



## Mr. William L. (Bill) Ruggles

January 11, 1925 - March 20, 2014

William L. (Bill) Ruggles, 89, died Thursday, March 20, 2014, in Bartlesville.

The family will receive friends at the Davis Family Funeral Home, (918-534-3030), 113 S. Osage (Hwy. 75), Dewey, on Sunday, March 23, 2014, from 4-6 p.m. Funeral services will be held at 11am on Monday, March 24, 2014 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1501 SE Swan Drive. Bishop Hansen will preside. Burial will follow at the Bartlesville Memorial Park Cemetery immediately following the funeral service. Military rites will be provided by James T. Teel, American Legion Post 105 Honor Guard. Services are under the direction of Carter Davis and the Davis Family Funeral Home. Online condolences and remembrances may be shared with Bill Ruggles' family at [www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com](http://www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com).

In lieu of flowers, friends wishing to honor Bill's memory may do so by contributing to the Bartlesville Lincoln Elementary School Scholarship (BLESS) Fund, a non-interest bearing college loan program sponsored by Service & Technology Corporation, 105 SW Penn, Bartlesville, OK 74003, phone 918-336-8161, or to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Missionary Fund, c/o Bishop Hansen, 5723 Woodland Road, Bartlesville, OK 74006.

Survivors include one daughter (Helen Bristol) and her family, and five sons

(David, Brent, Steve, Tracy, and Tim Ruggles) and their families. These families include 19 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren, plus 4 on the way. Bill is also survived by one younger brother (Bob) and his family of Tallahassee, Florida, and very dear friend Molly Ferguson of Bartlesville. He was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Catharine (Brown) Ruggles; by his parents Williams Spencer Ruggles Jr. and Rosalie (Brigham) Ruggles; and one grandson Craig William Ruggles.

Although born in Winfield, Kansas, in 1925, Bill moved with his parents to Emporia, Kansas, when he was two years old. During the 15 years he lived there, he attended the elementary, junior high and high schools affiliated with Kansas State Teacher's College (now Emporia State University). He graduated from that institution's Roosevelt High School in 1942 at age 17. While in high school, Bill participated in basketball, band, orchestra, drama and student government, as well as being selected as a delegate to Boys State. He also delivered newspapers for the well-known William Allen White's Emporia Gazette.

Bill attended the University of Kansas at Lawrence as a civil engineering student from Fall 1942 to Spring 1943 during World War II. He also enlisted in the U.S. Navy Reserve in December 1942. He was ordered to active duty in July 1947 and assigned to the Navy V-12 engineering training unit back at KU. He graduated in June 1945 at age 20 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. In doing so, he followed the footsteps of his father and paternal grandfather who were also civil engineers.

Following his KU graduation, the Navy sent Bill to its Civil Engineer Corps Midshipman and Officer schools at Camp Endicott, Rhode Island. He was commissioned as an Ensign in September 1945 and ordered to report to the 35th Naval Construction Battalion (Seabees) in the Philippine Islands, serving both in Manila and Subic Bay. Bill and Catherine were married in Lawrence on

Oct. 7, 1945, during a short leave he had en route from Rhode Island to the Philippines.

Following his release to inactive duty by the Navy on July 4, 1946, Bill rejoined Catharine in Lawrence and obtained short-term employment with the Kansas Highway Department. He then began work on a Master's degree at KU in the fall of 1946. Finishing his classes and most of his thesis, Bill and Catharine moved to Bartlesville in November 1947 when he was employed by Phillips Petroleum Company. He received his Master's degree the following June (1948).

Bill held a variety of positions during the 38 years he was with Phillips, ultimately becoming Director of Refining Engineering Services. He retired from Phillips in June 1986 but soon joined, part-time, both Bartlett Equipment Company of Tulsa, OK, and Services and Technology Corporation (STC) a Bartlesville consulting engineering firm. The STC job eventually developed into full-time employment. Although originally planning to stay with that firm only 2-3 years, Bill actually worked for it 10 years full-time, 2 years half-time, and intermittingly since. He served STC as a Senior Engineer, Director of Business and Professional Development, a Vice President and as a member of its Board of Director.

Bill participated in various Naval Reserve activities until 1962 when he was honorably discharged as Lieutenant. He was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and held a number of volunteer positions with that church's local organization. He also was active in community youth activities, serving as both a baseball and basketball coach, team father, league director, etc. In addition, he was on the Bartlesville Junior Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and chaired the local chapter's Civic Improvement and Youth Activities committees, as well as the "Jaycee" State4

Youth Activities committee. Bill was also “Jaycee” representative on the Bartlesville Children’s Welfare Services committee, as well as serving on and chairing the Chamber of Commerce Sewage Disposal sub-committee which developed a master plan for serving areas outside the Bartlesville city limits as they existed in the mid-1950s. Bill was a member of the Bartlesville American Legion Post #105.

