



Melvin Henry Prater

December 27, 1928 - May 5, 2021

Melvin Henry Prater, 92, a longtime Miami resident passed away on Wednesday, May 5, 2021. Mr. Prater was born on December 27, 1928 in rural Wyandotte, Oklahoma side to Reverend Earl and Erna (Fawks) Prater. Melvin went to work as a young at the Prater Saw Mill for years before entering the Navy. He was a Seabee in the Navy where he served in, Adak and Aleutian Islands in Alaska. When Melvin returned from serving in the Navy he married the loved of his life Helen Jane Smith, went back to work at Prater Saw Mill, then worked for the Frisco railroad, then landed at BF Goodrich in the Banbury form for thirty-five years. After his time at BF Goodrich he went to work at Commerce Sales for ten years then to Sun Kissed Floral to help his daughter Anita by delivering. He and his wife Helen Jane Prater loved to travel in their fifth wheel, they had visited forty-six of the forty-eight states they could drive to. They played dominoes and cards with their friends over the years, Melvin enjoyed fishing. Melvin was very active in his church, First United Methodist Church in Fairland as Sunday School Superintendant and as Sr. Adult Sunday School Class Teacher. Melvin was preceded in passing by his parents, Earl and Erna, his wife Helen Jane Prater, his brothers and sisters Helen, Don, Martha, Edna, Rush and Becky.

Survivors include his children Anita Smith and her husband Ben of Miami, Mark Prater and his wife Dixie of Broken Arrow and Tammy Prater of Miami, his brother Ken Prater of West Seneca, Oklahoma, Danny Prater and Mary

Lewis of North Carolina, his grandchildren Kevin Hatley and his wife Tera of Miami, Colby Hatley and his wife Beth of Springfield, Thomas Prater of Broken Arrow and Natalee Prater of Broken Arrow, Great grandchildren Brandi Hatley and Austin Hatley and three great-great grandchildren Tevin Hatley, Darrien Alexander and Daizee Hatley.

Visitation will be Tuesday, May 11, 2021 from 1:00 PM until 2:00 PM at First United Methodist Church in Fairland.

Services will be 2:00 PM on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at First United Methodist Church in Fairland. Interment will follow at the Seneca Cemetery under the care of Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Miami.

Pallbearers will be Mark Prater, Ben Smith, Kevin Hatley and Colby Hatley.

The family has asked in lieu of flowers to donations to be made to the First United Methodist Church of Fairland.

Friends and family may send the family notes of encouragement by viewing Mr. Prater's Tribute Page at www.brown-winters.com.

Cemetery Details

Seneca Cemetery

South 705 Road and Cemetery Road
Seneca, MO 64865

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 11. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church - Fairland
122 West Church Avenue
Fairland, OK 74343

Celebration of Life

MAY 11. 2:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church - Fairland
122 West Church Avenue
Fairland, OK 74343

Tribute Wall



“ *Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service created a Tribute Video in memory of Melvin Henry Prater*



Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service - May 10, 2021 at 02:26 PM

CM

“ *Our condolences to his children. Your Mother and Father were special people.
Charles and Donna Mathis*



Charles & Donna Mathis - May 12, 2021 at 01:36 PM

ML

“ There were so many years between us, as siblings. Eighteen and one half (give or take a few days), to be exact. The first memory I have of seeing my brother for the first time, was actually in a picture. He had just come home, from wherever he was, serving in the Navy as a SeaBee. The picture was of me sitting next to some of our mom's flowers, wearing his Navy cap. I really love that picture.

It wasn't until much later in our lives that we really became friends. I will never forget the days he stopped by my salon, "just to check on you." I loved seeing (or hearing) him walk through the back door of South Side Salon & Day Spa. It was always toward the end of any given day, right when he knew it would give me a boost. Maybe it was the only time he could get free from his own deliveries for Sunkissed Floral. But I still think he knew he would be a welcomed sight for his little sister. At least I hope he did. I could never get him to stay awhile. He had to get back to see if he was needed.

Responsible. That's what Melv was. Responsible for his word. A man of integrity, of solidity, of faithfulness and gratitude for what God had blessed him with.

I couldn't be at the celebration of his life, today, but he will live on in my heart. Anita, Mark, Tammy...please know I am holding you close today. Please know the Father is holding you close. I only wish I could be with you today as you embrace each other and send your dad off to his forever home. The pain of losing those we love, is softened by the knowledge that we will never "lose" them. They are as close as the air we breathe. A bit of their own spirit lives on in us as we look forward and live life to the fullest. If not for ourselves, for them. And for the Father of all life.

Love and Hugs!!!

Aunt Mary

Mary Lewis - May 11, 2021 at 12:53 PM



“ Anita, Tammy, and Mark, I'm so sorry to hear the news about your dad. I have fond memories of both of your parents from church in Fairland. I'm so glad I was able to be at your dad's birthday at the nursing home a few years back. (I can't remember which number birthday it was), but he was happy to see me there and was so sweet. Thinking of you guys and your whole extended family, and wishing I could be there for the service. Sending love, hugs, and prayers for peace and joyful memories to last a lifetime. -Stacy Chriswell

Stacy Chriswell - May 11, 2021 at 01:22 AM



“ 81 files added to the album LifeTributes



Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service - May 10, 2021 at 01:00 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Melvin Henry Prater.



May 09, 2021 at 07:29 AM

CW

“ I have been thinking of Melvin a lot this week for some reason. When I looked at the obituaries today I see why. I was recalling what a wonderful friend he was to my own father when they were both residing in a nursing facility in Miami. It was a new experience for both of them and they met for lunch each day in the cafeteria and talked over this and that and all sorts of things. It was a time in their lives when both needed to have someone to talk to that was in their shoes during the start of this new chapter in their lives. Both my dad and Melvin went to separate nursing facilities after that initial one, but my dad and I had never forgotten Melvin or his wonderful family. It brings tears just thinking about that time in all our lives. Melvin was a kind, good person and I remember in the cafeteria how he would always tell my dad how good that food was at his daughter's cafe.....he would describe how it tasted and both of them would wish they were at the cafe instead of the facility cafeteria. My heart goes out to the family at this time. My dad has passed on as well...and I know how much these two men are missed by their families.

cathy ware-alexander - May 06, 2021 at 05:35 PM