



Sonny

June 15, 1934 - April 15, 2024

Otto W. Ernst, known as Sonny Ernst, very beloved and loving Husband, Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather, passed away on Monday, April 15, 2024, at home in Monticello surrounded by his family. Sonny was the son of the late Otto and Esther Ernst of Liberty, and he was 89.

Sonny was a long-time member of the Sullivan County Conservation Club, the Sullivan County Federation of Sportsmen Club, a member of the Squirrel's Den hunting camp, the Southwoods Motocross Club, a former member of the Monticello Volunteer Ambulance Corp., and others. He had retired from Schmidt's Wholesale. Sonny was an avid hunter and sportsman and encouraged conservation.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 71 years: Lillian Messenger Ernst, at home; their children: Margaret (Peggy) Edwards of Monticello, Janie Ernst of Milton, DE, Sue Ernst Jahn of Monticello, and William Ernst of Katy, TX; his son-in-law: Thomas Edwards; nine grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; a sister: Joan Allison; and other family members.

Per his wishes, he will be cremated, and his ashes will be buried in the Messenger Cemetery in Monticello at a later date.

Memorial contributions can be made to the American Cancer Society www.cancer.org

Tribute Wall

L

Lori Messenger

Rest in piece Uncle Sonny. Give my love to all who have gone before you. We were blessed to grow up with our entire family around us. Supporting us, encouraging us and having fun. I'm thankful you were a part of my childhood. The many memories will always be cherished. Love you.

R

Randy

Uncle Sonny thank you for all you did for me - the memories from welding my bike when i was kid, being in the same hunting camp to putting up with me as a tenant. you were always there for me and I will miss you.

D

Danny Messenger

Uncle Sonny will be missed. Love and prayers for the family. Love Danny and Phyllis Messenger and our children and grandchildren

C

Cj MESSENGER

Will miss Uncle Sonny. He was always willing to lend a hand and help others.

L

Linda MESSENGER

Sonny was a great brother in law. He will be dearly missed. Love and prayers to the family.

S

Sue Ernst Jahn

Dad, I miss you each and every day; you were such a constant in my life. I would seek you out to run something that I was struggling with by you, because I always valued your opinion. I always tried to make you proud of me. You were a great dad and grandpa to my son. Thank you for being my dad, love you.

P

Peg Edwards

Dad, we've made so many memories over our life-time as a family together, it's hard to share just a few. I thank God you were my Dad and you will be in our hearts always. We love you and miss you, Dad, Grandpa, Poppy.



L

Lacey Gray

I remember when you used to take us on rides in your truck when we were kids, the truck bed full of day old bagels. You told us we were going to feed the deer! Once you drove to the perfect spot, we would throw the bagels all over the grass. And then we would start to see the deer come out and start eating. I thought it was so cool and fun. You always knew when and where the deer would come. I'll always remember those childhood memories. RIP Poppy 🙏🙏

J

Janie Ernst

Daddy, your passing has left such a vastly empty space in my heart and my life. You were such a positive influence and presence during my entire life. Strong and enduring... always there anytime I or my daughters needed you for anything. Dependable and loving ... you helped me but also showed me how to be self-sufficient. You are deeply loved and appreciated and missed immensely. I am blessed to have had you for my Dad. I love you and miss you so very much,, Janie



J

Jess G

I love you Poppy. Thank you for being the best grandfather I ever had and teaching me so much. Grateful you were able to see me beat cancer before cancer unfortunately won its battle with you. Keep a close eye over all of us and we will make sure to keep a close eye over Grammy. May you rest in peace and no longer be in pain -your granddaughter Jess



J

John S. Van Etten

I knew Sonny for most of my life, since I was a child. He went to school in Liberty with my mother, Rita Stewart Van Etten, and her fraternal twin brother, Richard Stewart. He occasionally hunted with my Uncle Richard when I was young. They were friends. I knew Sonny for many decades through the Sullivan County Conservation Club and the Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs of Sullivan County. He was a hard worker and always there to help out. He used to cook lunch for the kids whenever we held a Hunter Education Course. Sonny was a great guy and I will miss him. My condolences to all of the family, and especially to Lillian. John S. Van Etten

F

Funeral Home Owner

