

Ernest “Ernie” Baker
January 30, 1926 - December 8, 2022

A funeral service for Ernest M, “Ernie” Baker, 96, will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Friday, December 30, 2022 at the Gorman Funeral Homes - Platte Chapel in Wheatland with Pastor Chris Furl and Rex Johnson officiating. Interment will be in the Wheatland Cemetery.

Ernie Baker passed away Thursday, December 8, 2022 at the Platte County Legacy Home in Wheatland. Ernie and his wife, Sue, would have celebrated their 74th wedding anniversary on December 11, 2022.

Ernie was born on Saturday, January 30, 1926 in Hohenwald, Tennessee the son of Ernest M. and Earlye (Harrison) Baker Sr.

Ernie received his education from the Columbia Military Academy and then Tennessee Tech University. After a stint as a United States Navy pilot during World War II, he started his power plant career with the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Other than family, Ernie had two loves in his life, airplanes and power plants. He obtained his pilot’s license at the age of 15, (before he got a driver’s license). One of his best airplanes was one he built in his garage. Over his career he worked at approximately twelve different power plants. He loved the construction process, how plants operated, and settling disputes between plant participants.

What brought Ernie and his family to Wheatland, was the Laramie River Station. In 1976, he left an engineering firm in Saint Louis, Missouri to join Basin Electric Power Cooperative in the planning and construction of Missouri Basin Power Project. He was the plant manager during the construction and initial startup of the project. One of the few pictures he insisted on having in his nursing home room was of the Laramie River Station. He was very proud of his involvement with this facility and the picture brought back great memories. He left Wheatland in 1980 for a job as the General Manager of Associated Electric Cooperative in Springfield, Missouri. But this was not before his son graduated from the Wheatland High School and his second daughter married a local boy. He never lost his ties to Wheatland.

Ernie is survived by his wife, Sue; daughter, Cherie (Steve) of Modesto, California; and their three children, Crystal, Stephanie, and Steve; daughter, Peggy (Rex) of Wheatland; and their two sons, Brandon, who preceded him in death, and Adam; son, Trip of Kansas City, Missouri; and his two sons, Tyler and Jake; seven grandchildren; and five great grandchildren.

Ernie’s mother passed away in 2009 at the age of 103; father passed away as a result of a motor vehicle accident when Ernie was ten years old.

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