



Raymond C. Garber

December 30, 1920 - August 8, 2015

Raymond Clinton Garber, age 94, of Versailles, passed away Saturday, August 8, 2015, peacefully at his home. He was born December 30, 1920, on his family's farm outside of Versailles, a son of the late Edwin and Elizabeth (Diener) Garber.

On February 1, 1942, at the Versailles United Methodist Church, he was united in marriage to Susanna Elizabeth (Aeschbacher) Garber, who preceded him in death on June 7, 2015. They shared seventy-three years together, which created a wonderful family legacy.

Ray graduated from Versailles High School in 1939. He later graduated from the University of Mortuary Science, Kansas City, Kansas in 1947. He served as a veteran of the United States Air Force to protect the ideals and freedoms held dear for his community and the country he loved. He retired as a First Lieutenant and was a flight engineer for various aircraft. With his wife Susanna by his side, Ray was stationed at Carswell AFB in Fort Worth, Texas, Nellis AFB in Las Vegas, Nevada and Walker AFB in Roswell, New Mexico.

Ray was a man of commitment. Besides his seventy-three year marriage and dedication to his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, he was a man who provided for his community. He was employed by and/or owned and operated Kidwell-Garber Funeral Homes, Kidwell Granite Works and Garber

Memorial Estates to serve the Versailles, Gravois Mills, Laurie and Sunrise Beach communities for a total of seventy years. After purchasing Kidwell Funeral Home in the 1970's, Ray built upon the legacy of his mentor, Bill Kidwell, by developing the Kidwell-Garber Laurie/Sunrise Beach Chapel and Garber Memorial Estates to provide a higher level of service to a larger part of the Lake area. In addition to the present Kidwell-Garber, Inc., Ray was previously the owner of an ambulance service, Wilbert Vault and Sedalia Monument Company.

Community and civic commitment were at the forefront of Raymond's priorities. He belonged to and led many organizations throughout the Versailles and Lake West area, as well as many organizations within the funeral profession. He was highly respected within his professional community for the expertise and service he provided. Ray, along with Susanna, was an unselfish, quiet benefactor in the lives of his family, as well as his community.

Faith was the basis upon which Ray built his life, his family and his business. He loved and supported both of his lifetime churches – Bethel Mennonite Church and the Versailles United Methodist Church. Evident in each endeavor he embarked upon, his quiet demeanor, driven spirit and friendly voice were anchored by his faith in God and the promises he held dear from his Savior. His family is forever grateful for the example set by Ray, as well as Susanna; the reassurance and quiet comfort that God would provide and be the steadfast constant.

With a strong work ethic and passion for his work at Kidwell-Garber, Ray never actually retired. However, he had a passion for travel and exploration. Along with Susanna, the couple drove to every state in the United States reachable by vehicle. Ray drove five roundtrips to Alaska, making the last when he was in his eighties. He rarely would be without Susanna, and truly enjoyed spending time with his sweetheart and the open road (and a new

vehicle for each trip).

Ray is survived by his children, Sue Akin and Gary Garber, both of Versailles; his grandchildren, Suzanne Hall and husband Corey of Versailles, Nathan Garber and wife Michelle of Versailles, Landon Akin of Osage Beach and Michael Garber and wife Shannon of Versailles; his great-grandchildren, Ila Garber, Ethan Garber, Landri Hall, Rose Garber, Matthew Garber and Pearl Garber all of Versailles; his brothers, Dennis Garber of Warrensburg, Missouri and Homer Garber and wife Twila of Versailles; his sisters, Ina McCormick of Bangor, Northern Ireland, Lena Alexander and husband Dick of Promise City, Iowa, Velma Reiss of Demorest, Georgia, Mary Gehman and husband Dan of Lewistown, Montana and Rosella Fulks of Latham, Missouri. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings, Robert Garber, Pauline Wulff, Ed Garber, Bill Garber, Norman Garber and Violet Garber, as well as his granddaughter, Meredith Garber and son-in-law, Larry Akin.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 12th, at the Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home in Versailles with Pastor Lora Cunningham and Pastor Dave Zapf officiating. Graveside services and entombment with full military honors will follow at the Garber Family Mausoleum in the Versailles Cemetery with Suzanne Hall, Nathan Garber, Landon Akin, Michael Garber, Brian Graber and Mark Graber serving as casketbearers. The family will receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, at the funeral home. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Versailles United Methodist Church or Bethel Mennonite Church.

Arrangements are under the direction of his family: Sue, Gary, Suzanne, Nathan, Landon and Michael at Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home of Versailles.

