



## Eldon F. Hesterman

April 23, 1934 - August 4, 2023

Eldon F. Hesterman, 89, of Defiance, Ohio passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his family on Friday, August 4, 2023. He was born in Ridgeville Corners, Ohio on April 23, 1934, to the late Carl and Mathilde (Gerken) Hesterman. On August 22, 1959, he married Marcia Ranzau at Zion Lutheran Church, Ridgeville Corners.

Eldon proudly served his country in the US Air Force. He was a longtime member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Okolona where he served as a Treasurer, Deacon, and as an Elder. Eldon was an Adams Township Trustee for over 25 years, was always the family handyman. In his leisure time, he enjoyed fishing at Randall Lake in Coldwater, Michigan, playing cards and tending to his vegetable gardens. Eldon loved to spend time with his family and enjoyed going to his grandchildren's sporting events.

He is survived by his loving wife of almost 64 years, Marcia; children, Bruce (Sherri) Hesterman, Lynnette (Dennis) Gerken, and Keith (Julie) Hesterman; grandchildren, Ben, Wes, Katelyn, Lucas, Nate, and Hannah; great grandchildren, Mason, Wren, Maeve, Eden, Maggie, Nora, and Kodi; sister, Kathleen (Norman) Wiemken; and sister-in-law, Phyllis Hesterman. In addition to his parents, Eldon was preceded in death by his grandson, Gregg Gerken; brother, Vernon Hesterman; stepfather, Ernst Behnfeldt; and stepsiblings, Selma Freytag, Frances Gericke, and Earl Behnfeldt.

Friends and family will be received at the Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home, Napoleon, Ohio Wednesday, August 9, 2023, from 2:00 PM until 8:00 PM. Funeral services will be held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Okolona, on Thursday, August 10, 2023 at 11:00 AM with an hour of visitation prior to services. Interment will take place in the church cemetery with military honors presented by the Ridgeville American Legion Post 454. Memorial contributions may be made to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, or the Ridgeville Township Fire Department. Online condolences and messages may be shared with the family at [rodenbergergray.com](http://rodenbergergray.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Bethlehem Lutheran Cemetery, Okolona

30997 Gerken Road  
Defiance, OH 43512

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

AUG 9. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Rodenberger Funeral Home - Napoleon  
1010 Westmoreland Avenue  
Napoleon, OH 43545

## Public Viewing

AUG 10. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Okolona  
30997 Gerken Road  
Defiance, OH 43512

## Funeral Service

AUG 10. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Okolona  
30997 Gerken Road  
Defiance, OH 43512



# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



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**Rodenberger Funeral Home** - November 08, 2023 at 03:49 PM

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“ From the frozen tundra of Korea to fields and forests of war-torn Europe to the jungles of Southeast Asia, from the deserts of Kuwait and Iraq to the mountains of Afghanistan, brave patriots have protected our nation’s ideals, rescued millions from tyranny, and helped spread freedom around the globe. America’s veterans answered the call when asked to protect our nation from some of the most brutal oppression the world has ever known.

Military service demands a special kind of sacrifice. The places where you are sent to live and serve bring risk every day. From the time you put on that uniform for the first time, the interests of the nation move to the forefront and define your life. Those duties are shared by family members who make many sacrifices of their own, sometimes bearing the burden of losing a loved one.

Service brings rewards as well. There is the pride in developing one’s own character, serving a cause far greater than self-interest. Every person who wears America’s uniform is part of a long, unbroken line of achievement and honor. No single military power in history has done greater good, shown greater courage, liberated more people or upheld higher standards of decency and valor than the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

That is a legacy to be proud of and those who contributed to it must never be taken for granted. To honor our veterans, we must keep the promises we have made to them. We must care for those who have been injured in the service of our country. We must honor and remember those who have died. And we must remember those whose fate is still undetermined. We fly the Prisoner of War flag on Veterans Day for a reason, to show that this nation will not relent until we have accounted for every one of our missing Americans. Thank you for your service. Thank you for all that you have sacrificed for this great nation. Thank you for being the backbone of America.

*Brigadier General (Retired) Mark W. Lee, United States Army*

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**BG (R) Dr. Mark W. Lee** - August 08, 2023 at 03:58 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Eldon F. Hesterman.*



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August 08, 2023 at 11:22 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Eldon F. Hesterman.

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August 07, 2023 at 04:05 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Eldon F. Hesterman.*



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August 07, 2023 at 04:05 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Eldon F. Hesterman.*



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August 07, 2023 at 02:33 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Eldon F. Hesterman.



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August 07, 2023 at 10:59 AM



“ I was stationed at Scott AFB, IL from Sept 1954 to June 1955 going to a school to learn how to repair airplane radios. This was temporary assignment. Eldon was also stationed there on a more permanent duty assignment. His job was to fix electrical problems on F-86D jet fighters that were part of the Air Defense Command. Harold Dean Roesti who was also from the Ridgeville community was also temporarily stationed there going to a different school.. Somehow we three found each other. Eldon had a car and so he would sometimes take us to church or other places. He was a very kind and considerate person and I am thankful for the privilege of knowing him I am very confident his soul is "Safe in the Arms of Jesus" and is happily renewing associations with other souls from earlier years. May God bless all of you.....david toles

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**david toles** - August 05, 2023 at 10:45 PM



“ Sympathy to the whole family.

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**Kathy Lieb** - August 05, 2023 at 08:34 PM