



Seaborn E. Ellzey, 82, passed away Sunday December 5, 2021 at his daughter's home in Bowling Green, KY. He was surrounded by family.

He is survived by his wife of over 55 years, Judy Nichols Ellzey, a daughter, Leslie Ellzey Witty and her husband David, grandchildren Cordelia Witty Patterson (Will), Caroline Pearl Witty and James William David Witty. He has one brother, Don Langley (Doris) a brother-in-law, Dr. Clem Nichols, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Born the son of Robert and Cordelia Ellzey on October 12, 1939, Seaborn Ellzey was a 7th generation Cave Citian. Seaborn grew up attending Cave City schools and was a 1957 graduate of Caverna High School where he played baseball for three years.

Following high school, Seaborn graduated from Western Kentucky University with a BS in Public Health and Psychology and also enrolled in the Air Force where he served our country for four years. During his service, he was a medic and was deployed once in the Middle East. Ellzey was honorably discharged as a Sergeant in 1965. Seaborn married his wife Judy the next year in 1966.

Seaborn was always an active and vocal supporter of all things Cave City—from his first business downtown, Martin and Ellzey Hardware & Furniture, to representing Cave City on countless boards and committees, to volunteering as the Caverna Youth Tennis Coordinator and the Caverna Tennis League Coordinator in his spare time. He served three terms on the Cave City Council of which he was the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee for two of those terms. Most recently, he worked for two years for the City of Cave City as the Community Development Coordinator.

As a result of his tireless dedication to his hometown, Seaborn was named Cave City Citizen of the Year in December 2016 and inducted into the Cave City Hall of Fame in 2020.

Seaborn Ellzey's career was always one of service to others. He worked for 13 years for what is now LifeSkills, serving as a therapist and administrator. There he primarily worked with adults with developmental disabilities, helping them to gain independence and become more self-sufficient. From there, he went on to a career with the U.S. Postal Service where he carried the mail on rural routes in the region for 21 years. He was a favorite of many on his routes, particularly the dogs, as he was known to always have a bag of treats in his passenger seat, giving them out, along with pats on their heads, as he delivered mail.

Following his retirement from the Postal Service, Seaborn continued to work, this time in the field of athletics. At the age of 60, he was named the head boys' tennis coach at Hart County High School where he served for 8 years, having 7 winning seasons while there. He came back to coach again at the age of 76, this time at Caverna, where he coached for two years, both of which he had winning seasons.

In addition to coaching tennis, Seaborn was an accomplished player himself. He was a USTA Senior player for 11 seasons and was on two Senior State Championship Teams. He played competitively up through his mid-seventies. In 2004, he began a career as a sports and features writer for Jobe Newspapers. For sports, he primarily covered Caverna games including football, basketball and baseball. As a result of his role as an athlete, coach, and sportswriter, he was inducted into the 5th Region Athletic Directors Hall of Fame in 2010.

He continued to write for Jobe Newspapers for a total of fourteen years, out of which his "Way Back When" columns and nostalgic features gained him tremendous support and recognition in the community.

Besides his precious family, Seaborn's biggest loves were undoubtedly his hometown of Cave City, the music of Buddy Holly and the Crickets and the Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers. His family sent him to the Dodgers Fantasy Training Camp in 2001 where he was able to meet and play baseball alongside of many of his childhood heroes including his beloved Duke Snider.

While there are many words that can be used to describe Seaborn, the best may be "storyteller." His nostalgic stories and their colorful deliveries were the stuff of legend. Most of us had heard every one of his tales multiple times yet we still begged for him to tell them again, hanging on his every word. That is the sure sign of a master.

Seaborn Ellzey had one of the most unique names you would ever hear, especially for a small town like Cave City. But he was just as exceptional and memorable as his name himself. He was truly one of a kind and will forever be missed by so many.

Visitation with the family will be held from 10:00 am-2:00 pm on Saturday, December 11 at the Bob Hunt Funeral Chapel in Cave City. The memorial service is scheduled to begin at 2:00 pm with his son-in-law, Brother David Witty presiding.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made in Seaborn's memory to the Cave City Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 460, Cave City, KY 42127, for downtown preservation and enhancements.

Bob Hunt Funeral Chapel was honored to assist the family with arrangements.