



Harold Stones

October 29, 1931 - November 30, 2023

Harold Allen Stones, 92, Topeka, Kansas, named 2011 Kansan of the Year by Kansas Native Sons and Daughters and described by Senator Pat Roberts as “a common man with an uncommon ability to make a difference in people’s lives,” passed away Thursday, November 30, 2023.

Harold was born to Glen and Henrietta Stones, in Smith County, Kansas, on the family farm homesteaded by his great-grandfather, Rev. J.T. Stones. After graduating from Lebanon High School in 1949, he attended Fort Hays Kansas State College (now Fort Hays State University) for one year followed by a year teaching in a one-room country schoolhouse. Harold honorably served our country in the US Air Force for four years before returning to complete his education at Fort Hays, earning his bachelor’s and master’s degrees there. He remained there to teach Speech and he coached the debate team to national finals at West Point, then served as Director of Alumni Affairs and Student Placement. In 1995 he received the Fort Hays Outstanding Alumni Award.

Harold was employed by the Kansas Bankers Association for 30 years, first as Director of Research and retiring as Executive Vice-President. In 1997 he was a volunteer in a group that included Larry Williams of Halstead, who traveled to Bosnia after the war to help restructure their financial system and form the Bosnia Bankers Association.

He joined Senator Pat Robert's staff as Special Projects Director from 1997 until 2021; his primary duties included being a liaison with military bases in Kansas. In the conflicts following 9/11, Harold was Sen. Roberts ambassador attending many military funerals of those fallen veterans. In recognition of his concern for these soldiers and their families, he was inducted as an honorary member of the Audie Murphy Club. In 2009 he received the Commander's Award for Public Service from the Department of the Army.

On December 12, 1977, Harold and Patricia Hefner were united in marriage, enjoying almost 46 years together. She survives.

Other survivors include his children, Chuck Stones (Sandy), Rick Stones (Ronda) and Janie Gray (Peter); grandchildren, Alicia Elliott (Jim), Rick Stones (Randi), Steven Stones (Bridgette), Erica Stones, and Hannah Smith (Chris); nine great-grandchildren; and nieces, Judy and Gaynelle.

Harold was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife, Kitty Stones, his brother, Charles, sister-in-law, Ardith, and niece, Sue.

Funeral service, with military honors, will be 11 a.m. Thursday, December 7, at Countryside United Methodist Church. Visitation will be one hour prior to service. Inurnment will be private at Mount Hope Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to the Harold A. Stones Family Scholarship Fund at Fort Hays State University, sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Cemetery Details

Mount Hope Cemetery

4700 SW 17th Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 7. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Countryside United Methodist Church
3221 SW Burlingame Road
Topeka, KS 66611

Funeral Service

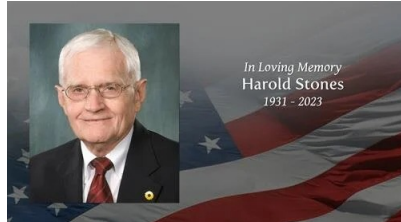
DEC 7. 11:00 AM (CT)

Countryside United Methodist Church
3221 SW Burlingame Road
Topeka, KS 66611

Tribute Wall



“ *Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Harold Stones*



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - December 05, 2023 at 04:00 PM

Jl

“ *Rick & Chuck - Sincerest sympathy to you and your family.
Julie & Dave Ireland*

Julie Ireland - January 17, 2024 at 02:37 AM

VL

“ *So many memories of Harold have come to mind in the last week and today's extraordinary celebration of his life has brought forth even more. Senator Roberts and Chuck were spot on in describing Harold's remarkable dedication to Patty, his family, his fellow man and his country. Bill and I were incredibly thankful and honored to call him friend. One of our favorite memories was of accompanying Patty and Harold to Vail when they got married and to stand with them as they said their vows. The trip, filled with laughter and fun, was often a highlight of our conversations with Harold and Patty. Good memories.*

My deepest condolences, Patty.

Vicki Lesser - December 07, 2023 at 10:29 PM

JS

“ *Jen S. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harold Stones.*

Jen S. - December 06, 2023 at 05:39 PM

CB

“ *Colette And Ed Bernica lit a candle in memory of Harold Stones*



Colette and Ed Bernica - December 05, 2023 at 02:28 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Harold Stones.*



December 05, 2023 at 02:24 PM

EB

“ *Our hearts go out to the family of Harold. He will be missed greatly in many communities. Harold had the wonderful gift of making you smile and feeling at home wherever you were. He and his wife, Patty, were amazing in kindness and thoughtfulness. May God rest his soul.*

Ed and Colette Bernica

Ed and Colette Bernica - December 05, 2023 at 02:13 PM

BR

“ *My condolences to all who loved Harold and I know there are so many of us. I met Harold as a young reporter for American Banker newspaper and we spoke on a regular basis for many, many years. Of course Harold was talented and brilliant and represented his banks admirably. But even more important he was among the kindest person I have ever met. I admired him deeply.*

Barb Rehm - December 04, 2023 at 04:32 PM

RS

“ *So many things could and will be said about Harold. He treated everybody equally and fairly and was a great proponent for his industry and state. My sincerest condolences to the family.*

Rick Smith - December 04, 2023 at 03:58 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Harold Stones.*



December 04, 2023 at 02:14 PM