



Robert Perry Hellem

September 22, 1926 - April 6, 2016

Robert Perry Hellem, age 89, passed peacefully on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 after suffering a stroke. He and Barbara Claire (Sanborn) were grade school sweethearts. They married New Years Eve 1948 after he returned from Japan during WWII. He was born and raised in the Chicago, IL area, moving to Derby, KS in 1997 and to Bartlesville, OK in 2013. Bob worked for Kraft Foods as a Packaging Coordinator for 38 years. His idea of wrapping American Cheese in single slices changed the way we make sandwiches. Bob was an excellent fix-it man from an early age. He took things apart and was able to put them back together better than before. He was an avid fisherman, ready to go fishing at the drop of a hat and also built and flew many radio controlled planes. Bob and Barbara loved to travel and made many trips in the US, Europe, Asia and Africa. Bob is survived by his wife Barbara. Daughter, Gail & Chuck Kinder of DeKalb, IL, son, Keith & Kay Hellem of Bartlesville, OK, son, Richard & Nancy Hellem of Kansas City, MO. He was blessed with seven grandchildren: Robert Hellem, Bob & Beth Tierney, Barbara & Dan Flanagan, Kimberly & Darren Alexander, Kyle & Laura Hellem, Julie & Bill Cox, Stephen & Amanda Hellem. Great-grandchildren: Sarah, Cody, Kyle, Caden, Sean, Ryan, Kyrsten, Will, Taylor, Candyce, Savannah, Brittney, Destiny, Tristan, Christain, William, Silas, Caleb and Braxton. Also surviving are half siblings: Trudy Rafelson, Judy Fenza, Scott Hellem, Rusty Hellem and Joy Hellem. Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Lloyd Ernest and Martha G. (Ashdown) Hellem and brother, Lloyd Hellem. A celebration of Life service will be held at a later date. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Walker-Brown Funeral Home.

Comments



“ Posted by Pete Imlah from Lombard, Illinois

My thoughts and prayer are with my Aunt Barb and cousins Gail, Keith and Rich. I have fond memories of my Uncle Bob from giving me my first haircut, swimming in their pool, watching him fly airplanes, getting those trial flavor peanut-butter Kraft was experimenting with, boat rides and him coming to church with my family. God blessed us all with this special man!!

04/07/2016 at 10:48pm

Posted by Anthony & Liz Hellem from Wilmington, Illinois

Our condolences to the family. Fond memories of the backyard parties growing up. Will miss the Cracker Barrel cheese at Christmas. As he would say Hellem's love cheese. RIP Uncle. Love Anthony & Liz

04/08/2016 at 03:11pm

Posted by Kay Hellem from Bartlesville, Oklahoma

Bob was a very talented man. He had many hobbies thru the years; boating, fishing Boy Scout leader, ham radio operator, radio controlled planes. I think his favorite one was his family. He was a kind tender hearted man. He always found time to help his family with any project. Many times phone calls were made to ask him "how do I?". He had the answers. He could work circles around his sons up into his early 80's. We are really going to miss him but we are so blessed with many memories of this wonderful man.

04/09/2016 at 04:48pm

Posted by Paul Turcott from Bartlesville, Oklahoma

Our prayers are with your family at this sad time. In addition to sharing the same birthday, I have always thought individually wrapped cheese slices is one of the great advances in making life more convenient. Glad to learn about the man who made that possible. Most important is in addition to being talented he was a good man.

04/10/2016 at 02:30pm