



Edwin (Ed) James Mullady

October 8, 1926 - December 13, 2020

Edwin (Ed) James Mullady, 94, of Kankakee, Illinois, died peacefully on Sunday, Dec. 13th, after a short illness. Loving husband, father, son, brother, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Ed was a kind man whose life was devoted to preserving the environment, in particular the Kankakee River. In 2009, the Bourbonnais Friendship festival asked him to be the Grand Marshal of their Grand Parade. At the time, local writer Mary Ann Kirsch wrote a lovely article about Ed, and she has graciously allowed his family to include portions of it here:

Selecting Ed Mullady as the Grand Marshall for this year's Grand Parade was truly a simple choice. For, if there were an official River Keeper for the Kankakee, he would be the choice, hands down. It is a role he's taken on for well over 50 years and one he will hang on to as long as he can.

Born in Momence [on October 8th] in 1926, Ed fell in love with the Kankakee River at the age of three when he became fascinated with the water that flowed past his parents' produce business. As years passed, his fascination turned to passion as he became aware that such a wonderful body of water had a life and health of its own.

It was during his boyhood days attending school at St. Patrick's in Momence that he discovered a desire to write and report. While in 7th and 8th grades he wrote, produced, and distributed a daily one-sheet newsletter to fellow students. He branched beyond that to sending local basketball news to the

Kankakee Republican (now Daily Journal).

Before his commitment to the river established a lifelong foothold, Ed married. He and his wife, Myrtle, raised eight children: Richard, Theresa, Patrick, Tim, Monica, Matt, Christine, and Nancy, deceased.

To pay the bills, Ed worked for many years in the sports department at Montgomery Ward and then went to work at Salkeld's Sports on South Schuyler Avenue.

Then, in September of 1958, a wonderful thing happened. Mullady wrote, published, edited, and distributed the First Edition of Sportsman's Letter. From that day to today, nearly 51 years later, Ed Mullady has continued to write/publish and distribute 258 editions of Sportsman's Letter, never once ever straying from his hopes, goals, and love for the river.

"Late last year my lifetime fishing partner and wife, Myrtle, passed away," states Ed. "She and I often discussed how proud we are that all our grown-up youngsters and their children have a deep respect for the outdoors and for our rivers." And, as long as Ed Mullady has a breath left in him, his feelings about this will not wane, quite the opposite. He wants to continue to spread the word to other families, other communities. "The love of the river has always been uppermost in my mind."

Along with preserving the cleanliness and beauty of the Kankakee River, Ed also encouraged others to partake in his hobby of fishing on his beloved river. For 53 years Ed produced his radio show The Big Outdoors on WKAN radio. He used his platform to not only inform readers of the best fishing spots along the Kankakee River, but to also advocate for protection of this beautiful waterway. His persistence in fighting for the Kankakee River got him appointed by then Gov. Jim Thompson to the Kankakee River Task Force, and he then was later appointed by then state Rep. Charles Pangle to the Kankakee River Basin Commission. In 1988 he won the Northern Illinois Anglers Association Award of Merit. In 1989 he won the "Take Pride in

America” award from the U.S. Dept. of Interior. His love of the river also earned him the 2000 Conservation Award by the Chicagoland Fishing, Hunting & Travel Show, 2001 Honor Roll Award from the National Conservation Izaak Walton Group, the Russell Sinclair News Media award for his conservation writing, the Lockport Area Exchange Club Speaker Emeritus award in 2004, induction into the Illinois Outdoors Hall of Fame in 2011, and The Daily Journal’s 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Ed is survived by one brother, Lou Mullady (Arkansas), seven children: Rick Mullady (Yong) of Huntsville, Alabama; Terry Guymon of Willow Springs, IL; Pat Mullady (Pam) and Matt Mullady (Teri) of Kankakee, IL; Tim Mullady (Joy) of Bourbonnais, IL; Monica Neill (Gary) of Apache Junction, AZ; Chris Fisherkeller (Jim) of Round Lake Beach, IL and 17 grandchildren, multiple great-grandchildren, several great-great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. Ed will be reuniting with his beloved wife and fishing partner, Myrt (deceased in 2008), his daughter, Nancy (deceased in 1977), his sister, Pat Schaefer, his parents, Frank and Bertha Mullady, and many other beloved relatives and friends.