Cemetery Details

Versailles Cemetery

550 Clay Road
Versailles, MO 65084

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 11. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home - Versailles Chapel
207 North Monroe St.
Versailles, MO 65084
(573) 378-4655

Service

AUG 12. 11:00 AM (CT)

Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home - Versailles Chapel
207 North Monroe St.
Versailles, MO 65084
(573) 378-4655

Tribute Wall

BG

“ *Sending heartfelt sympathy to the Garber family. I am so sorry for your loss, and for loosing two precious loved ones in such a short time. For the past 25 years your family has helped my family get through many difficult times, the most recent, the loss of my mother two months ago, Suzanne was an angel.*

*Barbara Gatewood
Glenda Brown
Lorna Bybee*

Barbara J Gatewood - August 19, 2015 at 03:00 PM

BC

“ *To all of you --
He was a classic! Our family always appreciated his way with people in his profession; he struck that perfect balance between kind, professional, and unobtrusive, which he passed on to the rest of you. We'll be thinking of you as you adjust to life without him.*

Ken and Barbara Classen for the Eli Weaver family

Barbara Classen - August 18, 2015 at 09:06 AM

MD

“ *Mary Ellen Dunnaway lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber*



Mary Ellen Dunnaway - August 17, 2015 at 07:11 PM

VL

“ I remember Raymond as a pillar in the Versailles community. I'm sending my condolences to the family and all who knew him.
Valerie Larm

Valerie Larm - August 16, 2015 at 08:57 AM

BC

“ Raymond was very kind to our family. When our Grandfather passed away our brother had just entered the Air Force. He was told he couldn't come home for the funeral. Raymond knew our family history and told the service office what I Grandfather meant to our family and he did get to attend. Things like that made Raymond special to us. Your kindness since has been appreciated.



Beverly Chastain - August 15, 2015 at 01:16 PM

DS

“ Mr. Garber was a strong professional gentleman. Always with a smile and kind word. He did many people right in the Morgan County area and far beyond. His demeanor will be missed but never forgotten.

Dwane Stafford - August 15, 2015 at 12:46 PM

BK

“ I am grateful for the life of Mr. Garber. Thanks to his service and to the service of others in our armed forces, my family and I have been able to lead our lives in freedom and peace.

Bob in Overland Park, Kansas - August 15, 2015 at 09:12 AM

 Bob Long

“ So sorry for your loss. Raymond was a very good man.

Bob Long - August 14, 2015 at 06:48 PM

FF

“ To the Entire Garber Family..... So Sorry for your loss. Ray was such a special person, God will be so happy to have him home, Our Love and Our Prayers are with you all, F.W. and Binia Fageol (Lake Florist)

F.W. Fageol - August 13, 2015 at 06:11 PM

MK

“ I am so sorry to learn of the loss of your father, grandfather, and great grandfather. Raymond was a good man, so well respected and such a good community member. I appreciated his calm, comforting manner. He will be missed.

Margaret Williams Koppenaar

Margaret Williams Koppenaar - August 13, 2015 at 04:13 PM

TH

“ Tammy Hester lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber



Tammy Hester - August 13, 2015 at 01:38 PM

PC

I am so sorry to hear of Raymond's passing. I just found out today. He was a great man of Faith and integrity. I am praying for all the family. May God comfort and guide you all.

Paul Cofer - August 14, 2015 at 05:55 PM

GF

“ Thank you to all who have shared memories and lit candles in memory of our father, grandfather and great-grandfather. We are truly humbled by the support and love we have received from our friends and community. We are blessed to know Ray had such an impact on so many families and individuals.

Garber/Akin Family - August 12, 2015 at 10:38 PM

AW

“ During the years I spent growing up in Versailles, Raymond was a man who I respected and enjoyed knowing. My family & I always regarded Ray as one great individual. The loss of Ray will be felt throughout the area. He was one of a kind.

