



Harold B Steele

July 8, 1922 - February 1, 2019

Dover Illinois - Harold B Steele, of Dover IL, passed away peacefully February 1, 2019, at Heartland Health Care of Henry, IL.

Harold was born July 8, 1922 to Forrest and Georgia (Baker) Steele in Sublette, IL. He graduated from Princeton High School in 1940 and attended the University of Illinois, College of Agriculture. He was a US Army Veteran and served in the European Theater. Rising to the level of Captain, he was awarded the Purple Heart, Silver Star, Army Commendation Medal and European Theater of Operations Medal and two battle stars. When hostilities ended, he served as Chief Agent of Criminal Investigations, US Forces in Austria. He met, and married, Margery Whiteley, in Vienna, Austria in 1946. Harold was a lifelong farmer. In addition to his farming interests, he served as a board member and President of the Bureau County Farm Bureau from 1956 to 1968. He was a member, Vice President and President of the Princeton High School Board of Education from 1952 to 1971. He was elected to the position of President and CEO of both the Illinois Farm Bureau and Country Companies, serving from 1970 to 1983. He was a member of the American Farm Bureau from 1971 to 1983, serving on its executive committee in 1981 and 1982. He was appointed, by Governor Richard Ogilvie, to the Illinois Judicial Inquiry Board from 1971 to 1977. He was nominated, by President George H W Bush, and confirmed as Chairman of the Board, to the Farm Credit Administration from

1989 to 1992. Harold was named an Outstanding Young Farmer of Illinois in 1956, and named a Master Farmer by Prairie Farmer magazine in 1970. He received the University of Illinois Distinguished Service Award in 1984. In 2000 he was recognized by The Lincoln Academy of Illinois for his contributions to agriculture.

Harold is survived by his four children, Greg (Sandra) Steele, of Dover, IL; Linda (Noel) Hobbs of Aurora, CO; Becky (Tom) Hall of Princeton, IL; and Susan (Mike) Teslow of Galveston, TX; two AFS Foreign Exchange daughters, Dr Akke Van Der Zijpp of the Netherlands and Kyoko (Shinobu) Tanaka of Japan. His five grandchildren include Kristopher (Dawn) Hall, Alanna Hobbs, Major Chad (Dr. Michelle) Foreman, Katherine (Michael) Baldwin and Rachael Foreman; two foreign exchange grandchildren, Karin Yamada and Jumi Yamada. Great grandchildren include Jacob, Hailey and Garrett Foreman, Emelia and Olivia Baldwin, Brynlee and Ella Hall.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Margery, two brothers and two sisters.

Private services will be held at a later date and time.

Online condolences may be left at www.norbergfh.com.

Arrangements by Norberg Memorial Home, Princeton, IL

Tribute Wall



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Harold B Steele.*



February 18, 2019 at 09:24 AM



“ *I met Harold and his wife once at his home at his annual open house farming show. He was a man admired by my father and we spent time together discussing his friendship with my mom and dad. He took the time to show me much of his farm collection. I visited him the week of my mother's funeral. We were both graduates of Univ. of Illinois. I always remember that day and the time he visited my mom and dad's home. He was a very important man but came off very humble. I am so glad to have taken that day to visit him and his wife on his farm. I called him from California once to congratulate him when he won his Lincoln award. He inspired me.*

On behalf of dad and mon Robert L Brutcher and Mary Christibne Brutcher

Brian Brutcher

Brian Brutcher - February 16, 2019 at 03:17 AM

LH

“ I met Mr. Steele when I was a new trainee with IL Farm Bureau. He made me feel as if we were old neighborhood friends. I would see him occasionally at some event after I left IFB and he still recalled who I was! I am so sorry to learn of his passing. Please accept my condolences. Linda Hiltabrand

Linda Hiltabrand - February 13, 2019 at 10:32 PM

SG

“ It was an honor to work for Mr. Steele when he was at the Farm Credit Administration. He was such a fine man and always a gentleman. I learned so much from him and appreciate everything he did for me and how kind he was to my husband and mother. I will always remember how he took everything to a higher level and expected the best out of people. I am grateful I got to know him, Margery, and some of the members of his family. There are so many good memories. My deepest condolences to all of his family.

