



Fred Jepson

January 27, 1928 - November 28, 2025

Fred Morris Jepson died on November 28, 2025, after living a long and fulfilled life. He was born on January 27, 1928, in Topeka, Kansas to parents Fred E. Jepson and Gladys Morrison Jepson.

Fred attended and graduated from Washburn Rural High School in 1946. During his high school years he played drums, was the yearbook photographer, and worked on the family's farm with his brothers, Robert and Richard Jepson. After high school, Fred drove a school bus for Washburn Rural over 114 miles each day covering areas from 10th Street to Wakarusa. Back in those days he would drive a bus with chains to navigate the many dirt and rock roads in inclement weather. He was drafted into the service on September 11, 1950, where he served the United States Army as a driver and mechanic in the Korean War. While in the Army, he continued to use his skills as a photographer and took many photos while in Korea which were later shared with many at annual reunions that Shirley organized. After serving in the Army, he attended Trade School learning additional mechanical and electrical skills. During Trade School, he designed and built an Electric Welder which is still operational in his shop. Upon graduating, he was hired as a Customer Service Engineer for IBM in Topeka where he worked for 30 years. After retiring, he built a small shop in his backyard and serviced small engines and fixed or repaired any number of things for neighbors and friends. He was known by the neighbor kids as "Flashlight Fred" or "Fix-it Fred".

On August 31, 1956, he married Shirley Ann Sage of Dover, Kansas. Shirley passed in August of 2024, one day short of their 68th anniversary.

Fred was a father to son, Gary Jepson and daughter, Ronda Jepson Jeffries.

Fred was a member of the First Congregational Church in Topeka.

Fred and Shirley built a house on 21st Street in 1959 and lived there for their entire lives. For those of you who know the house, you will remember how the yard was always perfectly manicured. He and Shirley took great pride in keeping everything in the yard “just so”!

Fred was a friend to anyone he met. Frequently people would stop by at dinnertime to ask him for help with their cars or some small project. His willingness to help others at any time of day or night was legendary as were his skills to analyze and fix problem equipment. After building their house on 21st street, Fred realized that one acre was a lot to mow and built what is now known as a “Garden Tractor” with a 60-inch mowing deck. He also built many prototype pieces of equipment like a forced air boot dryer, automated pop and beer can crushing machine, a “Rotary Hoe”. Fred also modified several vans to make them wheelchair accessible.

Fred was always grateful for all the blessings he received! Never one to complain about anything, he was well loved by all. The nursing home staff were always more than willing to help him as he was never down even when things didn't go his way.

Fred was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Robert “Bobo” and Richard “Dick”.

Fred is survived by his son, Gary (Kari) Jepson of Topeka; daughter, Ronda

(Bryan) Jeffries of Dublin, Ohio; grandchildren, Megan Dye (Paul) of Plain City, Ohio, Heath Jepson of Topeka, Samantha Jepson Marsh of Topeka, MacKenzie Gray, Westerville, Ohio; great-grandchildren, Aubrey and Rylee Price of Topeka, Ryan and Parker Dye of Ohio, and Jayden and Wyatt Marsh of Topeka.

The family extends a heartfelt thank you to the staff of Lexington Park and Ascend Hospice who were invaluable during this difficult time.

Visitation will be from 1 to 3 p.m. and a short service will follow at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614. A brief committal service with military honors will be at 4 p.m. at Westlawn Memorial Gardens in Topeka.

Memorial contributions can be made to the American Legion Post 400 in care of the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent online at www.kevinbrennanfamily.com

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 10. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Funeral Service

DEC 10. 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Committal Service

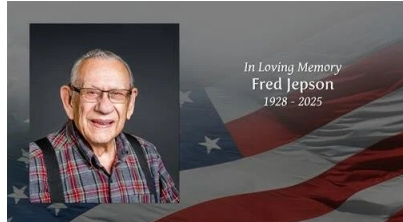
DEC 10. 4:00 PM (CT)

West Lawn Memorial Gardens
I-70 & Auburn Road
Topeka, KS 66615

Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Fred Jepson



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - December 03, 2025 at 10:11 AM

BC

“ My father, Russ Caton, worked with Fred at IBM for many, many years. I am in my 70's and have known Fred and Shirley most of my life. There was a group of IBM'rs that became close friends; the Caton's, Jepson's, Kessler's, Davis', Fisher's and Kelly's that I can remember. They kept in touch after retirement and had lots of fun! I was always amazed at Fred and his ability to fix "anything". My dad was no slouch when it came to fixing stuff, but Fred was his go-to guy when he was stumped. And if he couldn't find a part he would make it!