Nick White

Andrew White - August 12, 2015 at 06:26 PM

MG

“ Marleen Gerber-Baker lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber



Marleen Gerber-Baker - August 12, 2015 at 02:17 PM

NY

“ Landon & Family,
So sorry for your loss. Landon I know how close you were with your grandparents, I am very sorry.
Sincerely,
Nancy Yeager

Nancy Yeager - August 12, 2015 at 11:07 AM

LV

“ *Lois Vansell lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber*



Lois Vansell - August 12, 2015 at 08:42 AM

JU

“ *Many happy memories of the Garber reunions. I was with mom (Ina Garber) last week. Although she misses seeing her brothers, sisters, nephews and nieces, she still enjoys her phone conversations with each of you. Love to all the Garber/Akins. Jennifer Upton*

Jennifer Upton - August 12, 2015 at 12:49 AM

AR

“ *Raymond was such a kind man and he will be missed by all. Praying for the Garber family during this time. Everett & Angie Rayl & Carolyn Bennett*

Angie Rayl - August 11, 2015 at 08:39 PM

BB

“ *Many fond memories of seeing your father at district meetings and conventions throughout the years. So sorry to hear of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.*

Bill and Liz Bennett

Bill and Liz Bennett - August 11, 2015 at 08:05 PM

JV

“ Dear Gary and family,

Cathy and I are sorry for your loss, I know losing your dad is tough, just lost mine at the age of 93 a couple of months ago. Our prayers are with your family and you as you continue to serve others with loss in your community. The Garber name is well respected and has great legacy in funeral service.

*John Veach
MFDEA President*

John and Cathy Veach - August 11, 2015 at 05:45 PM

LA

“ To the Garber /Akin families:

Ray is reunited with your beautiful mother, Susanna. Their love story continues. They did so many wonderful acts of kindness for our community. Your parents will be fondly remembered. Our thoughts and prayer are with all of you. Warmest regards,

Helen Dye, Carla Walker Hunter, Brad & Lee Anne Brumm

Lee Anne - August 11, 2015 at 05:08 PM



WS

“ Willa Stafford lit a candle in memory of
Raymond C. Garber



Willa Stafford - August 11, 2015 at 03:08 PM

BR

“ So sorry to hear about Raymond. Know that you are all in our thoughts..

Brian Simmons & Staff

Brian - August 11, 2015 at 10:06 AM

TM

“ When we lose a loved one here on earth, we gain an angel in heaven who watches over us. May you take comfort in knowing that Ray is now watching over you. I extend my most sincere condolences to the Garber family.

I know that we never lose the people we love, even to death. They continue to participate in every act, thought and decision we make. Their love leaves an indelible imprint in our memories. We find comfort in knowing that our lives have been enriched by having shared their love.

*Todd Mahn,
Mahn Funeral Home*

Todd Mahn - August 11, 2015 at 09:15 AM

TC

“ He was always such a kind gentle man that will be missed by many.



Teresa M. Capps - August 11, 2015 at 08:41 AM

JD

“ *When, I always meet Raymond, I remember his smile, firm hand shake and always good conversation. He attended mortuary school with my father, Bill J. Dickey in 1947. I know he served his families with dignity, respect and honesty. I am proud to call him my friend. My condolences to his family.*

*Sincerely;
Jerald and Sonja Dickey
Dickey Funeral Homes, Inc.
Harrisonville, Missouri*

Jerald A. and Sonja Dickey - August 11, 2015 at 08:25 AM

KH

“ *Kathy And Terry Hedrick lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber*



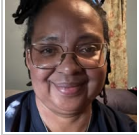
Kathy and Terry Hedrick - August 11, 2015 at 07:39 AM

MF

“ *Mancel & DeeDee And Family lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber*



Mancel & DeeDee and family - August 11, 2015 at 07:02 AM



“ *Amelia Moore lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber*



Amelia Moore - August 11, 2015 at 06:19 AM

TS

“ *Tony & Missy Stephens lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber*



Tony & Missy Stephens - August 11, 2015 at 06:17 AM

DB

“ *David Baumgartner lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber*



David Baumgartner - August 11, 2015 at 05:15 AM

RF

“ *Rita Bennett And Family lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber*



Rita Bennett and family - August 11, 2015 at 02:49 AM

CG

“ *Uncle Raymond you have reunited with Aunt Susanna. The two of you are an amazing couple. I will miss seeing that Garber smile and you asking me if Im staying out of trouble. Along with Aunt Susanna twisting my ear whenever she saw me.*



Carla K Garber - August 10, 2015 at 11:22 PM

KM

“ *Ken And Karen McCutcheon lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber*



Ken and Karen McCutcheon - August 10, 2015 at 07:51 PM

SH

“ *Our thoughts and Prayers are with your famiy. Raymond's brother Bob was our brother-in-law. We are in Wilmington, North Carolina. It has been such a short time since you lost Susanna, what a difficult time this must be for you all. We are praying for peace, strength and comfort for each one of you in the days ahead.*

*Dempsey and Sheryl Howard
Wilmington, North Carolina*

Sheryl Howard - August 10, 2015 at 04:55 PM

TR

“ *Tenessa Rehmer lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber*



Tenessa Rehmer - August 10, 2015 at 11:05 AM

TR

Prayers to the family for comfort.

