

Edward "Ed" Julian Ryan, 91, passed away peacefully April 3, 2012, at the Life Care Center of Sparta, surrounded by family. Funeral services were held April 7, with Dr. Jim Beasley, the Rev. Jerry Mayo and the Rev. John Purdue officiating. There was also a Masonic service held Friday night following visitation. Interment was in the Crossville City Cemetery, with full military honors provided by the Veterans Honor Guard. He was born Oct. 15, 1920, in Crawford in Overton County, to the late Samuel Luther and Bessie (McCormack) Ryan. He was also preceded in death by two brothers, Raymond and Jake Ryan. He was the oldest of six sons. The family moved to Crossville in April 1930. He attended Woodlawn School and Cumberland County High School where he graduated in 1942. After graduation, he entered the Army in November 1942 and served until 1945 in World War II. He was in five major battles and two D-Day landings and was in North Africa, Italy, France, Germany and Austria. After the war and his return to Crossville, he married Ella Katherine "Kitty" Hill May 1, 1946. Ed was a member of First United Methodist Church of Crossville, attending there since the family moved to Crossville in 1930. He was baptized while in service in the Mediterranean Sea. He had several occupations, including game warden, mail carrier, parts manager at the Chevrolet garage in Crossville and later in Lebanon, where they moved in 1951. Later, in 1959, they came back to Crossville where he became a businessman and opened Ryan's Esso on what is now West Ave. He was very interested in politics and served as campaign manager in the Upper Cumberland Region for Sen. Howard Baker in his first bid for Senate. After that successful election, he was then employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture until his retirement in December 1987. Ed enjoyed hunting, especially turkey hunting, and spending time with family and friends. He was a Mason for more than 60 years and also a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Katherine "Kitty" Hill Ryan of Crossville; son, Mike Ryan and wife, Linda, of Sparta; daughter, Margaret Boney and husband, Sam, of Crossville; grandsons, Brent Ryan and wife, Rebecca, of Sparta, Derek Miller and Matthew Miller, both of Knoxville; brothers, Ernest and wife, Billie, of Andersonville, Samuel and wife, Donna, and Gordon Ryan of Crossville; sister-in-law, Dorothy Ryan of West Palm Beach, FL; and several nephews and nieces. Pallbearers were Bob Axline, Bill Hendrixson, Brock Hill, Jim Hill, David Hollingsworth and Tom Upshaw. Billbrey Funeral Home, Inc. (www.billbreyfh.com) was in charge of the arrangements.