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Kleppinger Funeral Home

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Joe Burnham

BELOIT—Joe Burnham was born November 11, 1928 to Ray & Emma Burnham in Jewell County. Joe departed this life October 31, 2014 at Mitchell County Hospital at the age of 85 years, 11 months.

Joe attended school in Jewell. He worked in many walks of life. He had a story for each job that he worked, and towns that he traveled to, and people that he met along the way. He didn't know a stranger.

Joe enjoyed adventure. He flew planes, and was a skydiver, and also had a love of cars, traveling and history. A favorite pastime was going to the VFW talking to old veterans about the war and that time of life.

He served our country in Germany during the Korean Conflict. He was proud to be a veteran and enjoyed visiting military museums and war artifacts.

In November of 1963, he married Nell Smith in Overbrook, KS. They were married 50 years. They lived in Lawrence in the early part of their marriage. Joe worked as a barber. They built a home at Lake Perry , where he enjoyed sailing his boat, driving his MG car, and entertaining his family and friends that came to visit. Joe worked at Hallmark, where he retired. They moved to Jewell to be close to family and old friends.

Joe & Nell enjoyed traveling in their motor home. They wintered in Alamo, Texas for several years. Joe talked about his many travels over to Progresso, Mexico and stories about his winter friends and activities.

He loved Big Band music and it was fun to watch him do a little jig when he would have music on.

Preceding him in death were his parents; his wife Nell; and a brother John.

He leaves to celebrate his life his sister Beth and husband R.A. Chambers; nephews Todd & wife Amy Chambers, Sam & wife Stephanie Chambers; niece Libby & husband Neil Clements; Godchildren Lindsay Rut, Lacey Miller, Blake Burks; special friends Richard & Melissa Burks; Great Godchildren Londyn and Burklee, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Jewell Wednesday, November 5, 2014. There will be NO visitation. Burial will be at Pleasant Prairie Cemetery, rural Randall , KS. Memorials may be given to the Post Rock Humane Society of Beloit, or the Beloit VFW. Kleppinger Funeral Home, 409 Broadway, Jewell, KS is handling arrangements.