



L. Basil Ferguson

October 15, 1921 - July 27, 2014

Mr. Lura "Basil" Ferguson, age 92, of Pierce City, MO died on Sunday, July 27, 2014, at Lacoba Homes Inc. in Monett, MO. Mr. Ferguson was born in Ritchey, MO on Saturday, October 15, 1921. He was the son of Pat and Leota (Callaway) Ferguson. Mr. Ferguson was married to Billee Marie Davis on Saturday, July 28, 1945. She preceded him in death on February 3, 1991.

Mr. Ferguson served his country, in the U.S. Army, during WW II in the 95th Infantry and was the recipient of the prestigious Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He was a member of Berwick Church and was a board member for many years with New Mac Electric, the Soil and Water Conservation, and Natural Resource Development Conservation. He spent most of his life farming in the Berwick Community.

Surviving are the following: two sons, Michael Ferguson and Patrick Ferguson, both of Pierce City, MO; five grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren. Mr. Ferguson was also preceded in death by one great-grandchild, Hope Jean Chapman.

The family will receive friends at Lakin Funeral Home in Pierce City, MO on Wednesday, July 30, 2014, from 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Funeral services will be held at the funeral home on Thursday, July 31, 2014, beginning at 10:30 AM with Pastor Mike Langford officiating. Burial will follow at Berwick Cemetery near Pierce City, MO with Military Rites.

Cemetery Details

Berwick Cemetery

Pierce City, MO

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 30. 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Lakin Funeral Home
501 N Elm St.
Pierce City, MO 65723
(417) 476-2626
lakinfuneral@suddenlink.net

Funeral Service

JUL 31. 10:30 AM (CT)

Lakin Funeral Home
501 N Elm St.
Pierce City, MO 65723
(417) 476-2626
lakinfuneral@suddenlink.net

Tribute Wall



“ *L. Basil Ferguson*

October 09, 2023 at 08:34 AM



“ *To the family of Mr. Ferguson. It was an honor to stand in the flag line and conduct an escort with the Patriot Guard Riders. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Gary Updike-Purdy, MO.

Gary Updike - July 31, 2014 at 03:06 PM

“ *Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
2004 Distinguished Service Award Nomination — Basil Ferguson*

As we celebrate 60 years of soil conservation in Missouri through Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), it is proper that we recognize an SWCD Supervisor who has been here from the beginning. Many different yardsticks, so to speak, can be used to determine who performed in an outstanding manner as a soil and water district supervisor. Each of us has different ideas. Two very important characteristics everyone would agree on are 1) dedication to the job they were elected to do and 2) consistency and dependability. Basil Ferguson meets these two characteristics 110 percent.

Basil has been in on the development of the soil and water program in southwest Missouri from the start. He has served as District Supervisor for 44 years and was instrumental in starting his soil and water district (SWCD). Basil has served as chairman of this district for many years. He helped start the Lost Creek Watershed project, the Hickory Creek project, and Southwest Missouri RC&D (Resource Conservation and Development) in 1966. Basil has served on the board for RC&D from the beginning and still serves to this day. Not only has he served on these boards for many, many years, he was always interested in what was being accomplished. To see that these boards carried out their mission, he attended countless board meetings (some going very late into the night), committee meetings, and conferences, volunteering his time and talents.

Many new projects have been started and completed during Basil's tenure. To list a few: Lost Creek Watershed Flood Control Project, a several million dollar project; Hickory Creek Watershed Flood Control Project, a 13 million dollar project; Construction of one of the first flood control dams in Southwest Missouri at Southwest City; Getting funding for and starting a soil survey in the county; Introduced improved Bermuda grass to Southwest Missouri; Two 319 projects, with monies of around 2 million dollars. These projects have had a great impact on the soil and water resources of southwest Missouri. Some of this work you cannot put a value on due to increased protection of lives and property. These are perfect examples of the need for consistency and dependability to see that a job gets done that cannot be accomplished over night.

Basil has attended numerous time-consuming meetings for the SWCD, Lost Creek Trustees, Hickory Creek, Southwest Missouri RC&D, and served as an Area Supervisor. Basil never turns down the opportunity to represent Newton County SWCD at a meeting or to go talk to someone about a program. This is a perfect example of his dedication to his job as a supervisor.

Basil believes part of his responsibility as a citizen is to show concern about his local community and act on it. He served on the NewMac Electric Cooperative Board for 21 years, which was critical to NewMac's growth and development. He also served on the Electric Cooperative's state board of directors. Basil serves in

his church and was proud to serve his country during World War II.

Basil Ferguson deserves the Distinguished Service Award. Anyone who has worked with Basil has seen his dedication, dependability, and consistency. He has been tireless in promoting soil and water activities that protect and improve our soil and water resources and improve rural agriculture communities through soil erosion prevention practices, water quality improvement, flood control, fire protection projects, and many other projects that allow people to have a better standard of living.

