



Cecil Pruiett

May 21, 1950 - April 2, 2024

Cecil Pruiett, 73, of Oskaloosa, passed away on April 2, 2024, at the Mahaska Health Hospice Serenity House.

Cecil LeRoy Pruiett, son of Cecil and Mabel (Mason) Pruiett, was born May 21, 1950, in Carrollton, Illinois. Throughout his youth, the family lived in Walkersville, Hillview, and Whitehall, all communities in Greene County, Illinois. He served two tours in Vietnam. He served as a Point man with the 1st Air Calvary. On a New Year's Day patrol in 1970, he was injured by shrapnel in his legs, arms, and back. He spent six months in the hospital recovering from his wounds. After his discharge on March 1, 1972, he enlisted in the Iowa Army National Guard and served ten more years. Cecil received the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star with V Device, a recognition of Valor, and the Air Medal for 25 or more combat assaults in a helicopter.

After his discharge, Cecil and his family moved to Chariton, Iowa, and began working as a paint crew foreman for Johnson Machine Works. After 12 years with Johnson's, Cecil took a position in housekeeping at the VA Hospital in Knoxville. He worked at the VA for 23 years, retiring in 2005. Cecil eventually moved to Knoxville, and after his retirement, he moved to Oskaloosa. After his move, he met the love of his life, Mary (Van Steenis) Mateer, and they were united in marriage on May 21, 2006.

Since moving to Oskaloosa, Cecil has been a member of Central Church and a Lifetime member of the VFW. In his spare time, he enjoyed building with steel and wood, welding, painting, and working on cars. He also volunteered

at Oskaloosa Care Nursing Center for ten years. Cecil was also known for maintaining a meticulously beautiful yard.

His family includes his wife, Mary of Oskaloosa; his children: Cecil LeRoy Jr. (Tisha) Pruiett of Corydon, Iowa, Dean Owen (Karie) Pruiett of Gulfport, Mississippi, and Jennifer (Jason) Selby; ten grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; step-children: Kenny (Penny) Linville, and Jeffery Linville, both of Oskaloosa; and several step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren. He is also survived by eight siblings: Wayne (Angela) Pruiett of Missouri, George (Martha) Pruiett of Illinois, Sheila (Vern) Hall of Michigan, Mabel Coulson of Missouri, Ava (Danny) Davidson of Illinois, Stacey (Tim) Kunkel of New Jersey, Olieta (Darrel) Davidson of Illinois, and Annette (Dan) McFarlane of Illinois.

In addition to his parents, Cecil was preceded in death by a brother, Ron, and 11 half-brothers and half-sisters.

Services for Cecil will be held Friday, April 5, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. at Central Church in Oskaloosa, with Reverend Jon Nelson officiating. Visitation will be held on Thursday, beginning at 10:00 a.m., with the family present to greet friends from 4-6 p.m. Interment will take place at Forest Cemetery with Military Honors presented by the Oskaloosa Honor Guard. Memorial contributions may be made to Wounded Warriors or Central Church.

Cemetery Details

Forest Cemetery

934 North 9th ST
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
secretary@forestcemetery.com
<http://www.forestcemetery.org/>

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 4. 10:00 AM (CT)

Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory
2116 N 3rd St
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
(641) 672-2181
langkampfuneralchapel@gmail.com
<https://www.langkampfuneralchapel.com>

Family will be present to greet friends from 4-6 p.m.

Service

APR 5. 10:30 AM (CT)

Central Church
815 2nd Ave. East
Oskaloosa, IA 52577

Burial

APR 5. 12:00 PM (CT)

Forest Cemetery
934 North 9th ST
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
secretary@forestcemetery.com
<http://www.forestcemetery.org/>

Military Honors will be presented by the Oskaloosa Honor Guard.

Tribute Wall



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Cecil Pruiett.



April 04, 2024 at 12:36 PM



“ Tina and Darrell clark planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Cecil Pruiett.

Tina and Darrell clark - April 04, 2024 at 12:36 PM



“ I got to know Cecil as a fellow volunteer at Oskaloosa Care Center. He was a very special man who was loved by everyone who had the privilege of knowing him. He went above and beyond for all. He even came in and helped with our Bible story group and as Amy said made the best popcorn! He has been and will be greatly missed.

Diana Fryer - April 03, 2024 at 02:54 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Cecil Pruiett.



April 03, 2024 at 01:39 PM

TG

“ *The Bos A-team and Grayson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Cecil Pruiett.*

The Bos A-team and Grayson - April 03, 2024 at 01:39 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Cecil Pruiett.*



April 03, 2024 at 11:47 AM

TJ

“ *Terry and Tammy Jellison purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Cecil Pruiett.*



Terry and Tammy Jellison - April 02, 2024 at 06:55 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Cecil Pruiett.*



April 02, 2024 at 06:41 PM

BW

“ Brad and Tori Willey planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Cecil Pruiett.

Brad and Tori Willey - April 02, 2024 at 06:41 PM

CS

“ Chad, Chrystal & Samantha purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Cecil Pruiett.



Chad, Chrystal & Samantha - April 02, 2024 at 05:48 PM

MG

“ I'm sending my hugs and love to Mary. Cecil was such a blessing to my Bill with his many visits with Bill. Heaven has gained a GREAT person. <3

Mary Greenhalgh - April 02, 2024 at 03:50 PM

DD

“ Mary I'm sorry for your loss no more suffering praying for you



Debra DeWitt - April 02, 2024 at 01:47 PM

AR

“ My heart is broken to read the news of Cecil’s passing. I was the Activity Director at Oskaloosa Care Center and had the pleasure of calling Cecil my friend for years. He made such an impact on the lives of all he touched especially our Veterans and made sure to spend countless hours visiting one on one, sharing a glass of pop/ bowl of popcorn (he made the best) or building things with them. To hear Cecil speak of his family and love of his life Mary with utmost pride, just attested to the type of man he was. Although it saddens me that the world has lost such an amazing man, I know he has a special place in heaven. Save your old friend a bowl of popcorn... til we meet again. ~ Amy Robinson

Amy Robinson - April 02, 2024 at 01:37 PM