Cremation rites will be accorded.

A memorial visitation will be held from 4 p.m. until the time of the 6 p.m. memorial service on Thursday, July 22, 2021 at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home in Kankakee.

Inurnment will be held, prior to the service, at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

In honor of Ed’s devotion to the Kankakee River, donations may be made to the Friends of the Kankakee River by going to

<http://friendsofthekankakee.org/wp-content/uploads/membership.pdf> or
mailing to

Friends of the Kankakee P.O. Box 13 Watseka, IL 60970.

Cemetery Details

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

20953 Hoff Road
Elwood, IL 60421

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

JUL 22. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Kankakee - Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home
1480 W. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Memorial Service

JUL 22. 6:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

SP

“ Ed was a kind and gentle man. He and Theresa, my mom , we’re such good friend s in their senior years. They shared a lot of laughs and we’re good companions. They are in Gods loving hands now and their family must know they were blessed to have him.

Susan Ciaccio Palmateer - July 22, 2021 at 09:30 PM

AC

“ So honored to have been a part of this giant of a man's life that fought for our Kankakee river. He was a very special man and we can only hope his legacy will inspire generations to come. a j Ciaccio-Jarvis

Amy Ciaccio-Jarvis - July 22, 2021 at 12:35 PM

DD

“ Your dad lived a full and rich life, and I know you miss him dearly. I'm so sorry, Terry!

Affectionately,

Doris Dippel

Doris Dippel - July 17, 2021 at 11:47 PM

MR

“ Monica Rocha lit a candle in memory of Edwin (Ed) James Mullady



Monica Rocha - December 19, 2020 at 12:11 PM

AJ

“ On behalf of our whole family, and especially my mom Theresa, our deepest sympathy to his family on a life well lived. What an honor to have know this great man. Our environment and river advocate. A voice for the voiceless. Thank-you Ed!

Amy (Ciaccio) Jarvis and Jeff Jarvis

Amy Ciaccio Jarvis - December 17, 2020 at 02:23 PM

JF

“ Rick, sorry to read of your father's death. I came to know him when my students and I were doing work on the Kankakee River. He was an incredible resource and inspiration for them and for me. His love and respect for the River were palpable. No one loved our River more.

Jim Frogge - December 16, 2020 at 04:49 PM

CJ

“ Catherine Jackson lit a candle in memory of Edwin (Ed) James Mullady



Catherine Jackson - December 16, 2020 at 12:31 PM

DD

“ I never knew your dad, though knew all about him and his love of the river. But I am sorry for you, Terry, and your family in the loss of your family icon, your father.

God bless you!

Doris Dippel

Doris Dippel - December 16, 2020 at 12:27 AM

JR

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to Tim, Matt and the entire Mullady family on the passing of Ed. I remember Ed being very involved with us on the Eastridge Raiders Hockey Club. He has meant so much to the people of Kankakee for his tireless conservation work for the Kankakee River. He will be greatly missed.

John & Jan Rodgers

John Rodgers - December 15, 2020 at 09:59 PM

SF

“ I am truly sorry for your loss. May God bless and comfort you at this difficult time.

Susanna Foster - December 15, 2020 at 06:25 PM

AB

“ Sympathy is extended to The Family . Sorry for Your Loss.

Alan Buck - December 15, 2020 at 12:21 PM

CB

“ Rick so sorry for your loss.

*Cindy LaVoie Bossinger
Peoria, AZ*

Cindy Bossinger - December 15, 2020 at 09:45 AM



“ I recall the many wonderful days spent at the Mullady house, going fishing on River Road and other locations. My deepest sympathy to the family. I love you all. Bob Schneider.

Bob Schneider - December 15, 2020 at 09:11 AM

LE

Many memories of your Dad. So sorry to hear of his passing. Lisa Gordon.

Lisa Ebersole - December 15, 2020 at 07:56 PM

TL

“ My sincere condolences are sent to the entire family. Ed was my God Father, and I remember many, many great times as kids when the Mullady's and the Long's got together. I especially remember burning leaves in the street curb, jumping from garage and much more that will go unmentioned. I send prayers and peace to each of you. RIP ED you earned it by taking care of God's natural resources.

