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Kleppinger Funeral Home

409 Broadway Jewell, Kansas 66949

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Gerald Edward McMurray

Jewell---Gerald Edward McMurray was born to this life September 5, 1926. He was born to Floyd Edward and Artiemeecie McMurray in Jewell, County Kansas.

Gerald loved to learn new things. Riding motorcycles with his brother, learning to play piano and mandolin with his sister, and learning about being a steward of the land at his father's elbow was just the beginning. He graduated from Jewell High School and joined the Navy when he was 17 years old during WW11. He proudly served his country in the Liberation of the Philippines campaign, serving as a Fireman First Class. He met Patty Clawson in the summer of 1948.

Gerald met Patty on a summer night in Mankato, KS . There was a roller skating rink that kids went to on Saturday night. Patty swears she couldn't skate well, but somehow she managed to skate well enough to trip Gerald while he was skating backward. It wasn't love at first sight, but the next dance in Jewell would prove the meeting was meant to be. They were married on July 31, 1949. To this union were born two daughters, Lori Ann and Janie Lynn. They celebrated 62 years together. Spending their life farming and raising their daughters was paramount in his life.

After a time they settled on a farm southwest of Jewell, just 3 miles from where he grew up. He went into farming with his dad and mom and they began their life together. Newly married life is always a hard time but they found ways to make it fun. Hunting sparrows in the barn at night and learning to make biscuits are favorite stories he would share.

He achieved his pilot's license and shared ownership in a single engine airplane. He loved flying. In his farming business he was always willing to try new things or look at the usual and find new paths. He opened hearts and minds with his profound yet quiet ways. His friends looked for his council, and he, theirs. His family was safe in his protection. He was cut from the most special kind of cloth.

Gerald departed this life on July 22, 2012. Preceding his passing and greeting him in love are his parents, Floyd and Artie, his brother Robert Glen, and his daughter, Janie Lynn.

Gerald is survived by Patricia, his beloved wife. Daughter Lori Howell and husband Steven, grandchildren Jacob Birdsell, Sarah Molzahn and husband James and their children Addison and Conner, Derek Birdsell, Nicolas Birdsell, Ian Birdsell, and Destin McMurray, and many other friends and family.

A memorial service will be at the Jewell Christian Church on Thursday, July 26, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. Memorials may be given to American Legion Post #72.

Visitation is Wednesday, July 25th from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Kleppinger Funeral Home, 409 Broadway, Jewell, KS who is handling arrangements. E-mail address---kleppinger@nckcn.com.