Sara Glover

Sara Glover - February 09, 2019 at 09:49 AM

MR

“ I never had a chance to meet you Harold, though I wish I had done so. Stories of you and your legacy at FCA were there when I was at FCA and no doubt they will not fade anytime soon. Well done good and faithful servant. May you rest in peace and may your family be comforted by your memory. In sympathy, Michael M. Reyna

Michael M. Reyna - February 08, 2019 at 02:48 PM

JW

“ Harold never saw a stranger and had countless friends. The last time I saw him he was getting off the train from Chicago last year. He had been sitting next to another good friend of mine he found out through their conversation. So when he got off the train he came straight to me, wrapped his arms around me, kissed me on the cheek and saidI'm so glad you came to get me 😊 of course to my surprise. I'm afraid they don't make many good men like that anymore. He & Harold Council were among them. They touched many lives & left good memories. It was a pleasure to know them.
Joyce Washer

Joyce Washer - February 08, 2019 at 01:58 PM

SM

“ I met Harold Steele when he hired me to work at the Farm Credit Administration so I always thought his judgment was superb! My favorite recollection is his advice to "keep pork on your fork." Such a genuine, caring, intelligent and thoughtful man. Knowing him certainly enriched my life. Thanks to his family for sharing Harold with us Washington-based "non-country" folks during his years at FCA. His was a long life, well-lived. He will be missed but no doubt has earned his eternal rest.

Sue McCrory - February 08, 2019 at 12:24 PM

TM

“ My condolences. Mr. Steele was a great chairman of the Farm Credit Administration. He moved the agency forward with his leadership by pushing improved communications with regulated institutions. He also was a leader in introducing women into leadership positions for the FCA. He will be missed. Thank you Harold for all that you did for agriculture and for rural America.

Tom McKenzie - February 08, 2019 at 06:41 AM

JS

“ To Greg Steele and entire Steele family,
I have many fond memories of your dad. I enjoyed covering his work in his many positions and the times we could visit, especially on his farm. The last time Jane and I saw your dad was on the farm when he was 93. Then he took us out for dinner. I also enjoyed knowing you Greg and the times we shared. May our loving Father in heaven comfort you. David and Jane Silverberg of Poplar Bluff, Mo. My email is dlsilverberg@hotmail.com

Jane Silverberg - February 07, 2019 at 08:42 PM

LC

“ Harold steele was a nice, nice man. I was at FCA when he was there. My thoughts and prayers to the Steele family.

Louise Conoboy.

Louise Conoboy - February 07, 2019 at 05:49 PM

DC

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the Steele family. What a wonderful and fulfilling life he lived. I will always remember Harold from his time with the Board of the Farm Credit Administration. I enjoyed working with him and he made the employees of the Agency feel like they always had an open door to discuss issues with him. I always enjoyed talking to him about farming and his experiences during World War II. He was a remarkable man and will be missed, but also celebrated.

Dennis Carpenter

Dennis Carpenter - February 07, 2019 at 04:27 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Harold B Steele.*



February 07, 2019 at 02:52 PM



“ *Our sympathy to the Steele family as you mourn and celebrate Harold's life. He is a legacy for agriculture and a wonderful man. May God Bless him!*

Brian Joehl - February 06, 2019 at 06:02 PM



“ *Mr. Steele truly made a difference, touching the lives of many of us in such a positive way. We extend our sympathy to the Steele Family and Harold's many close friends.*

Max Armstrong - February 05, 2019 at 05:06 PM



“ *Harold Steele occupies a warm spot in my memory from his days as Chairman of the Farm Credit Administration. I remember him as empowering staff to come forward with our best ideas for making the Farm Credit System safer and true to its mission My favorite memory is his response to my query “How are you Mr. Steele?”, which was, more often than not, “Fine as frog's hair.” My condolences to his family. I know he will be sorely missed.*

Dorothy Acosta

Dorothy Acosta - February 05, 2019 at 04:04 PM