Tom Long - December 15, 2020 at 09:05 AM

TG

Tom and Siblings

Our parents lived in same apartment building early on when Mike and I shared playpen and you and Rick were toddlers.

Our folks and Rich and Inge always spoke of what great people all of the Long children became. We were blessed with great parents!

Terry Mullady Guymon - December 17, 2020 at 09:39 AM

CW

“ *Carl Wells lit a candle in memory of Edwin (Ed) James Mullady*



Carl wells - December 15, 2020 at 08:43 AM

SH

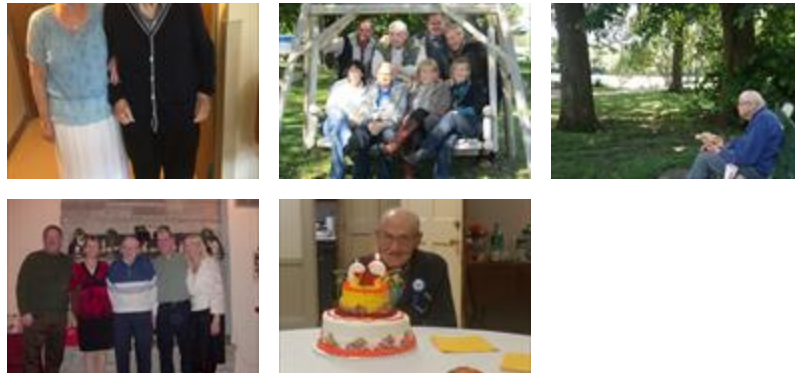
“ *Sr. Martha Harrington lite a candle in memory of Edwin (Ed) Mullady.*



Sr.Martha Harrington,sscm - December 14, 2020 at 11:04 PM



“ 8 files added to the album Memories Album



Chris Fisherkeller - December 14, 2020 at 09:20 PM

BD

“ So very sorry, Terry and all of Ed's family. We loved reading everything he wrote and truly appreciated his love for the river which we share. We are sending our love to all of you for the loss of this wonderful man. Mulladys are wonderful people, loved everyone we have ever known. May God bless Ed and his family. Betty (Skip) and Gene Dionne. XOXO to all.

Bette Dionne - December 14, 2020 at 08:34 PM

DD

“ My heart goes out to the family. I know it's been some years since I have saw everyone. And I have fond memories that I will always hold dear to my heart. My brother Tony(Wayne) and I was Terry and Lon's Foster Children. We were blessed to be apart of the family. I know I can't thank them enough for bringing us into the family and being able to meet Ed and his wife and the rest of the family. I lost touch til about a year or 2 ago. Fly high Ed you will be missed! Sending my thoughts and my 🙏🙏🙏 and my love to you all. 😊



Denise Delaney - December 14, 2020 at 07:06 PM

MM

“ So very sorry for your loss my dear cousins. I also have fond memories of visiting your family in Kankakee, and babysitting Monica at our apartment in Momence. All my love, and hope to see you all soon.

Maureen Mullady Martin

Maureen Mullady Martin - December 14, 2020 at 06:39 PM

KL

“ Kathy Lott lit a candle in memory of Edwin (Ed) James Mullady



Kathy Lott - December 14, 2020 at 06:18 PM

MB

“ Thinking of all the family. I remember how excited I was when we visited you at the Kankakee house as children. Ed and Mert were fun, had a snack for us, and always welcomed us back...even with all of us(10 kids maybe?) Running around the house. Find peace in your warm memories. Love to all

Maggie Mullady Berk - December 14, 2020 at 05:31 PM

BR

“ The most wonderful man and family. I was so fortunate to know both Ed and his wife Myrt for more than three decades and they became a 2nd family for me and their support of my music career and ideals were priceless. So many many treasured memories and thoughts of Ed and Myrt and their great family. The warm and loving home on South Elm Street, in Kanakakee and his love for the river and all sportsman activities. He will be in my heart and thought forever!

Bob Rowe - December 14, 2020 at 05:27 PM

LE

“ *My sincere condolences to Terry Guymon and Family. I am a former colleague of Terry's and she spoke so fondly of her father. It's evident he was a great man who accomplished great things in his life. With best thoughts, Lois Elia,*

Lois Elia - December 14, 2020 at 05:25 PM