

James Dewey Bennett, 90, of Red House passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at his residence. He was the devoted husband of Barbara Scott Bennett for 66 years.

Born on April 11, 1933, in Campbell County, he was the son of the late Paul Dewey Bennett and Hannah Baldwin Jennings Bennett. He was an active member of Providence Baptist Church. James proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army. James was honorably discharged from the service in 1957, one month early to get home in time for planting. Upon his return, he married his childhood sweetheart, Barbara.

Over a 60-year career in the beef seedstock cattle industry, James was a performance pioneer, master breeder, industry leader and consummate gentleman. His influence in the industry had a positive impact locally, statewide, nationally, and internationally. James led a life of honor and service, serving as a role model for young and old. His thoughtful, steady, and respectful leadership style shepherded numerous organizations through both good and difficult times.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by five children, Elizabeth B. Holthaus and husband, Lowrey of Richmond; Paul S. Bennett and wife, Tracy; James G. Bennett and wife, Annette; Brian R. Bennett and wife, Cara; and Jonathan H. Bennett and wife, Melissa, all of Red House; ten grandchildren, Scott Bennett and wife, Sarah; Hunter Holthaus and wife, Brandi; Dalton Bennett and wife, Monica; Sarah Grigg and husband, Matt; Olivia Fanney and husband, Dylan; Leighanne Saunders and husband, Andrew; Anne Bennett Kemp and husband, Richard; Meredith Bennett and fiancé, Cory Wingo; Audrey Bennett, and Hannah Bennett; five great-grandchildren, Kennedy Ann Bennett, Hadley Mae Bennett, Eller Grey Saunders, Brooks Bennett Holthaus, and Mallorie James Fanney, and four expectant great-grandchildren coming spring/summer 2024; one sister, Mae Bennett Guthrie of Harrisonburg; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by an infant son, James Dewey Bennett, Jr.; and a brother Ralph Jennings Bennett.

A funeral service will be held 2pm, Sunday, January 28, 2024, at Providence Baptist Church with Pastor Mike McDowell and Pastor Anthony Reeves officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

The family will receive friends 4-6 pm Saturday, January 27 at Providence Baptist Church, and other times at the residence.

In lieu of flowers the family has requested that friends honor James' memory by making contributions to the Hereford Youth Foundation of America, <u>11500 N. Ambassador</u> <u>Drive, Suite 410, Kansas City, MO 64153</u>, or the Angus Foundation, <u>3201 Frederick</u> <u>Avenue, St. Joseph, MO 64506</u>.

Robinson Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the family. An online condolence may be sent by visiting www.robinsonfuneral.com.