



## Herb Hemmila

May 5, 1931 - September 4, 2008

Herbert "Herb" William Hemmila, 77, passed away, Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2008 at home. Herb was born May 5, 1931 in Superior, WI the son of William and Linnea Antilla Hemmila. He grew up in Wisconsin and attended the University of Wisconsin. He received his doctorate from Texas A&M. Herb retired after 21 years in the United States Air Force. He served in SE Asia from 1970 to 1971 flying in the Vietnam War. Retiring after a second career in the Dallas School System he continued to substitute teach at Topeka West and Washburn Rural High Schools. He married Carol Bergman. She preceded him in death. He married Joan Kubler Miller, in November 1968. She survives. Other survivors include his children, Scott Hemmila (Hope), Anne Bodenburt (Greg), Danny Miller (Rhonda), and Timothy Miller (Marianne); grandchildren, Zachery, Shannon (Sean), Jamie (Brody), Carley, Austin, Bailey; great grandchildren, Barrett, Logan, Reagan, Griffin; daughter in law, Ruth Miller. He was preceded in death by daughter, Cathy Hemmila Herstrom and son, Ronald Miller. Visitation will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 2021 SW 29th, Topeka, KS 66611. Memorial service will be 11:00 a.m. Friday at the church. Memorial contributions may be made to the church or ALS Research, Keith Worthington Chapter, 3901 Rainbow Blvd., Kansas City, KS 66160.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Herb Hemmila*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM

MR

“ I'm Herb's first cousin on his mother's side. His mother was Linnea Anttila Hemmila; my mother was a younger sister, Nelmi Anttila Kukkola.

Herb was 7 years older than I, but we were both only children so he was like an older brother when we were kids. During WWII, when my dad was overseas, Mom & I would take the train from Cromwell, MN, to Superior, WI, on a Sat. morning & spend the weekend with Aunt Lin & Uncle Bill in the 2-story house on Grand Ave. Uncle Bill would drive us to the train station on Sun. evening so we could catch the train back to Cromwell.

Herb didn't really like to have me around because I was a tag-along, wanting to play with his friends. They let me play hide-&-seek around the houses, but I was considered too young to play ball or any of the boy games.

Herb also endured my snooping in his room when he was gone. He complained bitterly that I had touched this or that, but Aunt Lin didn't stop me. I loved the model planes he had hanging from the ceiling & the ones he was working on. And the top drawers of his dresser were full of all sorts of mysterious items.

He was an Eagle Scout with a fascination for livestock. Once he returned from a stint as a counselor at a scout camp with a 6-foot king snake in a gunny sack. He hitch-hiked, & one of his drivers kicked him out when the driver saw the sack moving. But he got home safely w/ that snake.

In college he did some sort of experiment with white & brown-hooded rats. The rats lived in cages at the house. Uncle Bill really liked one of the brown-hooded ones: it climbed all over him, slept in his lap, & snooped in his pockets. Of course, he gave it treats.

When I was in high school, Herb invited my folks & me to his military ball. That was so exciting for me. I invited a guy from my high school, & we danced at a college dance. I don't remember the orchestra's name, but it was a big-time experience for me.

I admired Herb so much. I often told people of my cousin & his flying jets. I wish I'd found a time to visit w/ him sometime in these years. but we always think there's plenty of time.

I've never been much for calling people (my teen years were on a

*party-line w/ old ladies listening in), & I regret that I didn't phone. I did write occasionally, but that's not a real visit.*

*The ALS was a shock. Macular degeneration was bad enough. At least he's not suffering any more. You all have my sympathy for the loss of a wonderful person.*

*Marian*

*Marian*

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**Marian V. Reed** - September 23, 2008 at 07:20 PM

NJ

“ *Dear Joan and family,  
We send our hugs, love and condolences to you. Herb was one of our favorite people.*

*Our memories go back to our Kansas days including Dallas.  
Herb will always be remembered by our family for his wisdom,  
kindness and love to everyone.*

*God bless you and the entire family.*

*Norris and Betty Johnson*

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**Norris and Betty Johnson** - September 03, 2008 at 09:23 AM

ML

“ *Joan: I wanted to let you know how sorry I am for your loss. Herb was a nice guy, and I enjoyed all of my visits with him. I do not remember if I told you or not, but my own Mother passed away in 1996 from ALS. I know your loss is great, but rest assured that Herb is now without pain or suffering. Will be keeping you in my prayers.  
Merrill (Dr. Evans office)*

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**Merrill Lancaster** - September 02, 2008 at 07:49 PM