



Raymond L. Burns

June 14, 1931 - January 21, 2014

Raymond L. Burns Ph. D., 82, Topeka, formerly of Valley Falls, KS, died January 18, 2014, at his home from complications of pulmonary hypertension. He was born on June 14, 1931, in the farm home North of Perry, KS. He was the second of the eleven children of James J. and Bertha Amelia Wenzl Burns. The family moved to a farm East of Valley Falls in 1934. He attended St. Mary's Catholic Grade School and graduated from Valley Falls High School. He married Agnes Rose Hambach on September 8, 1956, at St. Patrick's Church in Jonesburg, Missouri. Agnes was the daughter of William and Rose Beller Hambach of Warrenton, Missouri. They had four children; Kim Valarie Burns (Sonoma, CA), Shawn William Burns (Topeka, KS), Erin Arlene Burns (Emporia, KS) and Maura Rose Burns Goldberg (Henderson, NV). They have six Grandchildren: Isaac and Amelia Burns (Topeka, KS), Jared Krause (Prairie Village, KS), Derek and Megan Krause (Emporia, KS) and Jothan Wilson (Charlotte, NC). Ray graduated from Kansas State University in 1953 with a BS degree in Agriculture. He was a member of the K-State Freshman football squad, He joined the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity and was the House Manager for two years and Chapter President one year. He was a member of the K-State Junior and Senior Collegiate Livestock Judging Team which placed first in the American Royal and Fort Worth Collegiate Contests and third at the International Livestock Show Contest in Chicago. He was an involved member of the K-State Catholic Newman Club and was a delegate to the National Newman Club Meeting as a senior. He received a

Union Pacific Scholarship to attend his first four semesters at K-State. At \$50 per semester that assistance may seem small; however, it was huge as it covered the expense of tuition and books for the Freshman and Sophomore school years. Ray began work at the K-State farms during his Freshman year and continued into his Junior year. Dr. Rufus Cox, Head of the Animal Husbandry Department, learned that if there was student work at odd hours (mid wife nighttime farrowing at the swine farm), or hard or dirty work, Ray would not turn it down. He also worked at the Agricultural Economics Department tabulating Farm Management Record Books of participating Kansas farmers. This experience gave an insight into why some producers are more financially successful than others. Upon college graduation, Ray became employed as the herdsman for Anheuser Aberdeen Angus Ranch at Jonesburg, Missouri. He fitted and showed the AAA Ranch cattle at the major Livestock Expositions throughout the US during his first employment following college. Ray was enrolled in ROTC at K-State and was commissioned as an officer in the US Air Force on May 24, 1953. He was called to active duty January 2, 1954, and assigned to training as an Intercept Aircraft Controller at Tyndall AFB, Florida. He was then assigned to Japan's Air Defense Command during the Korean Conflict era with duty at radar sites in Akita Prefecture on Honshu Island. Upon return to civilian status (December 8, 1955), Dr. Cox at K-State encouraged Ray to accept an appointment at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. This was a teaching/research position with the University's registered beef herd and show cattle unit. A bonus was that he could enroll in Purdue's Graduate School and take six credit hours per semester toward advanced degrees. He had been separated from active duty on December 8, 1955, at Parks Air Base (CA) and began the Purdue assignment on February 1, 1956. Ray received a Master's Degree (1958) and a Doctorate in Animal Genetics (1962) from Purdue and then moved to Kansas City. He first managed the Staley Angus Farm cattle breeding herd and within two years the herd attained the nations Sire-of-Year status. He also served as the Livestock Manager of Kansas City's American Royal Livestock show for three

years. In 1965, Burns-Agri Management was founded for registered Angus breeders to manage their investments and to utilize the science of genetics in the development of their herds. Ray later bought the family farm where he grew up in Valley Falls. He was a fourth generation farmer-stockman on the family farm. He raised Angus cattle and farmed the land, and raised his four children there. Ray also worked in the marketing division of the Ks State Board of Agriculture. In 2008, Ray and Agnes moved to Topeka, KS and made their home near Christ the King parish, where he often enjoyed daily mass and coffee with friends. Ray was a member of the Knights of Columbus since he was in college, and just celebrated his 25th year of his Fourth Degree, with an honorary life membership with the Knights of Columbus Council 6671 in Valley Falls. Ray was a member of VFW, Post 3084 in Valley Falls. Ray was active in church activities, he was a Hospice volunteer, and continued to enjoy his involvement in politics. Ray enjoyed keeping in touch with his grandchildren and attending their activities. Ray and Agnes renewed their wedding vows in the church they were married for their 50th wedding anniversary in 2006. Raymond is survived by his wife, Agnes, his four children and six grandchildren. He is also survived by three brothers, Paul (spouse Mary Jane) of Valley Falls, Phil (Shirley) of Nebraska, Tom (Peggy) of Topeka, and sisters Ruth (Charles) Langen of Washington, Mary (John) Triggs of Topeka, Alice Edmonds of Manhattan, Margaret (Quentin) Dawson of Louisiana, and Rita Burns of Texas. Ray was preceded in death by his brothers Pat (Marilyn) Burns and Terry Burns. Ray was a positive husband, father, grandfather, friend, and role model and he will be greatly missed. Memorial contributions may be made to St Mary's Immaculate Conception Church, 902 5th Street Valley Falls, KS 66088, and Christ the King Catholic Church, 5973 SW 25th Street Topeka, KS 66614. Visitation will be 6-8 p.m. with Rosary at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish road Topeka. Mass of resurrection will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Wednesday at St. Mary's Catholic Church with visitation one hour prior

