



Lt. Colonel (Retired) Willard Eli Hardwick

December 25, 1926 - February 27, 2021

Lt. Colonel (Retired) Willard Eli Hardwick,

Willard Eli Hardwick was born December 25, 1926 to William Harvey and Lettie Fern Hardwick in Rushville, Indiana and grew up with seven siblings.

The family eventually relocated to El Reno, Oklahoma, where he attended and graduated from high school. After high school, Eli enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1944. Eli met and married the love of his life, "Maggie", Orena Madge Phillips, in November of 1946. They had a daughter, Deborah Kay; and a son, Gregory Alan.

Eli served in the Army Medical Corp. for 30 years, specializing in hospital administration. During this time, he earned degrees from Baylor, Texas A&M and Indiana University. He served in several locations including two overseas tours during the Vietnam War. After retiring from the military in 1975, he spent several years with the Indiana State Board of Health and Methodist Hospital Emergency Department.

Eli enjoyed fishing and being outdoors and was active with his son in the Boy Scouts. He was an avid reader and loved golf. Eli was also involved with Kiwanis (Castleton). Being an upstanding father and solid role model, he relished being with his grandchildren and later his great-grandchildren.

Eli is survived by his brothers, George and Thomas; sister, Janice; and several nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his daughter, Deborah; son, Greg and wife Cathy; his two beloved grandchildren, Michael and wife Jessica; and Kelly and husband Mark; and four beloved great-grandchildren,

Victoria, Lana, Eli and Hazel.

A service in his honor will be held Saturday, March 6, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. at Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton Chapel, 9900 Allisonville Rd. with visitation from 1:00 p.m. until the time of service. Graveside services will follow at Oaklawn Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to IU Health Hospice Methodist Health Foundation, 1800 N. Capitol Ave., P.O. Box 7168, Indianapolis, IN 46207; the American Heart Association; or the Humane Society of Indianapolis.

Cemetery Details

Oaklawn Memorial Gardens

9700 Allisonville Rd.
Indianapolis, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 6. 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton Chapel
9900 N. Allisonville Road
Fishers, IN 46038
(317) 841-7878
info@shirleybrothers.com
<https://www.shirleybrothers.com>

Funeral Service

MAR 6. 2:30 PM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton Chapel
9900 N. Allisonville Road
Fishers, IN 46038
(317) 841-7878
info@shirleybrothers.com
<https://www.shirleybrothers.com>

Tribute Wall

RN

“ From January of 1959 through February of 1962 I was stationed at Ireland Army Hospital (Thank East Germany and their Berlin Wall for the oddly long period). Then Capt. Hardwick, fresh out of the Indiana University's masters program in bacteriology, was Clinical Lab Officer there. That I have fond memories of that time is due in large part to his kindness and good nature. That he attained the rank of Lt Colonel is no doubt due to "the cream always rises".

Robert Netzlof

Robert Netzlof - April 16, 2021 at 01:47 PM

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*Thank you so very much for leaving a memory of my Dad.
Blessings
Deb*

Deborah Courtright (Hardwick) - February 13, 2022 at 09:18 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lt. Colonel (Retired) Willard Eli Hardwick.*



March 04, 2021 at 12:59 PM