

Gerald William Gilkey, age 83, of Lamar, Missouri passed away Thursday, September 29, 2005 at Barton County Memorial Hospital. Gerald was born on April 14, 1922 to Ray Edwin and Lizzie Ellen (Gordon) Gilkey in Sheldon, Missouri. Gerald graduated from Sheldon High School in 1939 to attend Kansas State Teachers College (Pittsburg, KS). Gerald married Betty Jo Medlin on June 18, 1942. Gerald was Tech Sergeant of the 11th U.S. Army Air Corps 1942-1945. After proudly serving his country in WWII, Gerald returned to own and operate a Marshall Auto Parts Store in Sheldon, Missouri. December 2, 1946, Stephen Ray was born to Gerald and Betty. Gerald and his family moved to Ft. Scott, Kansas to work with Betty's brothers Jewell & Gerald Medlin at their Oldsmobile dealership. In 1950, Gerald and his family moved to Lamar, Missouri to join the Medlin Ford agency. In 1961, Gerald purchased a Gathman Chevrolet, later adding Oldsmobile, Buick, and Pontiac. In 1984, in partnership with his son Steve, they became the first GM / Ford dealership combination in the United States. Gerald was an active member of the Lamar City Council as a Councilman 1959-1965 and Mayor 1965-2001. Next to his family & church, he loved the City of Lamar and its people. Through the efforts of Gerald and the city council, national claim was brought to Lamar when as a Christmas gift in 1982 & 1986, the citizens of Lamar received a free month of city utilities. His many other accomplishments include:

- 1990: Lamar Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year
- 1991: Outstanding Community Service Award
- 1994: Lamar Rotarian of the Year & Paul Harris Fellow
- 2001: Distinguished Service Award (Missouri Municipal League)
- 2004: Outstanding Missourian presented by the Missouri House of Representatives

During his years as Mayor, Lamar saw the completion of the Lamar Water Plant, Marion Thebeaud Auditorium, and Lamar Aquatic Park.

Gerald was a member of the following organizations:

- Charter Member of Ozark Gateway Regulatory Planning Meeting
- Board Member U.S. Highway 71 Corridor Coalition
- Missouri Municipal League Board of Director
- Jasper County Conclave
- Past President Lamar Rotary
- Member Lamar Fair Board
- Board Member, Barton County State Bank
- Lamar Masonic Lodge #292 A.F.A.M., Valley of Joplin Scottish Rite
- Abou Ben Adhem Shrine Mosque

- Member & Greeter, First Christian Church

Gerald is survived by his wife Betty Jo (Medlin) Gilkey, son Steve Gilkey, daughter-in-law Nancy Gilkey, niece Sherry Eshom, grandson John Gilkey (wife Abby), granddaughters Courtney Gardner (husband Jeff) and Katie Young (husband Daniel), great grandchildren Jordin Colton, Emily Jeffries, Hannah Jeffries, Jack Gilkey, William Jeffries, Hattie Gilkey, and Carter Young.

He was preceded in death by his parents Ray and Lizzie and brother, Paul Edwin Gilkey.



IN MEMORY OF
Gerald W. Gilkey

April 14, 1922 September 29, 2005

FUNERAL SERVICE

3:00 p.m. Monday, October 3, 2005

First Christian Church

OFFICIATING

Doug Oakes, Minister

EULOGY

John Gilkey
Jim Allen
Ron Hager

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

"If You Could See Me Now" - Mike Gage, Vocalist
"Home Free" - Karen Oakes, Vocalist
Jacque Gage, Organist

PALIBEARERS

Ron Tucker Bob Slinker Mike Jones Jim O'Neal Ted Reavley
Edwin Moore Keith Divine Bill Rawlings Jack Purinton Joe Purinton

HONORARY PALIBEARERS

Lynn Calton Jim Novak John Wagaman Jr. Dr. Judd Chestnut
J.T. Brown Jim Allen Kenny Howard Mark Cooper Chuck Vaughan
Frank Davis Edison Kaderly Ron Hager Darrell Robertson Bill McKay
Donald Klein Bill Gardner Dalton Harris John Gardner Bud Stlabower

AT REST

Lake Cemetery