

Russell E. Buckley

May 21, 2020



Russell E. Buckley went to meet Jesus, his Savior, peacefully on Tuesday, May 12th, 2020 at the age of 92 in Crescent City. He was a resident of Crescent City for 67 years. Russell was born to Waddie and Edna Buckley in Mississippi.

Russell is remembered as being a caring husband and father and witness for God. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Blanche Buckley, two sons, Mark Buckley (Kathy) and Andrew Buckley. Three grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by his parents, two brothers and three sisters.

He faithfully attended First Baptist Church of Crescent City for 67 years where he taught Sunday School and held a variety of offices while he served the Lord. Sharing his faith in Jesus was an important part of Russell's life, especially in his later years. He would take any opportunity to remind people that "eternity is a real long time, so you better be ready for it." Russell was committed to telling people that "believing in God isn't enough, you need to ask Jesus to be your Savior."

Russell proudly served his country in the Navy and Army. He first enlisted in the Navy and served from October 1945 to October 1947. Russell's first assignment was aboard the Navy Ship, USS Larson, he arrived in Japan soon after the end of WWII. They went to Hiroshima to witness the complete devastation after the Atomic Bombs were dropped. He then went to the Japanese Submarine Base at the port of Sassebo, Japan, where his fleet participated in the destruction of 24 captured Japanese submarines.

Russell then enlisted in the Army, serving from October 1950 to October 1953. The Korean Conflict was ongoing so he was first sent to the 11th Combat Engineers in South Korea at the front. When he arrived, to his surprise, he was assigned to the same unit as his brother, Winfred "Red" Buckley, whom he found in the chow line. He and Red worked together running heavy equipment, building roads, bridges, and air strips for the next 6 months. In 1952 Russell was shipped to camp Sakai near Osaka, Japan; he was a Heavy Equipment Sergeant and had 28 Japanese working under him for about 4 months. Russell then requested to be returned to the still ongoing Korean Conflict, just 3 days later he was sent to Pusan, South Korea and was assigned to the 434th Construction Engineers, while there he was promoted to Sgt. 1st Class.

Russell was a shareholder at Standard Veneer and Timber Co. for 9 years. In 1963 he purchased Crescent City Shoe Repair and learned the shoe repair trade where he and Blanche worked side by side for 14 years building their business. Over the next 16 years they worked together in several different ventures and businesses.

After retirement Russell would spend hours in his shop on wood working projects, building miniature churches and houses for which he received multiple awards at the fair.

Pastor Blake Inscore of First Baptist Church will officiate the private graveside service at a later date.

Arrangements are under the direction of Wier's Mortuary Chapel. Please sign the family's online guest book at wiersmortuary.com