

ARNOLD - Gary Joe Bassett, 70, died Dec. 2, 2003, at WaKeeney, Kan., as the result of an auto accident. He and his wife Shirley were traveling back from Texas, where they had spent Thanksgiving with their son Randall, and his family when they were hit by another car. He was born April 4, 1933, to Clarence and Verel McCandless Bassett at Pleasant Hill. He graduated from Arnold High School in 1951 and then attended Kearney State Teachers College. He served in the U.S. Army for two years, mostly in Korea. On Nov. 19, 1955, he married Shirley Ann Nansel at the Garfield Church. They farmed at Pleasant Hill for 12 years. Mr. Bassett accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior in 1966. In 1968, the couple joined New Tribes Mission. He was baptized that year at the New Tribes Mission Institute in Fredonia, Wis. When they completed the New Tribes' training, they served as dorm parents for seven years in Panama. He was also the field bookkeeper. In 1978, they returned to the United States and served on staff at the New Tribes Language Institute for 23 years. They retired in July 2001. They spent the past two years in their hometown of Arnold. He served as a deacon at First Baptist Church. He was a loving husband and wonderful father. He loved his Lord and enjoyed serving Him. His family will miss him but are so thankful they will see him again in heaven.

Surviving him is his wife; their six children, Trace (Mike) Jarvis of Portland, Ore., Randall (Diana) Bassett of Killeen, Texas, Ann Bassett (Joel) Emerson of Nashville, Tenn., Holly (Steve) Robertston of Kansas City, Kan., Eir (Holly) Bassett of Columbia, Mo., Russell Bassett of Newport News, Va., and grandchildrnn, Krista (Dean) Miller, Denae (Jonathan) Deward, Shavon, Ryan, Allen, Lauren, Callie, Brooke Bassett, and Justin, Travis, Preston and Nachary Robertson; and two stepbrothers, Dean (Galey) Chrisp of North Platte and Don (Ellen) Chrisp X Arnold.

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He was preceded in death by his parents; his stepfather, Alvie Chrisp; four stepbrothers, Emmett, Everett, Mervin and Glenn Chrisp; and a grandson, Ian Bassett.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that memorials be made to the First Baptist Church building fund of Arnold.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday with the Rev. Irving Jennings officiating. His family asks that his funeral be a celebration of the goodness of the Lord in and through his life.

Burial will be in the Arnold Cemetery, with military honors by the American Legion Post 130 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6157 of Arnold.

Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. today at the home at 200 E. Jackson Street in Arnold.

Arnold Funeral Home is in charge.