

J Scott Hardesty

October 27, 1934 - November 14, 2025

TOPEKA- J Scott Hardesty, 91, of Tecumseh, Kansas passed away peacefully Friday, November 14, 2025, at Midland Hospice House in Topeka, Kansas.

J was born October 27, 1934, on the family farm in the Waterloo community of Kingman County, Kansas. He was the second of three sons born to Steve and Reola Hardesty. Growing up on the farm gave him a love for the outdoors that he carried throughout his life. He attended a two-room grade school in Waterloo and graduated from Kingman High School. After graduation, he attended College of Emporia, playing football and majoring in Education. He later earned a Master's degree from Kansas State Teachers College, now Emporia State. It was at C. of E. where he met the love of his life, Janice Lee. The couple married after graduation on June 2, 1957, in Overbook, Kansas and celebrated 68 years together in 2025.

J served for a short time in the Army after graduation. He continued to serve in the National Guard for eight years while starting his teaching and coaching career at Gridley High School. His 1959 football team ended the season as the #1-ranked team in Class B in Kansas. He later moved on to teaching and coaching jobs at Council Grove, Lindsborg and Shawnee Heights, where he retired in 1993. J touched the lives of countless young people in both the classroom, on the field, in the gym, and on the track. After retirement from teaching, he worked at Kaw Valley Propane for 19 years.

J loved to stay busy and that was reflected by the abundant vegetable garden he tended every summer. He was probably most at home in nature, spending time hunting, fishing and golfing with friends and family. Several grandchildren were introduced to fishing with Grandpa. Love of family came first to him and he and Janice devoted much time to attending grandchildren's events. He was also a KU Jayhawk fan and spent several years ushering at football and basketball games. J was a member of the American Legion and Shawnee Heights United Methodist Church for over 50 years.

J is survived by his wife Janice; son, Jon Hardesty (Christi) of Topeka; daughter, Jo Hardesty (Craig Adams) of Lawrence, Kansas; son, Steve Hardesty (Marvel) of Springfield, Missouri; and daughter, Susan Anderson (Kent) of Topeka; grandchildren, Colleen Brennan, Joseph Carson, Emma Hardesty, Nick Hardesty, Nick Puetz, Josh Puetz, Heather Esteban, Hannah Ostheim, Chase Anderson, Cally Anderson, Cade Anderson, and Carstyn Anderson; great-grandchildren, Quinn Brennan McCabe, Ryann Hardesty, Reagan Hardesty, Eneko J Esteban and Nolan Puetz; and his brother, Loyd Blaine Hardesty of Arvada, Colorado. Preceding J in death are his parents, Steve and Reola Hardesty, and brother, Roger Neil Hardesty.

Family visitation will be 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, November 23, 2025, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS, 66614. Celebration of Life will be 10 a.m. Monday, November 24, 2025, at Shawnee Heights United Methodist Church, 6040 SE 44th Street, Tecumseh KS, 66542. Graveside service with full Military Honors will follow at Overbrook Cemetery, Overbrook, Kansas.

Memorial contributions may be made to Shawnee Heights United Methodist Church, sent in care of the funeral home.

The family thanks the staff at Midland Hospice House for the compassionate care J received.

Condolences may be sent to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com

Cemetery Details

Overbrook Cemetery

1st St
Overbrook, KS 66524

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **23**. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

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

Celebration of Life

NOV **24**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Shawnee Heights United Methodist Church
6020 SE 44th Street
Tecumseh, KS 66542

Military Honors

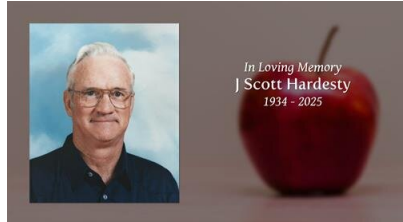
NOV **24** (CT)

Overbrook Cemetery
1st St
Overbrook, KS 66524

Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of J Scott Hardesty



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - November 20, 2025 at 03:38 PM

TV

“ Janice...my name is Ted Vannocker...I was a student and athlete at Gridley High School of Coach Hardesty from 1958-1961....I'm so sorry that I didn't know of Coach Hardesty passing last November....I would have certainly attended his memorial service...just this last thursday I spoke at a gathering in Gridley...talked mostly about our 1959 football championship under J Scotts leadership....I would really like for you and your family to go to "Memories of Gridley Kansas" on facebook to see some of my recent posts...hope you are well...Ted

Ted Vannocker - February 10 at 12:43 PM

PZ

“ Steve and family, thinking of you and your family during this difficult time. I is never easy to lose your parent.

Pat (Tuck) Zerbe - November 20, 2025 at 09:33 PM

MF

“ *Mark & Teresa Freeman purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of J Scott Hardesty.*



Mark & Teresa Freeman - November 19, 2025 at 10:39 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of J Scott Hardesty.*



November 18, 2025 at 10:54 PM

LS

“ *Love, Katelyn and Stan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of J Scott Hardesty.*

Love, Katelyn and Stan - November 18, 2025 at 10:54 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of J Scott Hardesty.*



November 18, 2025 at 10:50 PM

MG

“ Mike , Beth amd Brandon Gardner planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of J Scott Hardesty.

Mike , Beth amd Brandon Gardner - November 18, 2025 at 10:50 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of J Scott Hardesty.



November 18, 2025 at 07:06 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of J Scott Hardesty.



November 18, 2025 at 06:00 PM

CC

“*Janice and family. Sorry to hear about J's passing but what a long and well-lived life he had. Both our boys, Brian and Bruce, had J as a teacher at Shawnee Heights. And I was one of the golfers along with J and several other who went on annual golf outings to Central Kansas. What fun those were. J taught me those “mushroom rings” on the fairway were created by the mushrooms themselves and not by a rotary fertilizer spreader as I had thought. And he would pick some of those mushrooms and eat them raw, something I would never do, but maybe this contributed to his long life. Another memory I have of J is one year he was needing cataract surgery and every time he would tee off he would immediately ask, “Where did it go?” Rejoice in the fact he was a kind and gentle man who always had a smile on his face.*

Chuck Coffman

Chuck Coffman - November 18, 2025 at 05:32 PM

LM

“*Jo - I'm so very sorry for the loss of your dad.*

Lori Montgomery

Lori Montgomery - November 18, 2025 at 05:19 PM

RH

“*Mr. Hardesty was one of my top 3 science teachers. He made learning fun. My condolences to all of his family members. Prayers for you to have peace with the wonderful life he shared with you. - Renae Grame Hansen*

Renae Hansen - November 18, 2025 at 04:39 PM

PW

“ *Mr. Hardesty was one of the great ones. Condolences to his family.*

Patty Winslow - November 18, 2025 at 04:32 PM

LS

“ *Laura S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of J Scott Hardesty.*

Laura S. - November 18, 2025 at 04:08 PM

LS

“ *Our deepest sympathies to Jo and the entire Hardesty family. May God surround you with love and peace during this difficult time. 🙏
Laura & Brad*

Laura Sutcliffe - November 18, 2025 at 04:06 PM

CW

“ *Prayers and condolences for the whole family. Mr Hardesty was a wonderful man and loved by many. Rest in peace sir.*

Cathy and Rob Woolaway - November 18, 2025 at 02:33 PM