



Russell W. Patterson

April 20, 1928 - October 31, 2015

Russell William Patterson passed away peacefully on Reformation Day October 31, 2015. He was the son of Everett Hale Patterson and Edna Marie Bernicke Patterson.

He leaves to mourn his wife of 61 years Marlene Gerken Patterson and one son Daniel Russell. A son Samuel Jay preceded him in death in 2013.

He spent most of his lifetime in the retail drug store business. He began by helping his father mop the floors for fifty cents a day when he was in grade school. Russ attended and graduated from St. Paul Lutheran School here in Napoleon. He graduated from Napoleon High School in 1946. He was the annual photographer for Napoleon High School all four years. He developed his own prints having been taught by his father. Many evenings he could be found developing prints for the yearbook at the school late at night. He also worked after school for the Frank Schaff Drug Store during his high school days.

He received the Napoleon Schools Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame award in 2010 having been nominated by Mary Fran Meekison.

Upon graduating from Napoleon High School he and his buddy headed to California in a jalopy to find a job. While there they headed to the post office to send a postcard back home to let Mom know they had arrived; they were approached by a Marine Recruiter and both of the boys got hooked. They signed up and were shipped back across the country where they were enlisted at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. After the World War II ended

Russell took advantage of the GI Bill and graduated from Ohio Northern University and became a registered pharmacist. Russell was mentored by Frank Schaff during his college years. Upon the passing of Mr. Schaff, Russell owned and operated Napoleon Pharmacy at 719 N. Perry Street beginning in 1959. In 1968 he moved Napoleon Pharmacy to 705 N. Perry Street. He retired in 2005.

He had plenty of time then to pursue his love and devotion to history. He was a charter member of Henry County Historical Society, where he helped co-create 3 volumes of Henry County history. He had a vast collection of old photos of Napoleon and Henry County. He loved collecting old photos and would go to auctions to find them and eventually many people would give them to him. He also loved to give lectures to groups and organizations about the old days of Henry county and Napoleon and enjoyed gardening, planting trees, and feeding birds.

Russ was proud to be selected to detonate the dynamite blast that blew up the Maumee River Bridge. He could talk for hours on the early bridges of Napoleon and he would show the video of the explosion to anyone who stopped by his house.

He is responsible for the two State of Ohio Historical markers in Napoleon. One is placed at Ritter Park for Camp Latty and the other is at the City Building on State Route 424.

He was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon and Bert G. Taylor American Legion Post #300.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2015 at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Interment will follow at the church cemetery where military honors will be accorded by the Napoleon Joint Veteran Posts.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday from 2-8 p.m. at Rodenberger Funeral Home, Napoleon and Wednesday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are suggested to St. Paul Lutheran Church, St. Paul Lutheran Youth House, or Henry County Historical Society.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 3. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Napoleon Funeral Home
1010 Westmoreland Avenue
Napoleon, OH 43545
(419) 592-2333
help@rodenbergergray.com

Visitation

NOV 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul Lutheran Church
1075 Glenwood Ave.
Napoleon, OH 43545

Service

NOV 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul Lutheran Church
1075 Glenwood Ave.
Napoleon, OH 43545

Tribute Wall

KW

“ Russell Sold me the kinmont items from the Civil War from Dekalb County, Indiana which I will treasure always and preserve in his memory always! God Bless His Soul! Kenny Warstler Dekalb County, Indiana.

kenneth d. warstler - November 25, 2018 at 02:51 AM

RC

“ Russel was my dad's best friend in childhood (James W. Crawford). They maintained their friendship until his death in 2009, at least 70 years. I got to know Russ and his family on our frequent visits to Napoleon and always looked forward to seeing them all. He was a good man, may he rest in peace. My condolences to Marlene and Daniel.

Robert J. Crawford - November 04, 2015 at 06:54 AM

MH

“ Michael, Jill, Emma and Nate Holers purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Russell W. Patterson.



Michael, Jill, Emma and Nate Holers - November 03, 2015 at 08:12 PM

BE

“ Russell will be missed. We knew him by way of the drug store and membership in the Henry County Historical Society. It seemed he always had a smile on his face. If we wanted some historical information for our county, we knew who to call. Our sympathies and God's blessings be his family.

Bonnie & John Eddy

Bonnie & John Eddy - November 03, 2015 at 11:43 AM

JC

“ Judi Cotter sent a virtual gift in memory of Russell W. Patterson



Judi cotter - November 01, 2015 at 08:08 PM

KB

“ Katrina & Pamela Bruns lit a candle in memory of Russell W. Patterson



Katrina & Pamela Bruns - October 31, 2015 at 08:41 PM

GD

“ Genia Donley lit a candle in memory of Russell W. Patterson



genia donley - October 31, 2015 at 08:30 PM