



Joseph Snell

January 1, 1753 - June 12, 2011

Joseph Warren Snell, 83, of Topeka, passed away June 9, 2011 at Midland Hospice House. Joe was born Mar. 21, 1928 in Topeka KS to Loren O. and Mabel L. Jones Snell. He graduated from the Seaman Schools, Washburn University and earned his Master's Degree from University of Kansas. He served in both the Army and the Reserves. Joe married Ruth Maria Lassiter Aug. 28, 1955. She survives. He was preceded in death by his sister, Helen A. Campbell. Joe was named Kansan of the Year in 1985. He was the former Director of the Kansas State Historical Society before retiring in 1988. Joe authored several books and articles, most notably *Why the West Was Wild*. Survivors include, his wife, Ruth, Topeka; his sons, Bruce L. and Karen Snell, Topeka and Michael C. and Sally Snell, Lawrence and his grandsons, Tyler, Cody and Austin Snell. Mr. Snell will lie in state 2-3 p.m., Sun. at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Rd, Topeka KS 66614. Funeral Services will be 11 a.m., Mon. at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Mt. Hope Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Midland Hospice or Cotton-O`Neil Cancer Center sent in care of the funeral home.

Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph Snell*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *I enjoyed serving on the AAA Board of Kansas with Joe. and was saddened to hear of his passing. Jim Hanni wrote to us, telling us of Joe's death. We want you to know you have our deepest sympathy.*

Jim and Eleanora Belew

1004 Village Dr.

Pittsburg, KS 66762

Jim and Eleanora Belew - June 18, 2011 at 05:42 PM



“ *Dear Family of Joe Snell,
I am very sorry to hear of Joe's passing. I didn't know him personally, but as current president of the Santa Fe Trail Association, I have great respect and appreciation for all the folks like Joe who made this organization possible and helped it prosper, especially in its early days. I just wanted to let you know that our thoughts are with you. All the best.*

Roger Slusher

Roger Slusher - June 14, 2011 at 07:17 PM



“ *On behalf of our family I wish to extend our sincere sympathy to Joe's family. We're related to Joe through the Schenck family, and we've always admired his work on behalf of Kansas History. We know he will be greatly missed by his family and his circle of friends.*

James McHenry Jr. - June 13, 2011 at 09:16 PM

SS

“ Ruth and family, My sympathy to you at this difficult time. Many warm, childhood memories come to mind as I think about Joe and his friendship with my dad and all the years at KSHS. I have many photos from that time. Joe was indeed a kind person with a warm smile that was a delight to be around.
Much love and many prayers to you. Sandy

Sandy (Blackburn) Stoller - June 11, 2011 at 02:11 PM

KB

“ Bruce, Karen, Mike, Sally and Ruth: You are all in my thoughts and prayers. I have special memories of Joe - especially things like the advice he gave me in my last years of high school and when I started applying for jobs. (I still have the books he gave me!). I hope that all of YOUR memories of him give you at least a measure of comfort and peace during this very difficult time. Love to you all!

Kelli Bodenheimer - June 11, 2011 at 11:08 AM

DH

“ Dear Bruce, Karen and family -
Know that Joseph and all of you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Duane & Rosie Henson - June 11, 2011 at 08:47 AM

JB

“ Ruth, Bruce & Karen, Mike & Sally, Tyler, Cody, & Austin.....Our hearts go out to you at this difficult time. Joe was such a caring, kind, wonderful man. When I came to work for KSHS, Joe and Ruth became like my second parents who provided me with such security and kindness. Joe's gentle guidance and pure trust in his staff made for such a happy crew at KSHS. He was respected by all who knew him. I will never know a better man than Joe Snell. He will be sadly missed. Love to you all and so sorry we are out of town. Joe, Greg, & Lukas Brennan

Joy & Greg Brennan - June 10, 2011 at 10:58 PM

DH

“ Aunt Ruth,
You and the boys and all the families have my heartfelt love and sympathy. My prayers are with all of you.
Denise and family

Denise Havens - June 10, 2011 at 08:56 PM