

Grand Chapter of New Mexico

Order of the Eastern Star

IN MEMORIAM

Ben F. Kerr

Worthy Grand Patron

1979-1980

Bennie Fay Kerr, 89, of Dexter New Mexico passed away peacefully in his home surrounded by his loved ones Wednesday February 1, 2017.

Ben was born and raised on the family farm in Dexter. He received his basic education in the Dexter Public Schools where he excelled as an athlete. A four-year letterman in the only sports offered; basketball and track, he was twice selected a member of the All-District basketball team and during both his junior and senior years was crowned the state pantheon champion of the New Mexico High School Athletic Association. Several of the records he set remain.

Following his graduation from Dexter High School in 1946, Ben attended New Mexico State University where he received his B.S. degree in General Agriculture. Shortly after his graduation in August, 1950, he was inducted into the U. S. Army at Ft. Bliss, Texas. He served as a combat engineer in the Fourth Infantry Division, both at Ft. Benning, GA and Hanau, Germany. Due to the untimely death of his older brother, Bill, Ben was honorably discharged from the army as a Master Sergeant in 1952 and returned to Dexter to assist his father on the family farm. While in the army, Ben married his childhood sweet heart, Lieta Colleen Pirtle, (affectionately known as Sugar Babe) on March 22, 1951 in Raton, NM.

Ben, a second generation member, was a 5-time Master of Felix Lodge #29 and a member of Roswell Lodge #18. In 1965, Ben was initiated into Harmony Chapter #17 in Hagerman. He was Past Patron of Harmony Chapter #17 and Roswell Chapter #10, Order of the Eastern Star.

Ben served with Dixye Jeanne Johnson during the Showers of Blessing 78th Grand Chapter Session in 1980.

He is survived by his wife Colleen. Daughters Owaissa and husband Mike Fallwell, Kandy and Husband Carlton Bell and granddaughter Megan. Daughter Sally Kerr, grandson Jason, granddaughters Carlyn and Erica and 9 great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were held at the Hageman Cemetery Saturday, February 4, 2017 at 10:00 am.

In remembrance of Brother Ben F. Kerr, we ask that this memorial be read at each subordinate chapter in New Mexico and the Altar draped in his memory.

NanC Krass
Worthy Grand Matron

Debbie Davis
Grand Secretary

D. J. "Jim" Davis
Worthy Grand Patron