, a trustee of Christ United Methodist Church, and a member of University Alumni Missouri, He enjoyed fishing, gardening, traveling, and Missouri Football. He loved



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his time with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren; he was always interested in their goals in life. He married Mary Cheesman in Carrollton, Missouri, September 6, 1953.

Virgil leaves behind his wife of 58 years, son, Brian Fergason and wife Kristan of Lakeville, Minn, daughter, Diane Seno and husband Guy of Grayslake, IL, son, Keith Fergason and wife Cathy of Decatur, brother, Charles Harvey Fergason and wife Glenrose of Carrollton, MO; and the loves of his life, ten grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and a sister.



Tribute Wall

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MH

Mary Hatch posted:

Diane and Family, Blessings and Peace to you and yours during this time. May you cherish the wonderful memories you experienced with your Dad.

September 2 at 11:25 AM

DH

Debbie Cheesman And Read Hunker posted:

We are sending our deepest sympathies to you all and much love from the mountains! We know Uncle Virgil will be missed by all, but there are uncountable loving and crazy memories to bring smiles to all of our faces when we think about him. We are all blessed to have had his presence in our lives! Love to you all, Debbie Cheesman & Read Hunker

September 1 at 8:30 AM

DL

Diane Stowe Lyman posted:

It was an honor to meet Virgil at our home and see him the next day at Tim and Meghan's wedding. In the little bit of time we talked, he seemed like a man who would be very interesting to get to know. You have our sympathies at the loss of such a special family member. Diane and Bruce Lyman Family

September 1 at 7:27 AM

JM

Jan Bear Mandernach posted:

Virgil was such a blessing for my father, Bob Bear. He took Bear Hybrid's research forward with such a sense of purpose and skill. Dad always felt that he had finally found someone who understood what he was trying to do with specialty corn.

August 27 at 8:27 AM

GB

Greg Burdick posted:

To the entire Fergason Family, Diane and Brian, All of our high school groups of friends remember your Dad as the most fun Dad to be around. We had great times with him at your house. We wish you only comfort during this most difficult time. The Good Lord will help provide that comfort to you. Your Friend, Greg Burdick

August 26 at 11:35 AM



Tribute Wall

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HC

Harold And Kay Cheesman posted:

Virgil has been a part of some of the best times in our lives. We have so many happy memories. He was one of the best brother-in-laws you could have. We were so blessed to have had the chance to say good bye at Meghan's wedding. He was so loved by our family. We will see him again as we know he will be at the end of the tunnel waiting for us. God be with Mary and family as they go on without Virgil. He taught all of you so much about living.

August 26 at 9:11 AM

BC

Barry Cheesman posted:

Uncle Virgil will be missed in so many ways. I have so many fond memories of him in my childhood. His tough love, his humor and most important, his caring spirit. He was certainly blessed and a true representation of Christ.

August 26 at 9:02 AM

AA

Allen & Lesley Albert posted:

We will miss you virgil. Your loving spirit will remain with us. You were a faithful Christian man that we adored.

August 25 at 7:22 PM

JB

Janice Boelsen posted:

Words cannot express my deepest condolences to all of you. Uncle Virgil Lee will be greatly missed by everyone's lives he touched. God blessed us with a wonderful and caring person, and now he has called him home. What a fighter he was over these last 5 years, but now is at peace. May your strong faith comfort you now and in the days ahead. Let the wonderful and fun memories give you joy and peace as well.

August 25 at 5:15 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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