



Eric Merry

September 12, 1922 - May 2, 2020

Eric Merry, 97, of Kankakee, died Saturday, May 2, 2020, at his home.

He was born Sept. 12, 1922, in London, England, the son of Edward T. Merry and Agnes Bowling.

Although schooled to be a Royal Marine like his father, Merry chose to join the Royal Air Force during World War II. He served from 1940 to 1946, first as an air gunner and then as a dispatch rider. He was stationed in North Africa and then Italy where he fought in the infamous battle of Monte Cassino.

His book, "The Penguin's Progress," which details his war experiences, was published in 2017. His memories also were accepted into the Imperial War Museum archives in London.

He was a graduate of Westminster University in London, majoring in photography and cinematography. He worked more than 30 years for United Dairies, the largest dairy company in the UK, as an industrial photographer and later as a director of public relations.

He was preceded in death by his parents and first wife, Bernice Morgan. He is survived by his current wife, Sherry, whom he married in 2005 after relocating to the United States; his son, Paul, and wife Linda, and a grandson, Nathan, of Marlow, England.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Comments



“ So sorry to hear of Eric’s passing. He was such an amazing man. I enjoyed the few years he was a part of our family.

Lisa Thompson Riston - February 22 at 08:47 PM



“ My deepest sympathies to Eric's family, especially Sherry. Eric was such a gentlemen and so interesting a conversationalist. We had wonderful times earlier when his health was okay and Harmon was still alive. I loved his British Accent. Call me Sherry when you can and if I can help in any way.

Again, with deepest sympathy,

Marie L Monk

Marie L Monk - May 11, 2020 at 12:02 PM



“ Sending my sympathy to you, Sherrie. I always enjoyed visiting with Eric, he had a lot of information and stories to tell. My thoughts and prayers are with you.
Dianne

dianne newberry - May 11, 2020 at 11:27 AM



“ He was a great man and a genuine hero. Interesting and witty. I loved the tales of his World War II experiences. Open cockpit gunner in a bomber and a motorcycle dispatch rider across the desert. We are free today because of people like him. I'm sure he will be missed by all who knew and loved him. He was a testament that love can be found at any age. God bless him.
Sherry, you have my sympathy.
Phil Angelo

Phil Angelo - May 09, 2020 at 03:53 PM