Bill served for six years on the large American Petroleum Institute Committee on Refinery Equipment and chaired that group for two years before retiring from Phillips. That committee prepared and updated many of the recommended standards and specifications used for petroleum refinery equipment. He was also an active member of the Oklahoma Society of Professional Engineers and, in 1981, was selected as the Bartlesville chapter’s “Outstanding Engineer in Management.” He was further honored by the state OPSE organization by being selected as its 1999 “Fellow” in recognition of his character, achievements and his then 54-year career.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR **23**. 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Davis Family Funeral Home - Dewey Chapel  
113 S Osage Ave  
Dewey, OK 74029  
(918) 534-3030  
davisfamilyfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Gathering of Friends and Family

MAR **23**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Davis Family Funeral Home - Dewey Chapel  
113 S Osage Ave  
Dewey, OK 74029  
(918) 534-3030  
davisfamilyfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Service

MAR **24**. 11:00 AM (CT)

the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
1501 SE Swan Drive  
Bartlesville, OK 74006

# Tribute Wall

BH

“ We'll all miss Bill. As one of his cousins, I have lots of memories from our younger years. To pick just one, Bill taught me how to eat spaghetti. I was visiting him in Emporia, and for dinner Aunt Rosalie made spaghetti. I was having trouble eating it with a fork, so Bill showed me how to lean in real close to the plate and simply slurp up a noodle or two at a time. This worked real well, until I later tried the same method back home. My mother would have none of it, and if I didn't want to be sent from the table I had to unlearn Bill's helpful advice real fast.

*In more ways than one, it was a date which will live in infamy. Before eating at Aunt Rosalie's, Bill and I had been watching a music production. At some point during the show, William Allen White, editor of the Emporia Gazette, appeared on stage to announce that Pearl Harbor had been bombed. It was December 7, 1941.*

*Bob Hamilton  
Bellingham, WA*

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**Bob Hamilton** - April 06, 2014 at 04:15 PM

SB

“ Mr and Mrs Ruggles were a big part of my high school days. Friends with 5 of their children, I spent time in their back yard learning about nature from Brent and being teased by the twins, hours in band and orchestra where Brent and I shared the honor of being the double reed team, months working at Edwards with Helen and going to lunch at her apartment. My prayers and sympathies go out to all of the Ruggles' in the loss of a fine man.

*Susie Rogers Bellinski*

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**Susie Rogers Bellinski** - March 23, 2014 at 08:18 AM

FA

“ *Friends and Associates purchased the Beautiful i  
n Blue for the family of Mr. William L. (Bill)  
Ruggles.*



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**Friends and Associates** - March 22, 2014 at 01:52 PM

ME

“ *Bill was my cousin as well... 2nd cousin with his 5 children, my 3rd  
cousins. It is not very often that you get to know and spend time  
with your 2nd and 3rd cousins but we did... especially with 'The  
Twins' who are my age. :) My mother, Barbara Hamilton Syrios, and  
Bill were not only cousins but the best of friends always competing  
who could jokingly get 'one up' on the other. Each would tell tales of  
the other, reminiscing with humor their own version of the story. As  
my Aunt Mary said below, Bill was such a kind and thoughtful man...  
a true gentle soul. He always had a kind word to say and his  
positive attitude and optimism was contagious. Years ago, he would  
write me letters at times whenever there was a big event in my life,  
congratulating me or enjoying the excitement of the event. And, I  
always looked forward to his Christmas letters. Bill was a sweet,  
sweet man that I loved and will treasure the memories! The  
Eckeberger Family sends their love and condolences to the entire  
Ruggles Family!*

*Just know that I would be there for the funeral if I didn't have some  
back issues and upcoming surgery.*

*Melinda Syrios Eckeberger  
Dallas, TX*

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**Melinda Syrios Eckeberger** - March 22, 2014 at 11:59 AM

MM

“ Bill was my cousin, and my main impression of him was that he was one of the most kind and thoughtful men I have ever known. I especially remember a time when I was facing a complicated and dangerous spinal surgery, and the support that he gave me. He was on the phone frequently, checking to see how plans were coming along. He sent flowers, collected and sent jokes and humorous articles to cheer me up, and then still was on the phone seeing how my recovery was going. He knew how to make a person feel loved and cared for. I will miss him, and my husband and I send our sympathy to all the family.

Mary Hamilton Mead  
Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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**Mary Hamilton Mead** - March 21, 2014 at 08:25 PM



“ Karen Wever lit a candle in memory of Mr. William L. (Bill) Ruggles



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**Karen Wever** - March 21, 2014 at 06:14 PM

FM

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Kay and Bill were both such special people and will greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with their precious family at this time.

Sincerely,  
Frances & Glyn McFarland



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**Frances McFarland** - March 21, 2014 at 04:01 PM

KF

“ Bill and Kay were both special friends and neighbors to us during our 3 years in Bartlesville. They continued to reach out to us across the miles to Richmond, Texas, and we have treasured their friendship throughout the past decade.

Bill always spoke with love and pride about his extended family, and we will be praying for all of the Ruggles as you miss such a sweet father and grandfather. We will also miss Bill's sense of humor and optimism. We thank God that He blessed us with getting to know Bill and Kay.

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Ken Engel family - March 21, 2014 at 01:52 PM

CL

“ Our thoughts and Prayers are with you all, so very sorry for your loss. Bill was sure a special Man to all, I always enjoyed visiting with him while walking in the neighborhood. Sincerely and respectfully,  
Jeff and Connie Lawrence

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Connie Lawrence - March 21, 2014 at 10:06 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. William L. (Bill) Ruggles.



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March 20, 2014 at 03:42 PM