



Harry Ruppel

December 25, 1930 - September 29, 2024

Lt. Col. Harry D. Ruppel (Ret.), 93, Topeka, Kansas, passed away on Sunday, September 29, 2024.

Harry was born in Topeka on December 25, 1930, to parents, Harry F. and Edna Corbett Ruppel. During World War II, his dad served in the Army, moving the family to Granite City, Illinois, Columbus, Ohio, and Richland, Missouri. Harry grew up in Wichita, Kansas before the family moved to Topeka and he graduated from Washburn Rural High School in 1949. While he was in high school, on January 16, 1948, Harry joined the Kansas Army National Guard and retired on January 16, 1984, as Lt. Col. He attended National Guard OCS, graduating 2nd Lieutenant in 1957. Later in his career he was Commandant of the Kansas State OCS in 1979. Other military education included Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Harry was a full-time technician with the Kansas Army National Guard. He helped establish and was a volunteer firefighter of the Mission Township Fire Department in 1977, retiring as Captain in 2000. Harry was also a Volunteer in Police Service (VIPS) for the Topeka Police Department. He was a member of Seabrook Congregational Church and Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Harry married Leta Vincent on December 10, 1955. They enjoyed traveling together.

Harry was an avid Model Railroader. For many years, he was the sexton for Mission Center Cemetery.

Harry is survived by his sons, Randy and Rick Ruppel; grandchildren, Emily Goodlove (David) and Keegan Ruppel (Mariah); great-grandchildren, Oliver Goodlove, Keegan, Jr. and Lauren Ruppel. He was preceded in death by his wife, Leta on April 2, 2010, and his sister, Glenda Denham in 2023.

Funeral service will be 2 p.m. Saturday, October 5, 2024, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614. Burial will follow in Mission Center Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Kansas National Guard Museum or Trinity Presbyterian Church and sent in care of the funeral home.

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

Cemetery Details

Mission Center Cemetery

29th and Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614

Previous Events

Funeral Service

OCT 5. 2:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Harry Ruppel



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - October 04, 2024 at 05:37 PM



“ Oliver Goodlove lit a candle in memory of Harry Ruppel



Oliver Goodlove - October 06, 2024 at 09:38 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Harry Ruppel.



October 04, 2024 at 01:20 PM



“ Mission Township planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harry Ruppel.

Mission Township - October 04, 2024 at 01:20 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Harry Ruppel.



October 04, 2024 at 10:02 AM



“ Dan, Sheri, Isabel Noot (Denham) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harry Ruppel.

Dan, Sheri, Isabel Noot (Denham) - October 04, 2024 at 10:02 AM



“ Sorry to hear about Harry he was a true friend Chief Towne

Maurice Towne - October 02, 2024 at 08:15 PM



“ Erin M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harry Ruppel.

Erin M. - October 01, 2024 at 07:50 PM

CF

“ I had only passing interactions with LTC Ruppel during my time in the Kansas Guard. Early in my full time career, I interacted with him several times and always looked up to him as an example of true service. He approached his job with dedication and common sense. He knew the regulations, but he also understood that people needed to learn and small mistakes were opportunities to teach. I appreciated all of the times I worked with him. RIP Sir. We shall meet again at Fiddler's Green.

COL (R) John Foster - October 01, 2024 at 02:18 PM

JS

“ Remember the good times and life of travel, Harry and Leta made so many great friends on the Sunflower Rambler RV Club we are better from having known them. Our sympathy to family. Jean Staab.

jean staab - September 30, 2024 at 09:00 PM

SH

I attended church with Harry and Leta for many years, both at Seabrook Congregational and Central Presbyterian Churches. I held both Harry and Leta in much fondness and respect. In 1980, we traveled around England and Wales together. I will treasure wonderful memories of fine, upstanding people.

Steve Henry

Steve Henry - October 02, 2024 at 06:36 AM

DJ

It is with much sadness when I read of Harry's passing. We were good friends for some 70 years. We first met when he came to work for the National Guard at Ft Riley. He was a dedicated member of the guard and such a reliable worker. He was very fondly called "Hoss" by his friends in the guard. I think he acquired that from the old Bonanza tv show. To Randy, Rick and your families I offer my deepest condolences. Harry will be missed by all of us who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Dale Johnston

Dale Johnston - October 02, 2024 at 10:25 AM

S(

Uncle Duane...as I grew up calling him...always made me laugh. I can still hear his voice and see his smile. Thanking God for such a great uncle.

Sheri Noot (Denham) - October 04, 2024 at 10:06 AM