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# Kleppinger Funeral Home

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## **John L. Matthews** – Jewell, KS

John L. Matthews, 64, Jewell, KS passed away suddenly March 10, 2012. He was born June 9, 1947 in Manhattan to Walter L. and Genevieve L. Matthews. After living in Trinidad, CO and Paola, KS for 10 years, the family returned to Manhattan. He graduated from Manhattan High School in 1965. John began working for Southwestern Bell Telephone as a lineman in Manhattan in 1966. After working several different positions, he was promoted into management there in 1976. During his career he also worked in Topeka, Salina and Beloit, retiring in 1991. He then farmed for a number of years and worked in computer sales, as well as operating a wholesale craft business with his wife Martha. In 2002, he began another career at North Central Kansas Technical College, Beloit, KS, developing and teaching the curriculum for the telecommunications program. He went on to develop their VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol); and a program of online courses for the college. He wrote grant proposals that funded the startup of the telecommunications program as well as several millions of dollars that helped to fund programs at the college. John had a lifelong love of hunting and reading.

He was united in marriage to Martha Rothchild Elliott, Salina, KS on January 23, 1982. She survives of the home. He is also survived by 5 daughters, Laura Gatza (Brent) of Olathe, Lanae Davis (Jason), Broomfield, CO, Amanda Matthews, Hutchinson, Michelle (Guerry) Harris, Austin, TX and Lori-Matthews-Watt, Lee's Summit, MO, as well as 7 grandchildren---Madison Watt, Delaney and Tabitha Harris, Brody and Lyla Gatza, and Meadow and Kash Davis. John is also survived by his mother Genevieve Matthews of Manhattan, 3 brothers, Tom (Sherri) Matthews, Kansas City, KS, Bill (Peggy) Matthews, Manhattan and Bob (Janie) Matthews, Quilcene, WA.

Services were held Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Jewell. Visitation was Monday evening, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Kleppinger Funeral Home, 409 Broadway, Jewell, KS which handled arrangements. Memorials may be given to North Central Kansas Technical College.

Private Inurnment will be held at a later date.