



## Arthur Claude Reynolds

December 20, 1920 - October 18, 2016

ARTHUR CLAUDE REYNOLDS  
STEWARTSVILLE, INDIANA

Arthur Claude Reynolds, 95, of Stewartsville, Indiana, born to Arthur Cavitt and Ella Cale (Wilkinson) Reynolds on December 20, 1920, passed away on October 18, 2016 at his home in Pumkin Run.

Arthur Claude was born on a crisp fall day. Farmers of the area were gathered at his father's farm in the early morning, when a window flew open and Claude's grandmother hollered out at them, "The baby is here. They'll be no hog killing today!"

The oldest of the eight children of Arthur and Ella, Claude grew up on various farms in northern Posey County, Indiana. He attended school in Stewartsville, and he graduated from Stewartsville High School in 1938. He was proud to have been a cheerleader for the Owls basketball team: "A bottle of pop, a big banana, we're from Griffin, Indiana! That's a lie, that's a bluff; we're from Stewartsville, that's the stuff!". He enjoyed reminiscing about his early years and the pranks he'd pulled, and still remembered poetry he'd memorized in high school. Claude grew up working with his father on the farm, but when he was 18 he was talked into joining the U.S. Army by a favorite uncle, "Every day in the Army is like Sunday on a farm."

After graduating from the Army's Coast Artillery School at Fort Monroe, Virginia, Claude's first assignment was as a wire chief at Fort Mills on the island of Corregidor in Manila Bay. He sailed out of New York City. On the Army ship headed toward the Philippines he met his future wife, Bette Leach, who was traveling with her mother and sister to visit her father who was stationed at Manila. Claude was in charge of communications between the big guns and headquarters on Corregidor and was acquainted with General MacArthur. A year after Claude arrived in the Philippines, Japan invaded in December 1941. In May 1942, after months of fighting, Corregidor surrendered to the Japanese Army, and Claude became a prisoner of war. He was shipped to Japan with other prisoners, where he worked in three different slave labor camps until the war ended in August 1945. He'd been a POW for 3 ½ years. He never let this experience bother him, and lived his life joyfully as someone who could work through any problem.

When the ship from Japan landed in San Francisco, the first phone call Claude made was to his mother, the second to Bette. Claude and Bette were married in May 1946 and enjoyed 69 years of wedded bliss. Their children Claudette and Mark were born in San Francisco, where Claude was stationed at Fort Winfield Scott until 1952. At the outbreak of the Korean War, Claude's outfit was to be transferred to Korea. Because of his POW experience, he was relieved of that duty and instead sent to the hard-duty station at Fort Richardson, Alaska.

Claude and his family lived in Alaska from 1952 to 1963, with a one-year stint at Fort Gordon, Georgia in 1957. He retired from the Army as a Master Sergeant in 1959. He loved the outdoor life of Alaska and made life-long friends there, but decided to return to Indiana to be with his family. He was able to return to Alaska many times to hunt, fish, and camp and enjoy the wildlife.

Claude worked for the North Posey school district for a number of years, and then started his own plumbing & electrical business. He enjoyed restoring vintage Power Wagons and raising birds; at various times his flock included peacocks, pigeons, chickens, turkeys, guinea fowl, and geese.

Outgoing and gregarious, Claude enjoyed socializing and storytelling. His favorite poem to recite was Abou ben Adhem; the line "I pray thee, then, write me as one that loves his fellow men" describes him perfectly.

He is survived by his children: Claudette Hovekamp of Jasper, Indiana and Mark & Joan Reynolds of Dillingham, Alaska; his grandchildren: Matt & Monica Bohnert, Lauren Bohnert, Kristen Bohnert, Isaac Reynolds, Walter Reynolds, and Hugh Reynolds; his great-grandchildren: Owen, Eleanor and Ivan Bohnert; his brothers: Herb, Joe & Barb, and Mac; his brothers-in-law: Pete Straub and Bob Wassmer; and his sister-in-law: Peg Reynolds; as well as many beloved nieces, nephews and cousins. He loved his family deeply and enjoyed being around them.

Preceding him in death were his wife of 69 years: Bette; his parents: Arthur and Ella; his brothers: Paul and Bob; and sisters: Ruth Straub, Sue Wassmer and Pam Reynolds.

