

December 9, 2008

Willard Kessel



Willard Kessel, 98, of Ripley passed away Sunday, December 7, 2008, at Jackson General Hospital.

He was born January 22, 1910, in Ripley and was a son of the late W.L. and Cora Woodall Kessel.

On June 5, 1937, he was married to his wife of 71 years, Rayme Morrison, in Ashland, Ky. He graduated from Marshall University with bachelor's and master's degrees in education. He was principal at Ripley Elementary School, where he retired with 40 years of experience. He also was a veteran of World War II and received an honorable discharge as the rank of corporal. He was a member of Calvary United Methodist Church, the Rotary and American Legion Post 197, retired from Ripley Volunteer Fire Dept, and was a member of WVEA Teachers Association and the Principals Association. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and woodworking.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three sisters and three brothers.

He is survived by his wife, Rayme; a daughter Ann (Don) McNew of Atlanta, Ga.; four grandchildren, Michael (Nan), Mark (Christy), Kathy (Scott) and Dough (Harlan); along with six great grandchildren, Madison, Matthew, Gracie, Tyler, Sydney and Avery, all of Atlanta, Ga.

Service will be 11 a.m. Thursday, December 11, at Calvary United Methodist Church, Ripley, with the Rev. Charles Hicks officiating. Burial will follow in the Pine Hill Cemetery, Ripley.

Friends may call from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Vail Funeral Home, Ripley.

Parsons-Waybright and Vail Funeral Homes will be serving the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Calvary United Methodist Church.