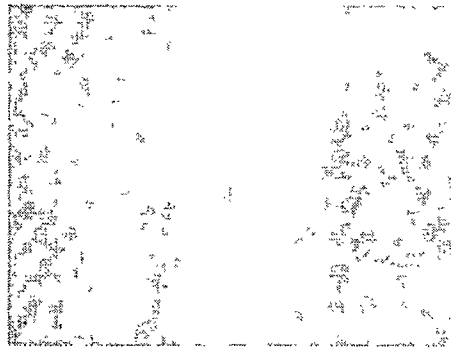


https://www.thedailytimes.com/news/empty-pantry-fund-advocate-gregory-dies/article_b519d463-9907-5173-a867-ed7868f7b391.html

Empty Pantry Fund advocate Gregory dies

From Staff Reports

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William Gregory

A career military man and advocate for Blount County's Empty Pantry Fund, Command Sergeant Major (retired) William (Bill) O. Gregory died Thursday. He was 85.

A Korean War veteran, Gregory served the U.S. Army for 41½ years. According to his son, Jeffrey Gregory, as a part of this time, his father spent time in the Army National Guard and took charge of the National Guard Armory at a time when a soldier was required to live in the building.

Gregory retired, yet the country needed him again. He got called up for Desert Storm, processed out as a retiree, then was called back up at the age of 74 for Operation Enduring Freedom. At this time, three generations of Gregorys — Bill, Jeffrey and his son, Josh — served the military at the same time.



Bill Gregory helped the Empty Pantry Fund by providing space at the armory to store the food, then space to pack the food boxes for needy families.

Paul Bales, longtime former chairman for the EPF, recalled Bill Gregory helping with the process for many years. Bales said that no one worried about the food while it was stored at the armory, because Bill Gregory kept it safe. He also kept things functioning at the armory for the National Guard drills once a month.

The family will receive friends 5–8 p.m. Monday at Mynatt Funeral Home Halls Chapel in Knoxville with interment at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at East TN Veterans Cemetery, John Sevier Highway.

