



Mr. Grover Leon Blagg

January 16, 1946 - August 26, 2022

Grover Leon Blagg passed away Friday, August 26, 2022, at his home in Willow Springs, MO. He was born on January 16, 1946, to Walter Blagg and Doris Inez (Notter) Blagg. He was the fourth of seven children. He was born in a house that sat on a sand knoll on the family cotton farm just north of Neelyville, MO. The house had neither electricity nor running water. A lot of rain had fallen sending Cane Creek and Little Black River from their banks requiring that his dad bring the doctor to the house on a tractor.

He began picking cotton at the age of six and chopping cotton at the age of ten. He found great pleasure in the hard work of chopping and picking cotton. He attended the one room school of McIntush until the fourth grade, at which time, McIntush consolidated with Neelyville. He graduated from Neelyville High School in 1964. In the spring of that year, he was able to chop cotton for two weeks before he left for college. He left the cotton fields for the School of the Ozarks with only \$50.00. He received an Associate of Science degree from the School of the Ozarks. He then transferred to Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, AR where he received the degrees of Bachelor of Science, Master of Business Administration, and Specialist in Community College Teaching. He started teaching high school in Pacific, MO, but after one semester, he joined the Navy. While in the U.S. Navy, he served with a heavy attack bomber squadron and onboard a destroyer. He always wore the uniform of American Sailor with great pride.

Mr. Blagg started teaching in Willow Springs, MO in August of 1973 and remained there until 2008, thirty-five years. After retirement, he continued to substitute in Willow Springs High School and middle school for a total of forty-four years of teaching at Willow Springs. Mr. Blagg always had a great appreciation and fondness for the students and found them to be most entertaining. He was obsessed with the idea that all students should learn the fine art of touch typing, and to that end, he devoted his professional life. He had a great dedication to his students and used only two sick days during his teaching career. He also taught night classes at Missouri State University in West Plains for twenty-one years.

For Mr. Blagg, his family was always his first priority in life. He married Beverly Besera October 14, 1988, in Willow Springs. He wanted to live long enough to get his four children through college without any debt, which he did. Mr. Blagg was an avid reader and appreciator of books all of his life. He enjoyed antiques, carpentry, and was a great gatherer of rocks. Many times, during his life he even fancied himself a writer, but he always had to self-publish his books.

He was preceded in death by his parents; four brothers: Danny Wade Blagg, Walter Clay Blagg, Franklin Cole Blagg, and Herbert Lynn Blagg; and one sister, Mona Alvern Blagg Smith.

Mr. Blagg is survived by his wife, Beverly Blagg of the home; four children: Master Gunnery Sergeant Walter James Blagg (Alicia) of the U.S. Marine Corps; Tye Olliver Blagg (Melissa) of West Plains; Owen Leon Blagg of Willow Springs; and Lieutenant Crystal Beverly Blagg of the U.S. Navy. Also surviving are five grandchildren: Austin Blagg, Jasmine Blagg, Mackenzie Blagg, Lillian Blagg, and Mariah Blagg, and one sister, Darlene Blagg Dawsey of Corning, AR.

A visitation will be held Thursday, September 1, 2022, from 10:00 A.M.-11:00 A.M. at Willow Funeral Home, LLC with the funeral service immediately following at 11:00 A.M. Arrangements are under the direction of Willow Funeral Home, LLC. Online condolences may be left at www.willowspringsfuneralhome.com

Mr. Blagg spent most of his life in Willow Springs, but he will be returned to the cotton fields of his youth for burial. He will be laid to rest in Kinsey Cemetery in Butler County, MO. Many of his family members are already buried there and they await his arrival.

Cemetery Details

Kinsey Cemetery

478 County Road 364
Harviell, MO 63945
(573) 989-4047

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Willow Funeral Home, LLC
106 E 3rd St
Willow Springs, MO 65793
(417) 469-3141

Service

SEP 1. 11:00 AM (CT)

Willow Funeral Home, LLC
106 E 3rd St
Willow Springs, MO 65793
(417) 469-3141

Tribute Wall

LS

“ One of my favorite teachers. I'm a fast typist to this day because of him! I'll always remember one of his funny quotes: "When the sun rises in the East, it's a good day for typing".

Lee Scholl - September 01, 2022 at 12:05 PM

DS

“ So sorry for your lost. Mr. Blagg was my 10th grade teacher in 1973 typing class. He was a wonderful teacher and still today I used those skills to type. Very helpful and caring teacher.

Donna , "Morris" Spencer - September 01, 2022 at 11:50 AM

SM

“ I remember Mr. Blagg's typing class. He always had his trusty manual typewriter, and you could guarantee that you'd always hear him say "Hands on the homekeys!"
But more than that I remember how easy going and kind he was. I never saw him without a smile on his face, and if I was feeling a little down, it always helped lighten my mood when I walked in his class.

He will be missed!

