



Melvin Olen Crader

September 22, 1936 - February 16, 2023

Mel was born September 22, 1936 in St. Louis, MO to Julius and Lovie Marie (Underwood) Crader, the 7th of 8 children. In 1938 the family moved to the Farmington, MO area where he received his elementary education. The family returned to Kirkwood, MO, St. Louis County in 1950 where Mel received his high school education, graduating in 1954.

He entered the U.S. Air Force in June 1954 and after training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, TX, Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, MS, and was stationed at the 796th AC&W Squad in Bartlesville OK for three years of his active duty. He remained in various reserve capacities until 1962 when he received his Honorable Discharge.

Mel met Jeanette M. Martin while at the air base and after a 15 month courtship, they married in Berryville, AR on June 29, 1957. To this union was born one daughter, Sandra Lynn Crader.

Mel and Jeanette made their home in Bartlesville; Mel joining Phillips Petroleum Company and Jeanette working for Southwestern Bell as a management secretary. In his career with Phillips, Mel worked in various capacities in advertising, public affairs, advertising media assistant, assistance Exhibit Director, manager of Exhibit and Director of Creative Services. He and Jeanette retired in early 1992 after 34 years of service.

Mel's business travel took him to most states and many foreign locations. During retirement, travel continued to highlight their lives until Jeanette's untimely death in February 2005 and daughter Sandra's death on October 21, 2007.

Mel was a member of BPO Elks Lodge 1060 and Post 105 American Legion. During his working years he had memberships in Jay Cees, Chamber of Commerce and International Exhibitors Association.

Mel is survived by his two grandchildren, Trey Hares of TX and McKenna Hares Oxford of AZ, brother Jules Crader of Lynnwood, FL, friend Ken Harris of Bartlesville, niece Kelly & Kirk Hudson & family of TX, Rob & Sarah Shelton of OKC, Bill & Sharon Shelton of Edmond, and Wanda Martin of Bartlesville.

A special Thank You to those who took care of Mel the last 11 years.

Cemetery Details

Chelsea Cemetery

Ash Street
Chelsea, OK 74016

Tribute Wall

KH

“ Kelly Hudson lit a candle in memory of Melvin Olen Crader



Kelly Hudson - March 11, 2023 at 02:43 PM

KR

“ Uncle Mel I haven't seen in years but thought about him alot. The last time I talked to him was in 1995. We lost touch over the years. He will be missed by all of his family in Mo..

Kathy Rowoldt - March 04, 2023 at 08:05 PM

SS

“ Sharon Shelton lit a candle in memory of Melvin Olen Crader



Sharon Shelton - February 25, 2023 at 11:14 PM

SS

I will miss our call and visits. You were a good friend and brother-in-law.

Sharon Shelton - February 25, 2023 at 11:16 PM