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Kleppinger Funeral Home

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Jerry Lee Kinsey

Jerry Lee Kinsey, the son of Mark B. and Faye L. Kelly Kinsey, was born January 16, 1943, in Concordia, Kansas, and died May 17, 2013 at the MD Anderson Hospital in Houston, Texas, where he had gone to find hope in stabilizing the spread of the cancer that was attacking his body.

Jerry grew up in Montrose, Kansas. He began helping on the family farm at a very young age and developed a love for farming that continued throughout his 70 years. He graduated from Montrose Rural High School in 1961 and attended Kansas State University for one year. Realizing college wasn't for him, he returned to Montrose and began his farming career. He joined the Kansas National Guard in 1963 and was honorably discharged on December 25, 1969.

On August 2, 1964, he married Alice Hiatt in Superior, Nebraska. They resided in Montrose until 1967 when they moved to Mankato. Four children were born to this union.

Jerry took great pleasure in his farm, never considering it a job, it was doing something he loved. He never tired of watching the dirt turn behind his tractor or watching the wheat roll out of the combine into the truck. He looked forward to harvest every year. He instilled that love of the land in his children and was proud when his only son chose to follow in his footsteps. When he felt the time was right, he turned his farming operation over to Jerod and got a real kick out of being Jerod's "hired man". He has always considered him not just a son but his best friend.

Knowing that the farm could not support his growing family, he became plant manager for Boettcher Enterprises that was located in Montrose. He spent 40 years taking care of the fertilizer and chemical needs of many of the area farmers. With this responsibility he made many friends and they depended on him for his knowledge of the soil.

Jerry served for 11 years on the USD #278 School Board. He was a member of the Montrose Methodist Church and later transferred his membership to Harmony United Methodist Church in Mankato. He was a proud member of the Hart-Parr Oliver Collector Association.

Most of all he loved his family. He was proud of his children and the life choices they made. Although usually a humble man, he had no trouble bragging about his grandchildren whenever there was someone willing to listen. If there was an activity one of his grandchildren was involved in—he was there if at all possible. It might be basketball, baseball, football, volleyball, track, softball, dancing, read-a-thon, or a quiz bowl. He was there. He was proud to be a Rock Hills Grizzly, a Pratt Greenback, a Sterling Warrior, an Emporia State University Hornet, a Skyline Thunderbird or a Russell Bronco. He was always their biggest cheerleader.

He will be dearly missed by his wife of almost 49 years, his children: Molly Swank and husband, Dave of Pratt, KS, Michelle Schmidt and husband, Dave, Pratt; Jerod Kinsey and wife, Mary, Mankato; and Alison Ryan and husband Nathan of Russell. Grandchildren: Matt, Micah and Anna Swank; Mark and Luke Schmidt; Chanse Copple; Kyle Andersen and wife Aubrey; Kayla Noller; Harper Ryan; Kaylen Schmidt and Rob Ortiz; and Andrew Schmidt. One great grandchild: Christopher Ortiz. One sister, Kathleen Jeffrey and husband Gale Jeffrey of Burr Oak; one brother, Richard and wife Joyce of Colorado, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. Pallbearers were; Matt Swank, Micah Swank, Chanse Copple, Kyle Andersen, Mark Schmidt, Craig Dewey, Heath Dewey, and Roger Reiter.

Services were held at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 22, 2013 at Harmony United Methodist Church, Mankato, Kansas with Pastor Gerry Sharp officiating. Kleppinger Funeral Home, 409 Broadway, Jewell, KS 66949 is in charge of arrangements. Interment was in Pleasant View Cemetery, Montrose/Mankato, KS. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to Pleasant View Cemetery or Ute Theater.