



Ray A. Browning

May 19, 1920 - August 30, 2009

Ray A. Browning, 89, Topeka passed away August 27, 2009. Ray was born May 19, 1920 in Mound City MO. Ray entered into the US Army, January 1942 and was honorably discharged December 1945. During his time in the service he was a Pilot with the rank of Major in the Army Air Corps, Assistant Director of the first and only Helicopter Unit the Air Corps had, helicopters were brand new. Ray began flying helicopters in 1944. He had just returned from an assignment as a Test Pilot at the Sikorsky Helicopter Factory. This assignment lasted longer than originally planned; he was the only test pilot there for the Army. He came to Topeka in 1952 to become General Manager of Capital Concrete Products Company. He later bought the company. Ray was one of the first Americans allowed into China and was invited there by the Chinese to provide expertise in concrete block manufacturing. He was president and founder of the Kansas Concrete Masonry Association and was president of the National Concrete Masonry Association. Ray was a member of the board for 35 years and president for 10 years of the Capper Foundation. He was on the Executive committee of the Villages; he was a member of Topeka Board of Education and sat on the Board of trustees for YMCA. He was on the budget Committee Community Chest and on the Industrial Development Commission for the Topeka Chamber of Commerce. Ray was on the Public Affairs Committee for the Kansas Association of Industry and Director of Topeka Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the Shawnee County Mental Health Association and a member of Tarkio

College Alumni Association. He was also on the Board and President of Family Service and Guidance Center. Ray was a member of the Topeka Flood and Conservation Association, Downtown Rotary Club, the YMCA, the Potwin PTA, Civic Investment Inc. and Topeka Material Men's Association. He was also an Elder and Chairman of the Board of Trustees for First Presbyterian Church. Ray is survived by his daughter, Susan Christensen, Topeka; his son, Jim and his wife Jeannie, Dover; grandchildren, Peter and his wife, Gretchen Browning, Salina, Michael and his wife Sarah Browning, Topeka, Sarah Browning, Rochester MN, Annie Browning, Sam Browning, Abigail Browning, Molly Browning, all of Dover, Emily and her husband, Dennis Struve, Derby, Brett and his wife Lexie Christensen, Topeka; eight great-grandchildren; and sister, Nancy Kyle, Tarkio MO. He was preceded in death by his wife, Marilyn Browning. Family will greet friends Sunday, August 30, 2009 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Rd, Topeka KS 66614. Memorial service will be 11 a.m. Monday, August 31, 2009 at First Presbyterian Church, 817 SW Harrison Topeka KS. In lieu of flowers, family suggests memorial contributions to Presbyterian Manor sent in care of the funeral home.

Tribute Wall



“ *Ray A. Browning*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *To Jim and the Browning Family,
Please accept my sincere condolences upon the passing of Ray Browning. I knew Ray for many years through the National Concrete Masonry Association and worked with him on many committees. Ray always had a practical approach to problems and was the go to guy to resolve any disputes arising during the meetings. Ray was an inspiration to many of us and he will be sorely missed.*

Donald H. Foster - September 01, 2009 at 05:21 PM



“ *Dear Jim and Susan,*

I am sorry for your loss and that I wasn't able to be there for the service. I am glad Allen and Janie were able to come to represent the family.

Seems ironic that he and I didn't get to have one last talk.

*With warm wishes to you and the rest of family,
Marilyn Gillis Eanet*

Marilyn Eanet - August 31, 2009 at 01:02 PM

LL

“ Jim, Jeannie, Susan and family: Ray and Marilyn were my early teachers at First Pres. and I always enjoyed visiting with Ray long after we served on the Trustees board. His legacy will go on many times over. He lived a good and gracious life.
blessings

Linda Laird - August 30, 2009 at 09:28 AM

BK

“ To Ray's Family,
Ray was a customer of mine for many years and the same kind of customer as he was as a businessman. He always had a smile on his face, a great attitude on life and it was an honor to be his friend. He truly was one of the great "cornerstones" of this community and he will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.
Bill and Jan Kobach

Bill and Jan Kobach - August 29, 2009 at 02:38 PM

JP

“ I mourn the loss of "Concrete" Ray. He and Mike were two of the finest people I have ever known. You are in my thoughts and prayers Jim and Jeannie, Susan and the rest of the Browning Family.

Jeff Preisner - August 28, 2009 at 07:44 PM

CS

“ Susan,
We were sorry to hear about your father. We are sending positive thoughts and prayers your way.
Connie Wright & BJHS Staff

Connie Wright, BJHS Staff - August 28, 2009 at 12:57 PM

BM

“ *Jim, Jeannie, Susan and family,
Our hearts are heavy this morning after learning of Ray's passing;
we have been blessed to truly know Ray, Mike and you these many
years.
A wonderful husband, father and grandfather, he was special. An
honest and forthright successful businessman and community
leader, he was always ready with a quip that would make you smile.
A client of Mize, Houser & Company since 1953, it was an honor for
me to begin serving the Browning family and Capitol Concrete in
1962. I'll cherish my memories always of the times we shared
together. Love and blessings,
Bob and DeLoris Mehlinger*

Bob and DeLoris Mehlinger - August 28, 2009 at 10:01 AM