



Luther "Duke" Upchurch

August 6, 1935 - February 9, 2017

Luther "Duke" Upchurch, 81, of New Castle, passed away peacefully while surrounded by family and friends, at Reid Memorial Hospital in Richmond on February 9, 2017.

Duke was born on August 6, 1935, to Frank and Bessie Upchurch in Slick Ford, Kentucky.

Henry County residents remember Duke as an outgoing potato chip delivery man in his early years. Later, his passion for farming led him to become a successful farmer. His knowledge of agriculture, combined with his honesty and sincere desire to help others succeed led him to become an award-winning and respected Beck's Seed provider to farmers throughout the county and beyond.

Duke was a loving and generous man, loyal husband, father, grandfather, and mentor. His farming and business legacy continues today through Brandon King (wife Lindsay, and children) of Knightstown whom he has closely mentored for over 25 years.

Mr. Upchurch was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Arthur, Charlie, and Bill of New Castle; sister, Nadine Barr of Virginia, three infant brothers, and his former wife, Annetta Jean, who died in 1968.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Marilyn Upchurch; son, Jeff Shelton (wife: Susan) and daughter, Connie Patton (husband: Junior) both of New Castle, daughter, Becky Rowe (husband John) of Centerville, son, Dan Upchurch (wife Michelle) of Tulare, CA, and son, David Upchurch (husband: Scott Taylor) of Sun City Center, FL. He is also survived by a sister, Irene Conyers; two brothers, Clay and Gary Upchurch of New Castle, seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am Tuesday, February 14, 2017, at Sproles Family Funeral Home with Rev. Gene Bennett officiating. Burial will follow in South Mound Cemetery West Lawn Addition.

The family will receive friends from 4 - 8 pm Monday at the funeral home.

Memorial Contributions may be offered to the American Heart Association. You may send the family a personal condolence at www.sprolesfamilycares.com.

The Sproles family and staff are honored to serve the family of Luther "Duke" Upchurch.

Cemetery Details

South Mound Cemetery West Lawn Addition

950 South Memorial Dr.
New Castle, IN 47362

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 13. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Sproles Family Funeral Home
2400 S Memorial Dr
New Castle, IN 47362
(765) 521-2400
toms@sprolesfamilycares.com
<https://www.sprolesfamilycares.com/>

Service

FEB 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

Sproles Family Funeral Home
2400 S Memorial Dr
New Castle, IN 47362
(765) 521-2400
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Tribute Wall

PD

“ *Pattie Dowden lit a candle in memory of Luther "Duke" Upchurch*



Pattie Dowden - February 17, 2017 at 03:48 PM

DP

“ *So many special memories to share so I will just share a few. He knew everything that was happening on W St Rd 38. Dad was in Florida. I was in New Castle. Dad called me and asked why my Camaro was stuck in the snow by the barn? Yes, Duke had called dad and told him. They had a good laugh about that. Or there was the time I needed a new septic tank. Brando was running the machinery in a cold rain while Duke and dad supervised from inside the warm, dry truck. Duke always had a smile. Marilyn and family, prayers are with you.*

Diana Upchurch Pyle - February 13, 2017 at 07:25 PM

ST

“ *"Duke" Upchurch was a great man, respected and loved by many. He will be missed.*

Scott Taylor - February 13, 2017 at 07:08 PM

SH

“ Sabrina Holmes lit a candle in memory of Luther "Duke" Upchurch



Sabrina Holmes - February 13, 2017 at 06:08 PM

KC

“ Kristi Conley lit a candle in memory of Luther "Duke" Upchurch



Kristi Conley - February 13, 2017 at 06:03 PM

CB

“ Cindy Blackburn lit a candle in memory of Luther "Duke" Upchurch



Cindy blackburn - February 13, 2017 at 03:45 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Luther "Duke" Upchurch.



February 13, 2017 at 02:40 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Luther "Duke" Upchurch.*



February 13, 2017 at 09:32 AM



“ *What a neat guy! I will always remember Duke rounding up my skinny behind in Greensboro...to go bail hay!!*

Thoughts with all of the Upchurch family.

paul wallace - February 13, 2017 at 07:43 AM



“ *117 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Sproles Family Funeral Home - February 13, 2017 at 12:23 AM

SU

“ Sara Belle Upchurch lit a candle in memory of Luther "Duke" Upchurch



Sara Belle Upchurch - February 12, 2017 at 05:16 PM

PG

“ To the family of Duke Upchurch,

Mr. Upchurch, (he did not like me to call him that ! He would always say I',m Just Duke, Mr. Upchurch was my dad); farmed my family farm. He and my parents were close friends. He would plow the snow from their driveway, plow the garden for dad and as dad aged he would just check on them often.

I have not seen Mr. Upchurch, in quite sometime, but he was still very active and his funny friendly self the last time we talked..

My thoughts and prays go to each of you. I know he will be missed by not only family, but many in the community of Greensboro. On behalf of my parents, that have long ago gone on to be with the Lord, I want to comfort you in knowing your husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather was a great person.

God Bless You,

Pamela Kaye Gabbard (Pamela Reynolds)

Pamela Gabbard - February 12, 2017 at 03:52 PM

FH

“ *From All of Us At Beck's Hybrids. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Luther "Duke" Upchurch.*



From All of Us At Beck's Hybrids. - February 12, 2017 at 03:45 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Luther "Duke" Upchurch.*



February 11, 2017 at 08:18 PM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of Luther "Duke" Upchurch.*



February 11, 2017 at 03:00 PM

SC

“ *So sorry for your loss Connie. May peace be with you.
Samilla Hagee Catron*

Samilla Catron - February 11, 2017 at 12:54 PM

JF

“ So sorry for your loss. We have known Duke for several years. He was an extremely friendly man who always had a smile on his face.
Dale and Joyce French

JOYCE FRENCH - February 11, 2017 at 10:29 AM

SS

“ You will always be in my heart Duke. What a loving wonderful man and husband to Marilyn you were. We will miss you dearly.

susan smith - February 11, 2017 at 10:09 AM

SS

“ Susan Smith lit a candle in memory of Luther "Duke" Upchurch



susan smith - February 11, 2017 at 10:06 AM

CG

“ Carol Gregory lit a candle in memory of Luther "Duke" Upchurch



Carol Gregory - February 10, 2017 at 11:55 PM

TB

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. We are so sorry for your loss. May you feel the loving arms of God's comfort through the days to follow and have wonderful memories to warm you.

Tom & Phyllis Bimat - February 10, 2017 at 10:03 PM

PW

“ *Hamburger with a slice of (tamata) and throw some mustard on there and bring me a bag of regular frito lay chips....That will forever be my favorite order. I miss ya Duke.*

Phil Wright

PHIL WRIGHT - February 10, 2017 at 09:15 PM

JS

Or a ham and cheese sandwich with mustard cut in half.

Jeff Shelton - February 11, 2017 at 11:03 AM

JM

“ *Jeff & Lisa Miller lit a candle in memory of Luther "Duke" Upchurch*



Jeff & Lisa Miller - February 10, 2017 at 07:11 PM

LH

“ *Thoughts and prayers are with you all during this time....*

Lois Herbert - February 10, 2017 at 06:05 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Luther "Duke" Upchurch.*



February 10, 2017 at 02:43 PM