Tribute Wall



“ *Raymond L. Burns*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *The last time I saw Ray was at my mom's funeral in August 2012 with our Uncle Larry Kelly. (H. Patricia (Kelly)McDonald. Ray seemed to always be at every family event & I will miss that. Our Cousin, Tim Burns had told me several years ago that I needed to get in touch with Ray for a tour of our family lineage. Unfortunately, like so many other things, I let time slip through my fingers. We just learned of Ray's passing through Dorothy Burns within the past couple weeks. It truly bothers me that in this time of the super information highway, we, the next generation are inept of accomplishing what our parents held together like glue--FAMILY! I know I'm ashamed of myself. Cousin Ray deserved better from us. I will say I truly learned & enjoyed his obituary. What an accomplished man. What a proud family you must be. Thank you to whomever wrote his enlightening life. That is more than I ever knew of Ray. Truly inspiring words. Our deepest condolences for your loss. We know how hard it is. When we think of our dad, step-dad & especially our mom, we remind ourselves, they have, "No more sorrow & No more pain. We pray this thought will bring you comfort as well. The Patricia Kelly-McDonald Family.*

M. Katie McDonald - April 21, 2014 at 07:23 PM

BB

“ I was sorry to hear of Ray's death. He was always a welcome site at my office during the years 1982-86 when I managed Gov. Carlin's reelection campaign and later Directed the Democratic Party. He was always curious about issues of the day and gave me good advice when I frequently needed it. He was a soft spoken gentleman and I will miss him! My best to Agnes, their children and grandchildren.

Bill Beachy - January 22, 2014 at 03:25 PM

RO

“ We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Ray. We truly enjoyed our conversations with him. The State and Shawnee County Democrats have lost a great man. He will be dearly missed by all. May God bless Agnes and his family.

Roxie and Dan Ortiz

Roxie - January 22, 2014 at 01:02 PM

MB

“ Ray will always hold a special place in my heart as one of my Dad's favorite cousins. He always knew each of us by name and had wonderful stories to tell. I have many fond memories of Ray and Agnes. He will be missed at Burns gatherings, but I hope that the stories will still be told.
I am sorry that I can not be in Topeka today to be supportive of all of you, but my thoughts and prayers are with you.

*With Love,
Mary Burns-Klos*

Mary Burns-Klos - January 22, 2014 at 08:04 AM

SS

“ Ray, was a good friend and neighbor . I have thought about him often through the years since I moved away.

Steve Schmidt - January 21, 2014 at 09:10 PM

MP

“ Sorry to hear of Ray's passing. Our generation is dwindling pretty fast. My sympathy to Agnes and family and his brothers and sisters.
Cousin Margaret

Margaret Pionalto - January 20, 2014 at 04:56 PM

SM

“ No matter where you were he ALWAYS greeted me with a hug and a smile. All my thought and love goes out to Kim, Shaun, Erin and Maura and to my nursing buddy Agnes.

SUE HOSLER MORANZ - January 20, 2014 at 03:23 PM

CM

“ Ray will be greatly missed. I will treasure the conversations and work that took place on the Burn's farm. My family will keep Ray and the family in our prayers.

Carey Mooradian - January 20, 2014 at 12:26 PM

JJ

“ Loving thoughts and prayers for you and yours.
Ray always had a welcoming smile and gently heart.
Know he will be greatly missed by many.

Janelle & John - January 20, 2014 at 11:00 AM

AF

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. Ray was always wearing that friendly smile that made him easy to visit with. He was the ultimate gentleman and will be missed. We know heaven is welcoming this newest member.

Al Funk - January 20, 2014 at 08:25 AM