



Fred Edward Church

September 25, 1925 - November 14, 2022

Fred Edward Church, 97, of Napoleon, Ohio passed away at Swanton Valley Health Care on November 14, 2022. He was born in Bristolville, Ohio on September 25, 1925 to John and Emma (Laherz) Church. Fred married Shirley Reid on March 3, 1950 in Stryker, Ohio.

Fred proudly served his country in the US Army during WWII and was a lifelong member of the American Legion. He was also a member of St. Paul United Methodist church and Elks lodge. Fred grew up on a farm during the Depression and farmed with horses, only getting their first tractor after he returned from the Army. Fred taught at Napoleon High School and was well known as the High School Basketball Coach and had a special rapport with all of his teams. He retired on a high note with a State Title win in 1981. Fred loved being with his family, especially spoiling his grandchildren.

Fred is survived by his children, James (Mary Murphy) Church, John (Verna) Church and Joe (Jamie) Church; 7 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren; and siblings, Trudy Haid, Emily Schaffer, and Max Church. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his loving wife of 48 years, Shirley; and brothers, John Church and Charles Church.

Friends and family will be received at the Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home, Napoleon on Saturday, November 19, 2022 from 11:00 AM until the memorial

services at 3:00 PM. Memorial contributions may be made to the Napoleon High School Athletic Department or the N Club. Online condolences may be shared with the family at rodenbergergray.com

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

NOV 19. 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM (ET)

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

Memorial Service

NOV 19. 3:00 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Fred Edward Church.*



November 18, 2022 at 03:50 PM

BS

“ *I was hired by Napoleon City Schools in the Fall of 1978 as a teacher and assistant 7th grade basketball coach. Over the final three years of Coach Church's career, beginning in 1978-79, his teams were 75-3 and culminated this successful run with a state championship in 1981. As a young man, I was in awe of Coach as a man first and certainly as a basketball coach. Watching him prepare for games and the intensity his teams played with made me realize how lucky I was to land in Napoleon, Ohio with my first job. My father was my high school coach so my two earliest mentors left an indelible mark on how I have tried to lead young men. In addition, I have always been impressed listening to Coach Church's former players speak of him and the love they had for him. I feel extremely blessed and fortunate to have known Coach Church. He will be missed but never forgotten.*

Bruce Smith

Bruce Smith - November 16, 2022 at 11:10 AM

TM

So sorry about Coach Church's passing. My condolences to his family. Take care Jim. Terri Manahan Murphy. '71

Terri Manahan Murphy - November 16, 2022 at 02:10 PM

DS

So sorry about the Coach Church's passing. My condolences. He influenced many young men during his life. He provided me an opportunity to play and enjoy the game of basketball.

Dave Saneholtz. '71

David E Saneholtz - November 17, 2022 at 01:56 PM

JS

So sorry to hear of Coach Church's passing. He was the most influential teacher and coach I ever had. A true gentleman and a tribute to himself, his family and his profession.

Jack Sohn 1963

Jack Sohn - November 19, 2022 at 09:47 AM