Tenessa and Jeff Rehmer - August 10, 2015 at 11:06 AM

GD

“ *Gary And Judy Dunnaway lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber*



Gary and Judy Dunnaway - August 10, 2015 at 09:24 AM

SG

“ *Sue, Gary, your children, and your children's children you have our love and prayers. I'm sure Dad, Grandpa, and Great Grandpa will be sorely missed. May the example he set in life be one that we all to emulate in our own lives.*

Uncle Raymond was the oldest of 14 children God gave Ed & Elizabeth Garber. Dad was in the middle, of the 7 left on this earth it's Dennis, Ina, Homer, Lena, Velma, Mary, & Rosie. Praise God for Eternal Life through the shed blood of Jesus.

*Love,
Stan, Karen Garber & family*

Stan Garber - August 10, 2015 at 09:05 AM

WI

“ *Wilbert lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber*



Wilbert - August 10, 2015 at 08:32 AM

DM

“ *I want to extend my condolences in your families loss of a great man*

Diana Moore - August 10, 2015 at 08:08 AM

DM

“ *David And Gay Marriott lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber*



David and Gay Marriott - August 10, 2015 at 06:35 AM

PM

“ *Preston "Pepsi" Moore lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber*



Preston "Pepsi" Moore - August 09, 2015 at 08:32 PM

JB

“ Jackie Brown lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber



jackie Brown - August 09, 2015 at 07:21 PM

JB

As a child I can remember Mr Raymond he would always buy magazines and always helped out with school fund raisers..? He was a wonderful person a real icon . He helped our family through many loses.. He always had a smile on his face . A real gentleman of all time . Prayers going out to the family..

jackie Brown - August 09, 2015 at 07:35 PM

DM

“ You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Debbie and David Mccollom

David and Debbie McCollom - August 09, 2015 at 06:48 PM

JS

“ Joyce Mitchell/Ray Speckman lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber



Joyce Mitchell/Ray Speckman - August 09, 2015 at 04:19 PM

JM

Our sympathy to your family. Joyce Mitchell and Ray Speckman

Joyce Mitchell - August 09, 2015 at 04:21 PM

JG

“ Prayers for the Garber we will miss you Uncle Raymond but know that you're in a better place. From Jerry and Charlotte and Family



Jerry Garber - August 09, 2015 at 03:42 PM

LF

“ Laraine Forth lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber



Laraine Forth - August 09, 2015 at 02:26 PM

MB

“ Melvin & Linda Branch lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber



Melvin & Linda Branch - August 09, 2015 at 11:46 AM

DE

“ David & Ella Mae Evans lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber



David & Ella Mae Evans - August 09, 2015 at 10:51 AM

DE

A kind and gracious man. You will be missed here by many for your kind deeds here on earth.

David Evans - August 09, 2015 at 04:39 PM

SE

“ *Sonny & Karen Earnest lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber*



Sonny & Karen Earnest - August 09, 2015 at 10:24 AM

GD

“ *Gailya Dow lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber*



Gailya Dow - August 09, 2015 at 09:50 AM

JS

“ *Joan Shepp lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber*



Joan Shepp - August 09, 2015 at 09:09 AM

BK

“ *Bill, Joan & Julie Kidwell lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber*



Bill, Joan & Julie Kidwell - August 09, 2015 at 08:46 AM

BF

“ *Bob & Robin Ferguson lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber*



Bob & Robin Ferguson - August 09, 2015 at 03:21 AM

RF

“ *Ray & Patty Forrest lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber.*



Ray & Patty Forrest - August 09, 2015 at 12:30 AM

AS

“ *Al And Shirl Small lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber*



Al and Shirl Small - August 09, 2015 at 12:23 AM

CC

“ I'm in Tennessee with my mom and my heart is breaking with this news. Prayers and blessings to the Garber family for your loss.



Cheryl Chapman - August 08, 2015 at 11:29 PM

MM

“ Michele Miller lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber



Michele Miller - August 08, 2015 at 11:20 PM

Mitch Leeper

“ We will all miss him and his dedication to the community and all of his "Family" at Kidwell Garber and his neighborhood. God speed and bless him for eternity.



John and Ruth Leeper

Mitch Leeper - August 08, 2015 at 09:59 PM

LC

“ Lora Cunningham lit a candle in memory of Raymond C. Garber



Lora Cunningham - August 08, 2015 at 09:12 PM