Sean McCormick - September 01, 2022 at 12:15 AM

BB

“ I took typing, keyboarding and word processing with Mr. Blagg. He was always very kind, patient and supportive. My typing skills have been put to good use over these past 27 years since graduation. I will always remember him. Prayers to his family and friends during this time.

Billie Benson - August 31, 2022 at 01:39 PM



“ *Red & White Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Grover Leon Blagg.*



August 30, 2022 at 05:27 PM



“ *Plants-A-Plenty was purchased for the family of Mr. Grover Leon Blagg.*



August 29, 2022 at 09:51 PM



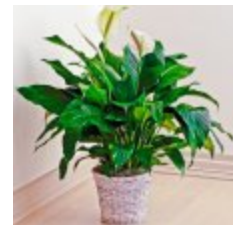
“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Grover Leon Blagg.*



August 29, 2022 at 12:14 AM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Mr. Grover Leon Blagg.*



August 28, 2022 at 09:24 AM

TD

“ Graduating in 1977, I was one of the first students Mr. Blagg taught typing. What a stellar teacher and even more important, a tremendous friend to me. The last time I saw Mr. Blagg he was walking near his home. I stopped and said Hello - he immediately asked me how my typing skills were. He also reminded me I was on his "Typing Board" on his wall for many years after I graduated. The board was students who accomplished the speed and accuracy according to Mr. Blagg's high expectations. I will also credit him for learning 10 key by touch on the adding machine and keyboard as well. My junior year he taught me 10 key by touch. He couldn't find a book with practice sets in it, so went to the superintendent's office and got an old phone book. He said "There should be enough numbers in there to practice." He often encouraged me to go into the court reporting field, a field I very well should have chosen. Regardless, I used my 10 key skills to the maximum in the accounting field. I have lost a favorite teacher and a tremendous friend. I was fortunate to have him as both.

Tony R Duddridge - August 28, 2022 at 08:55 AM

DS

“ Always loved Mr. Blagg. Always think of him when I realize how good of a typist I am! My love, thoughts, & prayers for his family ❤️
🙏

dominique salerno - August 28, 2022 at 08:05 AM

E(

“ I remember Mr. Blagg's typing class fondly. I remember he put a box over my hands on the keyboard so I would stop looking at them when I typed. I'm happy to say that today I can type without looking at my hands. Thank you Mr. Blagg for your service to our country and your dedication to the students of Willow Springs.

Erin Mendenhall (Young) - August 28, 2022 at 01:56 AM

DH

“ I worked in public education for forty-two years and never met anyone more dedicated to teaching than Mr. Blagg. "If the sun comes up in the east it is a good day for typing." That statement and others were placed in the minds of his students.

I will never forget, serving as the high school principal, observing his class on the day the students were introduced to the last key on the key board. With the enthusiasm of a revival preacher he told the students; You are now a typist. This skill may very well determine your life's work, where you will live, who you will marry, etc. I remember it well and I was jazzed up by his message and proud of the fact that I knew how to type. I trust many of the students were as well. The family will be in my prayers.

Rest in peace my friend.

Don Hamby

Don Hamby - August 27, 2022 at 09:46 PM

KC

I remember those words myself Mr. Hamby. Just keep your fingers on those home keys. He would say as well. RIP Mr. Blagg.

Kim Ellis (Caldwell) - August 27, 2022 at 11:15 PM

NL

“ I have fond memories of Mr Blagg and typing class. He always would say “today is a good day for typing!” He was a great teacher and we always had fun in his class! Rest In Peace!

Nancy Smith Lovan - August 27, 2022 at 08:34 PM

KM

“ He was a great teacher. One of my favorites. I built a graphic design career around what he taught me. Rest In Peace. Best wishes to the family.

Kelly Jennings Miller - August 27, 2022 at 07:47 PM

JM

“Joyce Melby lit a candle in memory of Mr. Grover Leon Blagg



Joyce Melby - August 27, 2022 at 06:44 PM

JM

Mr. Blagg will be missed. Many caring thoughts are with you at this time. I pray that your treasured memories of Leon will keep you strong.

Joyce Melby - August 27, 2022 at 06:49 PM

DM

“Fair winds and following seas, Sailor. We have the watch.

Dayton Manchester - August 27, 2022 at 05:22 PM

SN

Our condolences to the whole family. Great memories of a great teacher. ❤️

Susan Nadtochayev - August 27, 2022 at 05:45 PM

LD

I graduated in 1977 and was fortunate to have Mr. Blagg as my Typing I, Typing II, and General Business teacher. Thanks to his teaching I was able to use the skills I learned in his classes during my job. My mother lived down the street from Mr. Blagg and his family for a number of years. He would often stop and visit with my mother on his way home from walking if she was sitting on her front porch or out working in her yard. My thoughts and prayers are with his family as they go through this difficult time.

Lena (Ferguson) Davis

Lena Davis - August 29, 2022 at 01:04 PM