

James J. Gentry

James J. Gentry, 86, of Hot Springs, passed away on Wednesday, May 24, 2006, at Mission Hospital after a brief illness.

A lifelong resident of Madison County, he was the son of the late Alfred and Mae Lampkin Gentry. He was also preceded in death by two sons, Jimmy and Alan Gentry; two sisters, Haladine and Lila Maude Gentry; one brother, Pat Gentry; and a grandson, Brian Gentry.

He had owned and operated Gentry Hardware since 1946, worked in the Hot Springs Post Office for the past 33 years and was an agent for CP&L for 59 years. He was an expert craftsman and gardener; little league coach for several years and a Sunday school teacher. He was a WWII veteran serving in the 365th fighter group for four years as a staff sergeant. He was a devoted member of the Fairview United Methodist Church and the Hot Springs Lions Club.

Surviving are his wife of 63 years, Dorothy H. Gentry; three sons, Ronnie and wife Frances of Franklin, Gary and wife Judy of Asheville and Keith and wife Eva of Weaverville; one brother, Bill Gentry of Gray Court, S.C.; six grandchildren; one step-grandson; three great-grandchildren; two stepgreat-grandchildren; and companion Buster, his faithful bloodhound.

A funeral service was held Saturday, May 27, at 3 p.m., in the Robbie Capps Memorial Chapel of Blue Ridge Funeral Service in Mars Hill. Rev. Randy Wood officiated.

Burial followed in the Fairview United Methodist Church Cemetery. Pallbearers were Randy and Travis Gentry, Adam Ripley, Joe Moffitt, Marty Southard and Timmy King

The family received friends from 1:30 to 3 p.m., on Saturday, prior to the service.

Flowers are accepted and memorials may be made to the Fairview United Methodist Church Cemetery Fund, c/o H.C. Wood, 106 Old Dixie Rd., Hot Springs, NC 28743. Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.blueridge-funeral-service.com](http://www.blueridge-funeral-service.com).

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