



Ernest Olanda Sutton Jr.

October 14, 1940 - June 2, 2021

Ernest Olanda “Buster” Sutton Jr., age 80, of Sweetwater, passed away on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, at U.T. Medical Center. He was a member of Notchy Creek Baptist Church, and a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. Preceded in death by his parents: Ernest and Pauline Sutton. Survivors include his wife of 14 years (175 months) the love of his life: Gail Ledford Sutton, of Sweetwater, children: Dr. Ernest O. (Ann) Sutton III., of Greenville, NC., Angel (Meir) Dobkin, Monsey, NY., Jaime (Corey) Varner, of Knoxville, Dr. C. Kenneth (Abby) Sutton, of Colorado, Don A., (Tina) Ledford, Dan E. (Janice) Ledford, all of Madisonville, Hollie (Josh) Wilder, of Greenback, God daughter: Elise Harper, of Ten Mile, sister and brother-in-law: Jeannette “Jan” (Ken) Jones of Boise, Idaho, brother and sister-in-law: John Edward (Ann) Sutton, of Sweetwater, 18 grandchildren, 2 great-granddaughters, several nieces and nephews. Military honors will be performed on Saturday, July 10, 2021 at 1:45 P.M. at the Notchy Creek Baptist Church in Madisonville followed by the family receiving friends from 2:00 P.M. until 4:00 P.M. a celebration of life service will be conducted at 4:00 P.M. with Rev. Gale Miller officiating. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to: The Needy Family Fund of Sweetwater, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, or the Disabled American Veterans Association. Kyker Funeral Homes, Sweetwater, in charge of arrangements. www.kykerfuneralhomes.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 10. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Notchy Creek Baptist Church
5529 New Hwy 68
Madisonville, TN 37354

Celebration of Life

JUL 10. 4:00 PM (ET)

Notchy Creek Baptist Church
5529 New Hwy 68
Madisonville, TN 37354

Tribute Wall

BH

“ *Buster was my True Friend & One of the Very Few GOOD GUYS-I Loved that Guy*
Billy Hays

Bill Hays - July 13, 2021 at 12:48 AM

SA

“ *What a beautiful man. Always a pleasure to be around and always willing to share his stories, and he had a bunch. One of the most intelligent people I've ever known.*
The very thought of him brings on a smile...Steve Akers

Steven L. Akers - June 16, 2021 at 12:30 PM

JJ

“ *My #1 older BROTHER What a wonderful dinner i spent with him on May 29 time on May31 at home with he and Gail before I flew home. What a giver he was, loved to laugh, tell stories and talk about friends and knew the side roads to get you any where. What a #1 older BROTHER WOW!#1 Sister.*

Jeannette Jones - June 09, 2021 at 01:10 AM

JG

“ *I met Ernie while I attended PAB School in Knoxville. He taught our FCC licensing course. He made it a fun and easy class especially with his funny stories and one-liners. He would seek out the shy ones and pick on them for the good. They would come out of their shell after awhile. We lost touch for a while but found one another on FB. He will be missed by all that knew him.*

Jim Graves - June 09, 2021 at 12:02 AM

EM

“ I first met Ernest Sutton in 1965 when I was a young announcer at WGAP in Maryville and he was working as a transmitter engineer at WNOX in Knoxville. We quickly became friends, and later, business associates for many years in radio and television engineering.

Although he presented a country bumpkin external demeanor, I can tell you, on the inside he was a well educated, brilliant engineer and accountant. I always admired his common-sense methods of problem solving. While working with Buster all those years I certainly learned a lot about a very broad range of subjects. However, the greatest thing I learned from him was how to be a true friend. Buster would do anything to help out his friends, no matter what the time, no matter what the weather.

A tireless worker, it was sometimes all I could do to keep up with him. He could work day and night without sleep. Frequently accused of being opposites, or perhaps Laurel and Hardy, our skill sets actually complimented each other; I enjoyed the studio and audio work while his forte was transmitters. No one knew more about transmitters than Ernest Sutton!

Buster Sutton really hasn't signed off, he just drifted up to a much higher frequency, working for the ultimate higher power station. Always a step ahead of me, I'll have to say goodbye for now, but I feel my own oscillator telling me I'll eventually catch up with him again! In the mean time Buster: keep the filaments lit, the modulation at 100%, and don't bypass the safety interlocks.

Ed Martin

Ed Martin - June 07, 2021 at 10:54 PM

JB

Buster was my instructor when I got my 1st class FCC I License in 1977. He was one of the finest instructors I have ever met and was extremely intelligent and of very high moral character. He was Always fun to talk to and you learned a lot just by talking to him. He always wore the most beautiful bow ties I have ever seen and he was always a delight to have at any meeting. I will surely miss him and my deepest sympathy to his family.

Julian Burke - June 09, 2021 at 07:07 AM

SB

“ *I have known Buster for many years and there was never a better man!*

Steve bebb - June 04, 2021 at 10:31 AM

LO

“ *Never knew Buster long or very closely. But we became acquainted when I preached several times at Browder UMC. Then on Facebook! Felt like I'd known him a very long time— quite the character. Always funny and pleasant! RIP, Buster!!!*

larry Orr - June 03, 2021 at 02:51 PM

DR

“ *ERNIE was my favorite teacher, 1972, at TIE in Knoxville..He was a good, funny, down to earth guy then and until this very day... I counted him a FRIEND now for many years...RIP in Christ's arms dear friend....*

Don Rockholt - June 03, 2021 at 01:19 PM