



James R. Bledsoe

December 6, 2003

JAMES RODERICK (SHORTY) BLEDSOE, age 78, of Sweetwater, passed away Saturday, December 6, 2003. at East Tennessee Health Care in Madisonville after a lengthy illness. He was a retired lineman from TVA and was a member of the IBEW Local #175 in Chattanooga. He was a WWII Veteran serving in the U.S. Army who fought in 5 major campaigns and received the Bronze Star. Former member of the Sweetwater Masonic Lodge. Preceded in death by: his parents: Roderick Z. Bledsoe, mother: Bertle Bledsoe Ingle, Step-father: Virgle Ingle, and grandson: Jamie Atkins. Survivors include: Wife of 57 years: Huttie Colquitt Bledsoe of Sweetwater Daughters and Sons-in-law: Vivan and Gerald Atkins of Etowah Jean and Dana Tilley Janice and Jerry Ingram all of Niota Son and Daughter-in-law: James (Pappy) and Rhonda Bledsoe of Sweetwater Grandchildren and Spouses: Christy and Derek McCosh, Eric and Cindy Atkins, John and Rita Packett, Laura Helms and fiancé Jason Brown, Matthew Tilley and fiance Jenny Vinson, Joy and Kevin Thompson, Jeremy and Gale Ingram, Emily Bledsoe, and Lacie Bledsoe. 5 great-grandchildren: Austin Coleman, Ivy, Sophie, and Levi McCosh, and Isaac Atkins. Brothers and Spouses: W.O. and Evelyn Bledsoe of Maryville, Clyde and Ellen Bledsoe of Vero Beach, FL., Freddie and Barbara Bledsoe of Lenoir City, Leonard and Betty Bledsoe of Kokomo, Indiana. Several nieces and nephews The body is at Kyker Funeral Home, Sweetwater, where the family will receive friends Monday from 5:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. with the funeral service to follow at 8:00 P.M. in Kyker's Chapel with

Rev. Bill Dawson, Rev. Larry Orr, and Rev. R.L. Davis officiating. Interment 11:00A.M. Tuesday in the Sweetwater Valley Memorial Park, with military honors provided by the Sweetwater Gold Star Post 5156. Grandsons will serve as Pallbearers. Kyker Funeral Home in Charge of the arrangements. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Salvation Army.