

Johnson, Edsel

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Edsel Johnson Edsel Eugene Johnson Sr. passed away at the family home and farm just outside Evergreen on Saturday, Nov. 8, at the age of 89. He was born in Local, Alabama, Sept. 17, 1925, and was the second son to his parents, John Ezra Johnson and Etta Pearl Dean. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother John Ottis Johnson, and son-in law James Michael Scherer Sr. Edsel is survived by his wife Jean, their five children, Beverly Scherer of Huntsville, Edsel Eugene Johnson Jr. (Donna) of Dothan, Sheila Davidson (John) of Huntsville, June Powell (Jody) of Franklin, Tenn., and Kathryn Salter (Randy) of Brewton; 11 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, and 12 nieces and nephews. After graduating from Evergreen High School in 1943, where he was a star athlete, he joined the Navy and served in the Atlantic during WWII as part of the Normandy invasion. Edsel and Jean Snowden were married in Evergreen, on Feb. 4, 1945, and would have celebrated their seventieth anniversary in just a couple of months. Before and after military service, Edsel played professional baseball with The Brewton Millers and his brother Ottis played for The Dothan Browns. Edsel spoke often about them playing, simply, for "The Love of the Game". After returning from military service, he began a career in Brewton with Southern Bell Telephone. He retired in 1985 and he and Jean returned to Evergreen. During the years in Brewton, Edsel was a member of the Jr. Chamber of Commerce and was selected Most Outstanding Member based on his service and the way he lived his life. He was part of a team that constructed an iron lung used to assist the breathing of polio victims. He was instrumental in organizing and coaching in the city's first Little League Baseball Program. He also assisted Jean and his daughters with Girl Scouts, providing needed camping skills and lots of laughter. In Eufaula, Edsel was a member of the Lion's Club, served as president and dedicated many volunteer hours of his electrical skills working on scoreboards and lights at the school's athletic fields. During all of his years, he was a member of the Telephone Pioneers, a dedicated, diverse network of current, and retired telecommunication employees across the United States and Canada providing projects from helping the disabled to fostering literacy. Edsel served as an Elder in the Community of Christ Church and was an active member of the Evergreen congregation. Edsel was a humble man and allowed his works to speak for him. Mostly by example, he taught his children the lessons of humility, humor, common sense, forgiveness, a love for family and the simple things in life. His presence will be missed but his life lessons will be present forever. A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Saturday, Nov. 22, at 11 a.m. at Cope Funeral Home in Evergreen, Alabama. A graveside service will follow at Witherington Cemetery. Visitation and lunch will follow at Jean and Edsel's home on the farm. In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations

to the Community of Christ Church, PO Box 184, Evergreen, Alabama, 36401. Sign the online guestbook for Mr. Johnson at www.eufaulatribune.com.