



Joe Hardin Sherlin

September 16, 1925 - February 16, 2024

Joe Hardin Sherlin, age 98, of Sweetwater, TN died on February 16, 2024. He was preceded in death by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sherlin, his brother, Lynn, and his beloved wife, Carolyn. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Surviving children include Walter Sherlin (Mary Penn) of Raleigh, Judy Shope (Keith) of Sweetwater, Janey Richesin (Doug) of Sweetwater, and Dr. Joe Sherlin Jr. (Erin) of Jonesborough. Grandchildren: David Sherlin, Will Sherlin, Kendrick Shope McAmis, Keith Shope Jr., Dr. Douglas Richesin, Dr. Anna Lora Richesin Taylor, Emma Sherlin, and Elizabeth Sherlin. Great-grandchildren: Addison Sherlin, Austin Sherlin, Cruz Sherlin, Sophie Sherlin, Halianna McAmis, Hadley Kembel, Henry Richesin, Frances Richesin, Cameron Taylor, and Mattie Jane Taylor.

Joe was a graduate of Sweetwater High School, Hiwassee College, and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, earning a Bachelor of Science and Master's Degree in Educational Administration.

His military service included World War II in the 361st Infantry from 1943 to 1945, the Korean War from 1950 to 1952 with the 278th RCT, and the Tennessee National Guard from 1949 to 1965.

For over four decades, Joe contributed to his community through various roles: history teacher at Tellico Plains High School from 1947 to 1948,

Commandant and Executive Vice President at Tennessee Military Institute from 1952 to 1971, Monroe County Industrial Development from 1971 to 1973, Chairperson of the Little Tennessee Valley Educational Corporation from 1971 to 1974, President of Tennessee Packaging Company in Sweetwater from 1973 to 1976, President of the Lost Sea from 1980 to 1986, Superintendent of Sweetwater City Schools from 1976 to 1991, and President of the Tennessee Superintendents Study Council from 1987 to 1989. Joe was also recognized as Superintendent of the Year by the State of Tennessee PTA in 1990 and for 65 years of service as a Sweetwater Mason.

Joe was a member of the Sweetwater First United Methodist Church, where he taught the Builders Sunday School class for 45 years.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. on Thursday, February 22, 2024, in the Family Life Center of the Sweetwater Methodist Church. A Celebration of Life Service will follow at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, with Reverend Carl Oaks officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Sweetwater Methodist Church, 501 Church Street, Sweetwater, TN 37874, or The Joe and Carolyn Sherlin Scholarship Fund at Sweetwater Education Foundation, P.O. Box 67, Sweetwater, TN 37874. The family will hold a private interment service.

Kyker Funeral Homes, Sweetwater, is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **22**. 5:00 PM - 6:45 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
501 Church St.
Sweetwater, TN

Celebration of Life

FEB **22**. 7:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
501 Church St.
Sweetwater, TN

Tribute Wall

JO

“ I have lots of great memories of this teacher and friend .he paddled me more than any teacher I ever had , I liked him more . Think of him often .

Johnny Orr - March 07, 2024 at 06:02 PM

KC

“ *Senior curfew rebellion*

Major Sherlin's announcement that the 45-minute check-in rule, after the senior Military Ball, would be enforced, was disappointing and ignited the senior curfew rebellion.

Cadets required more than 45 minutes to escort their female companions back to their homes and respectfully thank them for their gracious companionship during the Senior Military Ball.

The conspiracy developed. We would disregard the 45-minute limit and would report 30 minutes past our allocated time. If all senior cadets participated in the curfew rebellion, the Major would be forced to accept our action. It was a rare act of defiance against the commandant's orders and we were nervous about potential repercussions.

It was the evening meal prior to the much-anticipated event. We were anxiously waiting to be released to meet our dates. Suddenly the mess hall doors flew open and the Major stormed into the hall. He dismissed everyone except for the senior class. With a booming voice he said:

“Gentlemen, I understand there has been some discussion about missing your curfew tonight. Let me make this perfectly clear, the 45-minute rule will be enforced. Any cadet who is late will find themselves working off demerits on the Quad. Am I clear?”