Funeral services will be held at the Werry Funeral Home in Poseyville at 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 5, 2016, with a full military burial at Stewartsville Cemetery.

Visitation will be at the funeral home on Friday, November 4, 2016 from 3-7 p.m. with Rosary at 6:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Claude's memory to the Stewartsville Cemetery, C/O Jane Reynolds, 9750 Storey Street, Poseyville, Indiana 47633.

# Cemetery

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## Stewartsville Cemetery

4100 W Main Street

Poseyville, IN, 47633

# Events

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**NOV** **Visitation** 03:00PM - 07:00PM

**4**

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Werry Funeral Homes, Inc. (Poseyville)

16 E Fletchall Avenue, Poseyville, IN, US, 47633

**NOV** **Rosary Service** 06:30PM

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Werry Funeral Homes, Inc. (Poseyville)

16 E Fletchall Avenue, Poseyville, IN, US, 47633

**NOV** **Service** 10:00AM

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Werry Funeral Homes, Inc. (Poseyville)

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# Comments

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“ Uncle Claude knew how to do 'anything & everything'

**Pete Straub Jr** - November 03, 2016 at 06:23 PM

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“ Your Brother Paul V Reynolds Family purchased the Red, White & Blue Sympathy Standing Basket for the family of Arthur Claude Reynolds.



**Your Brother Paul V Reynolds Family** - November 03, 2016 at 05:25 PM

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“ Being part of Arthur Claude's family was always special and as a child I was always so thrilled when he, Betty , Claudette and Mark would come home from Alaska to visit! So sorry I couldn't be at the funeral but my thoughts and prayers are with you! He will be missed! David and I are sending a check to the Stewertsville Cemetary fund in memory of Claude!

**David and Carlene Van Laningham** - November 03, 2016 at 04:11 PM

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“ Arthur Claude was my Grandmother Ethel McFadden's brother and I only got to talk to him about once or twice a year but I always was amazed at his WWII service. To me he was a hero and I looked up to him.  
Jim McDurmon, Spencer County Sheriff

**Jim McDurmon** - November 02, 2016 at 10:57 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name





“ Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Arthur Claude Reynolds.



October 27, 2016 at 01:51 AM

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“ 5 files added to the album New Album Name



Joan Reynolds - October 26, 2016 at 10:25 PM

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“ Lisa Haggblom lit a candle in memory of Arthur Claude Reynolds



Lisa Haggblom - October 26, 2016 at 05:24 PM



“ A blue candle for Claude to enjoy the blue sky forever. I was so lucky to meet Claude when he visited his family in Dillingham. He fixed my old sewing machine once. He and Betty can look down on all of us now from the night sky, two stars making sure we've properly cleaned things up and put them away for the night, then take the time to look up and feel happy before we go to sleep.

Lisa - October 26, 2016 at 05:30 PM

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“ It was a pleasure to see Claude come into the office where I worked, because I knew he would be ready to "brighten up my day" with some conversation. He was a special person, and many lives enriched for having known him.

With Sincere Sympathy,  
Betty Espenlaub

**Betty Espenlaub** - October 26, 2016 at 01:47 PM

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“ Always a joy talking with him. He had a funny story and a smile for everyone. He will be greatly missed.

**Donna Jeffers** - October 26, 2016 at 09:50 AM

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“ My mother Fern Williams Taylor graduated with Arthur Claude in 1938 from Stewardsville High school. I remember her speaking of him.

**Cindy Taylor Lyke** - October 26, 2016 at 12:31 AM

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“ Arthur Claude was a wonderful man, master handyman, and friend to the Nestruck Family. Many times he came to our home to fix something. Though super busy Claude always had time to talk with us, relating many stories of his past in Stewartsville, WW II, Alaska, and beyond. He loved talking about his loving family. We learned many important things in life from him. One comes to mind as I write, "always look to find the simple to fix the problem". It served him well in all regards. RIP Claude. You will be missed

**Dwight Nestruck** - October 25, 2016 at 09:45 PM

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“ Sympathy and Prayers for all the family. He was so interesting to talk to and will be missed by all.  
Richard and Kathy Wilson, Poseyville, IN.

**Kathy/Richard Wilson** - October 25, 2016 at 03:51 PM