Rita Mueller - July 29, 2014 at 09:37 AM

“ *National Association of RC&D Councils Award
for Outstanding Performance by a Council Member*

This letter is in support of Basil Ferguson's nomination to receive the National Association of RC&D Councils Award for Outstanding Performance by a Council Member. Basil is known as an area leader serving as a Soil Water Conservation District Supervisor as well as community and area positions of leadership in the soil conservation and rural electric fields.

While I was Chairman of the Southwest Missouri RC&D Council I soon found that Basil could be counted on to be dedicated, consistent and dependable. Though he was one of the original members of the RC&D Council he was supportive of new ideas, willing to adapt to change and open to other's thoughts. The area that Southwest Missouri RC&D Council serves leads the Nation in poultry, beef, dairy and specialty crop production. At the same time it is experiencing rapid rural residential population growth and is one of Americas most sought after destinations for tourists. Basil's openness to and proven leadership in promoting demonstration programs including stream protection, rotational grazing, rural fire protection and urban lawn management has made a difference. In my work, as the Agriculture Agra-Business Specialist for Congressman Roy Blunt, I see first hand the results of his efforts.

A local agriculture producer, leader, veteran of World War II, and someone dedicated to serving others Basil is deserving of this award. It is my privilege to nominate Basil Ferguson for the National RC&D Outstanding Performance Award.

Thank you for every consideration.

*Don Lucietta
Lucietta Farms Inc.
199 E Hwy EE
Lamar, Missouri 64759*

“ Here are a few past award nominations that help tell more about Basil.

Basil Ferguson

Distinguished Service Award 2001

Southwest Missouri Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)

Southwest Missouri Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) honors Basil Ferguson for his distinguished service.

Basil helped start the Southwest Missouri Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council in 1966 and has served on its board since its beginning. In the last thirty plus years, Basil and the RC&D Council have worked with local people to plan and carry out activities that have improved the 15-county project area's and Missouri's economy, environment, and living standards.

In the past year, Basil has participated in the National Association of RC&D Councils Conference in Ogden, Utah, and the Southwestern States Association of RC&D Councils Conference in Odessa, Texas. Basil has served in a leadership role in planning, organizing, and participating in all Southwest Missouri RC&D Council projects. Projects in 2001 include the Elk River Water Quality Demonstration, Fire Consultant, Dry Hydrants, Lawn Care Field Day, Black Walnut Conference, Tree Planting--Riparian Corridors and Windbreaks, Grant Writing Training, Foundation Development Training, and becoming an Endowment Affiliate with the Community Foundation of the Ozarks.

Basil Ferguson has been a member of the Newton County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board since 1960, 41 years. Basil is currently the Chair of Newton County SWCD. While serving in all positions on the SWCD Board, Basil has given his time, his energy, and his talents to promote soil and water conservation in his county and all of Missouri. As a board member, Basil has given direction and supervision to the county for soil and water conservation activities.

As a Watershed Trustee Board member, Basil has overseen the request for assistance, planning, development, implementation, construction, and maintenance of two watershed projects in Newton County--Lost Creek Watershed and Hickory Creek Watershed. These watershed projects have saved lives and property.

Basil has attended numerous time-consuming meetings, representing Newton County SWCD, the Lost Creek Watershed Board, the Hickory Creek Watershed Board, and the Southwest Missouri RC&D Council. He is an extraordinary, dedicated volunteer.

Basil is an outstanding citizen and has always been active in his community. He served on the New-Mac Electric Cooperative Board for 21 years and also served

on the Electric Cooperative's state board of directors. Basil served in the army during World War II, surviving numerous battles in Germany to help protect the citizens of the United States.

Basil has been tireless promoting conservation activities in Southwest Missouri. We support Basil's efforts and his constant support of soil and water conservation in Missouri. Basil is wonderful to work with. He is sincere in his commitment to protect soil, water, lives, and property. We have the utmost respect for Basil. We are thankful to know Basil and be associated with him. Basil Ferguson greatly deserves appreciation for his distinguished service now and throughout the years.

Citation--In Appreciation for Your Tireless Efforts to Provide Leadership to the Southwest Missouri RC&D Council, the Newton County SWCD Board, the People of the Region, and the Resources they Represent.

Rita Mueller - July 29, 2014 at 09:30 AM

BQ

“ *My wife and I were his 'next door' neighbors for a few years. When we first met him, he treated us as family. There were many times I would stop by his house on my way home just to visit for a bit. It was always wonderful to spend time with him. The stories he would tell me of things around his and our house were always fun to listen to.*

Bob Q - July 29, 2014 at 05:15 AM

TK

Pat and Mike, I did not know your father very well, but I went all the way through school with both of you . I remember your mother was a "room mother" for our class and made beautifully decorated cupcakes as well as decorating Easter eggs with "clothing" etc. to make them look like little people. You have a fine family and I know you have many pleasant memories of Basil to reflect on and comfort you.

Tom and Yvonne (Overstreet) Kerr - July 30, 2014 at 12:51 PM

BB

It was my fortune to interact with Basil on numerous occasions attending Missouri RC&D activities. He was a wonderful man who served his country well both during war time and in his community. His dedication to a better community and our natural resources displayed for so long was rare. We will all miss Basil.

Bob Ball - July 30, 2014 at 05:15 PM