



## Russell Cotton

October 30, 1949 - March 30, 2006

Russell Cotton -- St. Anne Visitation for Russell A. Cotton, 56, of St. Anne, will be from 4-8 p.m. Monday at Clancy-Gernon-Houk Funeral Home, St. Anne. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday at First Presbyterian Church in St. Anne. Rev. Lori Keller Schroeder will officiate. Burial will be in St. Anne Township Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Russell Cotton Scholarship Fund or First Presbyterian Church, where he was a member. He died Thursday (March 30, 2006) at his home. Mr. Cotton was owner and operator of Medler and Cotton Drainage Inc. He was born Oct. 30, 1949, in Greenville, Ky., the son of Lee Thomas and Mae Belle Covington Cotton. He had been president of the St. Anne High School Board since 1995 and a board member most of the 1980s. He was the 2004 recipient of the Lowe School Board Recognition Award from the Pledge for Life Partnership. In recent years, Mr. Cotton led the effort to build a new \$10 million school to replace the 1929 high school. In the 1990s, when the district was hit with the loss of special state funding because of a flawed U.S. Census of low-income students, he worked with then-Superintendent Jerry Newell and former state Rep. Phil Novak and other local legislators to win a special recovery appropriation of \$600,000 per year for three years. He served in the U.S. Marines from September 1969-June 1971, serving a tour of duty in Vietnam. He was a member of the Elks Country Club in St. Anne, American Legion Post 842, Chebanse VFW Post 1059, Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association and the Operating Engineers Local 150. He had been president of

the St. Anne Jaycees. Surviving are his wife, the former Deborah Medler, whom he married June 10, 1972, at First Presbyterian Church in St. Anne; one son, Thomas Cotton and special friend Sue Beaupre and children, Mason and Jordan of St. Anne; one daughter, Sara Cotton of New York, N.Y.; two grandchildren, Kadie and Connor Cotton; his mother Mae Belle Gifford of Kentucky; three sisters and brothers-in-law, Linda and Robert Corriveau of St. Anne, Dawn and James Hampton of Kentucky, Cecilia and Jim Wallace of Florida; one brother and sister-in-law, Michael and Debbie Cotton of St. Anne; one stepbrother, Steve Gifford of Kentucky; father-in-law, Henry Medler of St. Anne; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Brenda and Thomas Baird of Kankakee; brother-in-law, Gary Medler of Chicago; and several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. His father; one sister, Carol Wiggins; stepfather, Arbain Gifford; and mother-in-law, Ethel Medler, are deceased.

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Album*



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**Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes** - December 07, 2010 at 02:33 PM



“ NULL##imported-begin##Peggy Cyrier-Duick##imported-end##

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April 01, 2006 at 09:35 AM



“ Dear Debbie and Sara, we are very sorry about not being able to attend the wake service for Russell. We are both under the weather and we sure did not want to spread it around. I told Brianne to go to this site and send you her condolences. I really don't know what to say but we are both deeply saddened on your loss. I remember the past on all the volley ball games we all went to. We had such a good time. We will always remember the good times. <br><br>Sincerely Mike & Val Palmateer<br><br>##imported-begin##Mike & Val Palmateer##imported-end##

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April 01, 2006 at 09:35 AM



“ Mrs. Cotton and Family,<br><br>Please accept our families deepest sympathy and prayers. i¿½Mr. Cotton was a very loving and generous man and our children enjoyed seeing him. i¿½###imported-begin###Nance & Steve Lowman & Family###imported-end###

April 01, 2006 at 09:35 AM



“ NULL###imported-begin###Nance & Steve Lowman###imported-end###

April 01, 2006 at 09:35 AM



“ Mrs. Cotton and family,<br><br><br><br>Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. i¿½You have our deepest sympathy. <br><br><br><br>The Lease family.###imported-begin###Mr. & Mrs Ted Lease,Hannah & Holly###imported-end###

April 01, 2006 at 09:35 AM



“ Sara and family:<br><br><br><br>I was so sorry to hear of your loss. i¿½<br><br><br><br>Please know that you and your entire family are in my thoughts and prayers.<br><br><br><br>Sincerely,<br><br>Dennis O'Brien<br><br>###imported-begin###Dennis O'Brien###imported-end###

April 01, 2006 at 09:35 AM



“ So sorry to here of your brother. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your whole family.##imported-begin##Kevin and Vickie Stroo##imported-end##

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April 01, 2006 at 09:35 AM



“ Dear Cotton family,<br><br>We were so sorry to read about the loss of your husband and father. i ½We will be praying for you during this difficult time that God would comfort you and that you would draw close to Him.<br><br><br><br>Sincerely,<br><br>The Dan Johnson family##imported-begin##Carolyn Johnson##imported-end##

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April 01, 2006 at 09:35 AM



“ Debbie,<br><br>I just learned about Russell's passing today. Mom sent me the article in the paper. We were in Chicago over Easter visiting our daughter that lives there, and recieved the news today when i returned.<br><br>I will keep you in my prayers. Russell left this earth way too early. I was aware of his illness but was not prepared to hear this new. I hope to see you next time I <br><br>am home to visit Mom and Dad.<br><br>Our sincere sympathy to you and your family.<br><br>Peggy Cyrier Duick.<br><br>##imported-begin##Peggy Cyrier-Duick##imported-end##

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April 01, 2006 at 09:35 AM



“ Our deepest condolences to the family.##imported-begin##carl and bonita nolan##imported-end##

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April 01, 2006 at 09:35 AM



“ Russell will be missed by everyone in and around the community. Our prayers go out to the family and friends left behind. Dick and Sharon Emerson##imported-begin##Sharon Emerson##imported-end##

April 01, 2006 at 09:35 AM



“ Debbie, Thomas & Sara:<br><br>We are so saddened to hear of your loss. ĩ½Our thoughts and prayers are with you. ĩ½##imported-begin##Susie "Reichert" Ryan##imported-end##

April 01, 2006 at 09:35 AM



“ Debbie & Family,<br><br>You are in our thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Kathy & Drew Hines##imported-end##

April 01, 2006 at 09:35 AM



“ In Your Time of Sorrow:<br><br> ĩ½ĩ½ĩ½ĩ½With warm thoughts and a special prayer-That God will keep you in His care- And be with you as you prepare to face each new tommorrow. <br><br> ĩ½ĩ½ĩ½ĩ½With Deepest Sympathy<br><br> ĩ½ĩ½ĩ½ĩ½ĩ½ĩ½ĩ½ĩ½ĩ½ĩ½ĩ½ĩ½Roger & Charlotte##imported-begin##Roger/Charlotte Barwegen##imported-end##

April 01, 2006 at 09:35 AM



“ HE WILL BE MISSED.##imported-begin##ROBERT FREYMAN##imported-end##

April 01, 2006 at 09:35 AM