



Robert Max Gaither

August 9, 1920 - November 19, 2013

Robert Max Gaither Sr. passed away on November 16, 2013, at the age of 93. He was born August 9, 1920, the son of Mabel Brodbeck Gaither and John Warren Gaither. He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Helen Marie Keeling Gaither, son Robert Max Gaither Jr., and daughters Charlotte Marie Gaither Adair (Bruce), Topeka, Kansas and Peggy Gaither Adams, Honolulu, Hawaii. He had five grandchildren: Lee Adair Geary, Jeffrey B. Adair (Elaine), Jennifer Adair, Diana Marie Gaither, and Robert Max Gaither III. He had four great-grandchildren: Matthew and Benjamin Adair, and Tyler and William Geary. He is also survived by his sister, Janice Gaither Crissman (Tom) of Great Bend, Kansas, and sister-in-law, Carola Karst Gaither of Wakeeney, Kansas. Max Gaither was born in Harper County, Kansas, and after age four he lived on a ranch in Trego County, Kansas, graduating from Trego County High School in 1938. He played four years of football at Washburn University, where he earned his undergraduate and law degrees. He joined the Army Air Force two weeks after Pearl Harbor and flew B-29s over Japan from the island of Saipan. During his final two missions, he delivered supplies to prisoners of war near Nagasaki and Tokyo. He flew over the battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay as the final treaty ending World War II was being signed by General MacArthur and Hirohito of Japan. After the war, Max spent five years on the Gaither Ranch in Trego County, and then moved to Topeka to attend law school. He spent 52 years in Topeka working as a realtor and attorney, (playing some handball), and managing residential properties for many years.

He was especially interested and active in supporting Washburn University and Westminster Presbyterian Church. He was also a member of the Lions Club and the Elks Club. Services will be held on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 at Westminster Presbyterian Church at 1275 Boswell Ave, Topeka, Kansas. The visitation will be at 10 a.m. followed by the funeral service at 11 a.m. Interment will follow at Penwell-Gabel Cemetery, 3616 SW 6th Avenue, Topeka, Kansas. Memorial contributions can be made to the Washburn University Foundation for athletic scholarships or to Westminster Presbyterian Church. Max says, "Have a good Life."

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Max Gaither*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *I was so saddened to read the obituary of Max, and sorry that I wasn't able to attend either the visitation or service today. Max Sr. & Jr. were two of the first people I met in the early 70's when I moved to Topeka, and have fond memories of knowing them both in the early days when we all had offices in the "Executive Suites" of First National Bank downtown. My deepest sympathy to all the family.*
Glenda Moore Yocom

Glenda Yocom - November 19, 2013 at 11:25 AM



“ *Gaither Family. So sorry to hear about Max, SR. He had a fully life and I know all of you must feel pride for the special type of man you shared as a father, grandfather and husband. He was important to me and Garth at a time when we needed his kindness and support. He will always have a special place in my heart.*

It is a tough time for all of you and you have my deepest sympathy.

Jamie Cookinham - November 18, 2013 at 05:59 PM

JP

“ *To The Gaither Family,*

To all of you, please accept my deepest sympathy. I know you have many wonderful memories of Max. Words say very little at a time like this, but knowing people care, maybe helps. I hope so.

Charlotte and I were talking about Marie and Max, September 20th. Time slips by so quickly.

Sincerely,

Jackie Campbell Petersen

Jackie Campbell Petersen - November 18, 2013 at 02:57 PM