In unison, “YES SIR.”

Then a slight smile appeared on the Major's face, and he said, “Besides, if you can't say a proper goodnight to a girl in 45 minutes, another 30 minutes won't help.”

We all made curfew that evening.

Ken Calhoon

Class of 64

Ken Calhoon - February 23, 2024 at 06:27 PM

MJ

“ *Marshall & Sandy Johnson purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Joe Hardin Sherlin.*



Marshall & Sandy Johnson - February 21, 2024 at 04:52 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joe Hardin Sherlin.*



February 20, 2024 at 08:09 PM

JE

“ *Maj. Sherlin was my mentor when I was a student at TMI. Col. Sherlin was my mentor when I returned as Commandant. Joe Sherlin was my friend. John Everett*

John Everett - February 20, 2024 at 09:55 AM

BF

“ I was in A company 1951-1954. Major McQuiddy was my history teacher, Charlie Price for chemistry “Bugger” Bill Neese for algebra, Lunsford for Latin, “Sneak” Ensley for physics, Major van Amburg for trig (his little girl was the meanest person bar none), and Capt Diffie Standard for English. They were quite a crew.

Coach Sherlin came in my junior year. His wife was the librarian.

I have fond memories of those teachers, my friendships, and the school. I took my kids to see it when it was a Japanese school and learned that Maj Ensley was in a nursing home in town. His mind was lost to dementia but his handshake was a steel grip.

Bill Franklin - February 19, 2024 at 03:04 PM

MH

“ Maj. Sherlin, as we of the class of 1962 knew him, was a tough taskmaster with a gentle soul. He could swing a mean history book if he caught you goofing off during study period. He was a wonderful gentleman. He'll be missed.

Miles Huffstutler - February 18, 2024 at 09:31 PM

DB

“ This makes me so sad. Joe was truly my hero.

Dewey Boyd - February 18, 2024 at 08:10 PM

JS

Mine too!

Judy Shope - February 20, 2024 at 07:49 PM

CW

“ Once at a church cake sale a little girl held up a not too appetizing cake she had made. When no one bid, Joe promptly bid \$2. When I asked him later, why he bought that cake, he replied, "I'm not going to see a little girl standing up there with the cake she made, and nobody bid on it." That's the kind of man he was.

Charles Wilson - February 18, 2024 at 10:42 AM

TH

He was truly one of the greatest men I have known. He advised me on 2 major decisions in my life for which I am deeply grateful. His leadership and example was felt by everyone. We were blessed to have known him.

tyra harris - February 19, 2024 at 11:31 PM

JG

“ Major Sherlin was an example to all of us Alumni from TMI. Sad to hear of his passing. He taught me a great deal about life
Jim Garth
Havana fl

jim garth - February 17, 2024 at 05:47 PM

KW

“ Mr. Sherlin was a treasure to Sweetwater and beyond. I do not remember not knowing Mr. Sherlin either through my grandparents or my parents. We were also blessed to be taught by Mrs. Sherlin. Condolences to the entire family and my dear friend Joey. Karen Wyrick

Karen Wyrick - February 17, 2024 at 03:41 PM

GM

A GREAT LEADER WITH A STRONG FOLLOW THROUGH.

Gordon Rob McCurry - February 20, 2024 at 10:43 AM

HB

My thoughts and prayers for the family. I knew Major Sherlin as a very stern but a great teacher and leader. He was very fair when it came to listening to you and your problems. I had him for history Americanism vs communism. I attended TMI 62 - 64. Proud to be an aluminums. Major will be surely missed.

Harold Boatright Lake City, Fl

Harold Boatright - February 20, 2024 at 11:46 AM

LS

Major Sherlin was a stern, fair....very well respected member of the TMI faculty and leadership staff. He had a very positive influence on my young life during my tenure at TMI. I'm sure he is in very good hands now... RIP major Sherlin... Leonard Smith

Leonard Smith - February 21, 2024 at 08:54 AM