



## Allan Reeves Esgar

April 23, 1933 - April 14, 2019

Allan Reeves Esgar, 85, of Dixon died Sunday April 14, 2019 at home after fighting a long battle against cancer. Al is survived by his wife, Kathryn (Blain) Esgar whom he married June 21, 1996. Al was born April 23, 1933 at home in Vienna Township near Mazon, Illinois. The doctor arrived at the home after the birth but decided to charge the family \$25 anyway. His parents, George M. Esgar and Edna Reeves Esgar preceded him in death, as did his older brother, Donald. Allan is survived by his siblings, Kenneth (Nancy) Esgar of Rochelle and Linda (Bob) Crane of Mazon. Even though Al grew up in the poverty of the times, he loved his childhood and believed it made him more appreciative in his life to follow.

Allan briefly attended the University of Illinois in Urbana/Champaign, but soon after joined the Air Force. He was stationed in Enid, Oklahoma, where he taught new pilots. He enjoyed telling stories from his days in the Air Force, recounting how he covered the glass of the cockpit so pilots would have to fly completely using instruments, even when they flew through the mountains. He will be remembered by his fellow instructor pilots from the 1950s, especially Phil Chenoweth. In Enid, he met his first wife, Alice Fay Leatherman. Al and Fay had five children, all of whom survive him: Greg (Sylvia) of Winfield, Iowa; Jeff (Vicky) of Oconomowoc, Wisconsin; Lisa (Dominic) Palazzolo of Springfield; Andy (Fanny Phillips) of Dixon; and Marty (Blanche) of Highland Park. He is also survived by twelve grandchildren: Megan and Daniel Esgar, Kelsey (Joel) Lierman; Benjamin (MacKenzie) and Joseph Esgar; Steven and

Nicole Palazzolo; Edward, Warren, Vivian, and Donald Esgar; Stephanie Phillips (Michael Kaiser); and two great-grandchildren: Caleb and Collins J. Marie Esgar. He was preceded in death by daughter-in-law Jeanne Marie (Lauer) Esgar.

Al worked his whole life in agriculture. When not farming with his parents, even when they used draft horses, he worked at the FS feed mill in Mendota, Illinois. He then worked for Growmark, Inc. inspecting feed mills for quality assurance. Al passed along his love of the farm to his children. The family always had a large garden and several animals. Al raised purebred Brittanys for years, and enjoyed pheasant and deer hunting with his children. The family also raised and showed rabbits. Al served as an adult leader of his children's 4-H club and was the superintendent of the rabbit judging at the Lee County 4-H Fair for years. Later in life, Al and Kathy established a loft of homing pigeons, which they raced competitively. Not only did Al enjoy the whole process of developing the loft, but also good friends Gary Whitebread, Doug Harms, DeVoe Manning, and many others in the Rock River Valley Pigeon Club and Corn County Combine, of which he was a member. He will be fondly remembered by Jerry Sellers and the Lee County Senior Bowlers.

Throughout his life, Allan never met a stranger. He was always outgoing and offered up his opinion on many things (whether you wanted it or not!). Al loved his country and hoped that the younger generations would appreciate the hard work and sacrifices of all those who came before them. He will be missed.

The family is grateful to Al's devoted caregiver, Deborah White, Rev. Peg Williams, Dr. Joseph Welty, and the staff of Rock River Hospice and Home, who enabled him to live his final months in peace and comfort.

Allan has donated his body to the Anatomical Gift Association of Illinois for medical research.

Memorial services will be held on Saturday April 27, 2019 at the 11:00 AM at the Jones Funeral Home in Dixon with the Rev. Peg Williams and the Rev. Wes Hills co-officiating. Visitation will be from 10:00 AM till the time of service on Saturday

Memorials may be directed to the Lee County Extension Foundation and the Rock River Valley Pigeon Club.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 27. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Jones Funeral Home, Dixon  
204 South Ottawa  
Dixon, IL 61021  
Ph: 815-288-2241  
info@thejonesfh.com  
<https://www.thejonesfh.com>

## Service

APR 27. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Jones Funeral Home, Dixon  
204 South Ottawa  
Dixon, IL 61021  
Ph: 815-288-2241  
info@thejonesfh.com  
<https://www.thejonesfh.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Allan Reeves Esgar*

October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *Allan Reeves Esgar*

December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ *I knew Al through a bird dog forum, where he proved to be a very knowledgeable contributor on a wide variety of topics. He impressed me as someone who I would like to have met personally, and with whom I'd have enjoyed spending time with in the field, following pointing dogs. I'm also very grateful for his military service.*

*A fine man, who will be missed even by those of us who never properly met him. Thanks for sharing so much wisdom, Al.*

*Craig Kirsch  
Rapid City, SD*

Craig Kirsch - May 20, 2019 at 09:08 AM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. We had a lot of fun in 4-H with you all and your dad as our leader. My sympathy to you all.*

Betty - May 06, 2019 at 02:52 PM

BE

“ Betty lit a candle in memory of Allan Reeves Esgar



Betty - May 06, 2019 at 02:48 PM

JM

“ I spent a lot of time talking bird dogs and racing pigeons with Al - What a wonderfully generous man. He always invited me up to discuss and hang out - and to check out pigeons of course. He will be missed. Godspeed Al.

John Markham - May 03, 2019 at 09:20 AM

SC

“ Al and I talked alot about hunting while we bowled together in the Commercial 16 league. He was very passionate about hunting and easy to talk to. He talked about his kids alot. Im sure he will be sadly missed. Steve Cooper.



steven s cooper - April 30, 2019 at 11:33 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Allan Reeves Esgar.



April 25, 2019 at 09:23 AM

RO

“ *Very sad to hear that Al has passed away, my deepest condolences to the family. Known to me as Ezzy333 on a Gun dog forum . I never met Al, but when we communicated it was like he was across the table ,rather than thousands of miles away across the pond .  
Sincerely Yours  
Robert Johnston (Polmaise Gundogs)  
Scotland*

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**Robert** - April 25, 2019 at 04:56 AM

JO

“ *I knew him as Ezzy,,,he imparted knowledge on me and for that I owe him,,,now and in the Everlasting life - Rest in Peace Warrior!*

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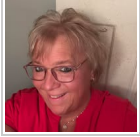
**John** - April 24, 2019 at 06:49 PM

SF

“ *Al was a major contributor on a bird hunting bulletin board populated by people of all ages. His experience, lucid way of expressing himself and highly respected demeanor enabled to pass on his knowledge to many. When people have questions about dogs or bird hunting, they can do the search function and get the answers that only he can provide. People will be benefiting from him for many years.*

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**Steve Finkel** - April 22, 2019 at 10:49 PM



“ *The first day we meet Al was July 26 2006 in the rabbit barn. He taught our daughter Katie everything she knows about rabbits. She had holland lops but Al talked her into getting Californian's . We went from 2-3 rabbits to about 60 , we would always thanked him for that. He taught her how to tell which rabbits were the best .He was so good and patient about teaching the kids in 4-H. The rabbit barn will not be the same at the fair.*

*Howard, Vicki, and Katie Cover and Brian Mezo.*

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**Vicki Cover** - April 20, 2019 at 08:02 AM

KK

“ *Sorry hearing about Al's passing. I worked with him, back in the 1960's , at the FS Feed Mill, Mendota, IL. He was a great Guy to work with. ( I sure enjoyed his dry Sense of Humor ! ) Sending Prayers to the Family.*

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**Ken Kearney** - April 19, 2019 at 02:38 PM