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Obit - Bill Ridgeway

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Bill Ridgeway

CHARLESTON — Bill T. Ridgeway, 87, of Charleston, passed away at

2:15 a.m. Saturday, November 7, 2015 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana.

Bill was born December 23, 1927 at Columbia, Missouri, son of William Harrison and Fannie Bell

(Nichols) Ridgeway. He married Leta Mae Baker, March 24, 1951 at Lawrence, Kansas. She preceded him into Heaven, December 10, 2004. He left



B. Ridgeway

as his legacy one son: Mark Baker Ridgeway of Charleston; daughters: Myra E. Chesser and Beth A. Ridgeway, both of Charleston; grandchildren: Rebecca L. Stewart, Jennifer D. Ridgeway, Albert D. Chesser III, and Leta M. Chesser; great-grandchildren: Kyndal Chapman, Kelley Stewart, Elijah Barnett, Elisha Barnett, Ezekiel Barnett, Alexis Chesser, and Alivia Chesser; and great-great-grandchildren: Calla Chapman and Jaxon Chapman. In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his parents, one sister: Mary Elizabeth Herndon, and a beloved aunt: Rebecca K. Gibbs. His son, Mark Baker Ridgeway, passed away at 12:28 p.m. Saturday, November 7, 2015 at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center.

Bill was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II. He received his A.B. Degree from Friends University in 1952, his M.S. Degree from Wichita State University in 1958, and his PhD from the University of Missouri in 1966. Bill was a devout and active member of Trinity Episcopal Church, having served as Senior Warden, as well as serving on many Diocesan and Parish Committees. He retired from Eastern Illinois University as a Professor of Life Sciences. He was a member and Past President of the Charleston Rotary Club and a life member of Alpha Phi Fraternity. In addition to Bill's dedication to his church and community, he was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and

great-great-grandfather.

Memorials in his honor may be made to the Rotary Foundation or Glaucoma Research Foundation (www.glaucoma.org)

The joint memorial service for Bill and his son Mark will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, November 14, 2015 at the Harper-Swickard Funeral Home with Father Jeff Kozuszek officiating. Inurnment with military rites by Paul McVey V.F.W. Post #1592 will follow in Roselawn Cemetery, Charleston. Visitation will be Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the funeral home.

To leave condolences online, visit www.jg-tc.com, click on obituaries, select the individual's name and click on "View Signatures."