All I have is good memories of Fred and Shirley and will fondly remember them both. To Gary and Rhonda (and families) - May you find the peace and comfort that our Heavenly Father freely gives to those who ask. God Bless

Bill Caton

Bill Caton - December 11, 2025 at 11:07 AM

JL

“ Dear family, Back in the late 60's, I worked at SW Bell's computer room on the night shift. On many occasions Fred arrived to rescue us from an IBM machine that was acting up. With his help in the middle of the night, we were able to recover and get back on schedule. Since those days, I would occasionally see Fred wearing a big smile as always and we would reminisce about those days of old.

Jerry Lammers - December 07, 2025 at 12:16 PM

EM

“ Fred, what a nice guy. I worked in IT at the county and he would occasionally repair our IBM computer equipment. Later I talked to him numerous times at the post400 when dancing. He repaired my lawn mowers and my goCart which he borrowed when grandkids were coming to visit. The last few years I visited with him at the VA while I was volunteering. My sincere Condolenses to Fred's family and friends.

Eddie Michael - December 05, 2025 at 05:02 PM

LF

“ Love, Magellan Financial planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Fred Jepson.

Love, Magellan Financial - December 04, 2025 at 03:57 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Fred Jepson.



December 04, 2025 at 03:57 PM

JR

“ When Fred was working for IBM, he was usually the one that came and repaired our computer systems. He always did a great job getting things going again. However, most of all, I just enjoyed visiting with Fred, very knowledgeable and uplifting person.

Jerry Rappard - December 03, 2025 at 11:23 PM

P&

“ Peter &. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Fred Jepson.

Peter &. - December 03, 2025 at 08:41 PM

P&

“ Peter &. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Fred Jepson.



Peter &. - December 03, 2025 at 08:41 PM

LC

“ We have lived next-door to Fred and Shirley for most of the past 15 years. They have been a big part of our children’s upbringing. What absolutely wonderful people! We couldn’t have hoped for better neighbors. So many fun memories of Fred teaching me something about just about everything, telling war stories, etc. RIP Fred... We will miss you! - Lee and Traci Christensen Family

Lee Christensen - December 03, 2025 at 07:22 PM

SF

“ My thoughts are with Ronda and Gary and your family. Our parents were friends and grew up with both of you. They were very special people and they will be missed. 🙏

Susan Fisher - December 03, 2025 at 07:01 PM

AB

“ Allen, Scotty, Johnny and Bill. purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Fred Jepson.



Allen, Scotty, Johnny and Bill. - December 03, 2025 at 06:39 PM

HM

“ Sincere condolences to the Family on the loss of Mr. Jepson. I always enjoyed visiting with him. He was a real Citizen.

Henry Spangler, MD - December 03, 2025 at 01:26 PM

DR

Gary and Ronda and families; Fred was a genuinely nice man who I always enjoyed getting a chance to talk to. I am sorry for your loss.
Dan Riley

Dan Riley - December 04, 2025 at 09:23 AM

KH

Fred was one of the people I met my first day on the IBM job and over the years I learned so much from him about all of the unique machines that we worked on in those early days. Fred was a master at repairing just about anything and was the person we all went to for mechanical problems around our homes too. He was the only person I have ever known to have built a shop with an oil pit in it....but it was no surprise that he did that.

I remember so many stories he shared with me, and to this day, whenever I hear the phrase "Thanks for your service", Fred comes to mind as I think of his Army days serving in Korea and driving an ammo re-supply truck, at night, loaded with mortar rounds, no map or lights, bitter cold...such a dangerous assignment. I was so happy to learn a few years ago, that Fred was able to go on one of the Honor Flights to Washington, D.C. and receive some of the gratitude he deserved. He truly was one of a kind, always positive, helpful to all, always ready to lend a hand and a great friend of ours. He...and Shirley, will be missed by all who knew them.

Klio & MaryJo Hobbs

Klio Hobbs - December 05, 2025 at 01:00 PM

LD

I remember Fred was always friendly when I seen him at Scouts, school, when our kids grew up together, we were both Korean Vets, too. I drove in Ger. & France. I will miss seeing him around,

I will remember him in my prayers

Leon Dultmeier

Leon R Dultmeier - December 29, 2025 at 10:22 PM