

He was bound to the land from the day of his birth; His roots anchored deep in the fertile earth; Nurtured, sustained, by the soil he grew. And his life, like his furrows, ran straight and true.

In faith, each spring, he planted the seeds, In hope, to reap his family's needs. With patience, he waited for the harvest to come, To gather the fruits of his labor home.

Ever turning seasons, the years sped past Till the final harvest came at last. Then claimed anew by beloved sod

He was gathered home to be with God.

- Barbara Weber



Tibbetts-Fischer Funeral Home ~ Belleville
www.tibbettsfischerfuneralhome.com



In Honored Memory Of

Donald Joe Krotz

January 25, 1931 ~ June 14, 2020

89 years ~ 4 months ~ 20 days

Funeral Service

Thursday, June 18, 2020 ~ 10:30 a.m.

Tibbetts-Fischer Funeral Home ~ Belleville

Officiant

Deb Hadachek, CRE

Soloist

Christine Polak

Family Remembrances

Randy Krotz

"So God Made a Farmer"

Don's Grandchildren

Musical Selections

"Amazing Grace" vocal solo

"Daddy's Hands" as recorded by Holly Dunn

"That Old Country Church" as recorded by The Blackwood Brothers

Casket Bearers

James Krotz ~ Garrison Krotz ~ Juliana Kroeger ~ Jeremy Kroeger

Jim Etken ~ Loren Polak ~ Ken Polak

Honorary Casket Bearers

Marty Boyles ~ Mike Reed ~ Blaine Blazek ~ Wayne Pachta ~ Bryce Pachta

Merle Hadachek ~ Charles "Chuck" Sanford ~ Haileigh Krotz

Madeleine Wilmsen ~ Gene Barnett, deceased

Interment with Military Honors ~ Belleville City Cemetery

Officiant ~ Pastor Leah Krotz

U.S. Air Force Honor Guard ~ McConnell AFB, Wichita

William Fleming American Legion Post #345 of Cuba



Donald Joe Krotz of rural Cuba, KS was born on January 25, 1931 to Joseph and Julia (Mottl) Krotz. He died on June 14, 2020 at Belleville, KS at the age of 89 years, 4 months, and 20 days. Don was born in the home in which he lived the rest of his life, with the exception of his four years in the U.S. Armed Forces. After graduating from Belleville High School in 1948, Don farmed with his father for several years. In 1952, he entered the United States Air Force. From 1952 until 1956 he was stationed in several states and traveled the world as an aircraft mechanic during the Korean Conflict. In 1956, Don was honorably discharged while stationed in Little Rock, Arkansas and married Geneva Ruth Goodall of Little Rock a few days later on April 5, 1956 at Geneva's grandparent's home in Atkins, Arkansas. The couple returned to the Krotz family farm between Belleville and Cuba, Kansas. To this union three children were born. For over sixty years after returning to Kansas, Don farmed, with the assistance of his father the first years, and with the assistance of Geneva for the sixty years of their marriage. Besides the crops they raised, Don and Geneva had cattle for numerous years. In the early-1980s, they expanded to an extensive hog operation of generally over 1,000 head, which became their primary source of work and income for the next twenty years. Don also occasionally held jobs in woodworking, construction, and manufacturing in and around Belleville throughout the years to supplement the farm income. Don retired from the hog operation in the early 2000s, but continued to manage the farming of his land and his family's land until his death. In his youth, Don was a long-time Republic County 4-H member of the Salt Creek Club. He attended Jefferson Center school for his first eight years and then attended Belleville High School where he especially enjoyed the FFA organization, attaining the State FFA degree his senior year. Don was a Master Mason in the Cuba Lodge A.F. and A.M. He also spent numerous years assisting in the design and building of play sets for high school drama productions. Don was an avid learner of a variety of subjects. He immensely enjoyed frequent trips to public libraries and museums. Two of his special interests were the U.S. Civil War and the history of farm machinery. He enjoyed being an enthusiastic supporter of his community and his agriculture community, whether through Czechoslovakian heritage events; county fairs; community coffee clubs; FFA and 4-H events; or through watching sports competitions with his wife, particularly basketball, in which their children and grandchildren or any local students participated. He was preceded in death by his wife Geneva in 2016; his parents; sister Harriet Barnett and husband Ben, sister Evelyn Polak and husband Leonard, and nephew Gene Barnett. Don is survived by his three children: daughter Debra Krotz of Belleville, son Richard (Leah) Krotz of rural Deshler, Nebraska, son Randy Krotz and fiancée Kathrin Terzo of Wildwood, Missouri; three grandchildren: James (Haileigh) Krotz of West Lafayette, Indiana; Garrison Krotz and fiancée Madeleine Wilmsen of Chicago, Illinois; and Juliana Krotz Kroeger (Jeremy) of Dannebrog, Nebraska; and nephews and nieces. Memorials may be made to the Republic County Hospital or to the Republic County High School FFA Chapter, and may be sent in care of the funeral home



Don Krotz



Don Krotz Order of Service

Scripture: John 14 (Psalm 90: 1-4; 12-17)

Prayer

Vocal Solo – Christine Polak

Grandchildren: So God Made a Farmer

Family Remembrances: Randy Krotz

“Daddy’s Hands” as recorded by Holly Dunn

Prayer and Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3

Meditation: Content

Prayer and Lord’s Prayer: O God, before whom generations rise and pass away, we praise you for all your servants who, having lived this life in faith, now live eternally with you. Especially we thank you for your servant Don. We praise you for the gift of his life, and for all in him that was good and kind and faithful, for the grace you gave him. We thank you that for him death is past and pain ended, and he has now entered the joy you have prepared through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray ... (debts and debtors)

“That Old Country Church” as recorded by The Blackwoods

Commendation: Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Don. Acknowledge we humbly pray, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Now Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dismissal and procession to Belleville City Cemetery