

Blaine E. Shoemaker, beloved husband, father, brother, uncle, and grandfather, age 85 of Oklahoma City, OK died peacefully at home on December 6, 2022. He was born on October 8, 1937, at Mercy Hospital in Davenport, Iowa to Clarence and Opal Yerkey Shoemaker. Blaine was in the last graduating class of the Centerville School where he made lifelong friends. He graduated from Aledo High School in 1955. For two years he attended Monmouth College, becoming a member of the Theta Chi Fraternity. Blaine received his Bachelor of Agriculture Science in 1961 and his Master of Science in Animal Science in 1965 from the University of Illinois. While an undergraduate at the University of Illinois, he was a member of the Livestock Judging Team. Blaine was raised on a farm near Seaton, Illinois, where his love of black Angus cattle and agriculture began. He became involved with the Mercer County 4-H at the strong encouragement of his uncle, Everett Shoemaker. This was the beginning of a lifelong passion for Blaine. He spent his youth showing cattle at the Mercer County Fair and traveling to cattle shows in Chicago and Denver. He shared this passion with his grandchildren, bringing them to the Mercer County Fair and watching proudly, as they showed his cattle. Blaine was never happier than when talking about cattle or at a cattle show or sale. Blaine married his high school sweetheart, Tony Miller, on September 4, 1960. They celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary this year. While completing their education, they made their first home in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. After receiving his master's, Blaine was a food service manager at the University of Illinois. In 1969, Blaine started his career in the meat industry when he joined Wilson Foods where he spent most of his career. Starting in 1983, Blaine served on the Meat Board in Chicago until he retired. His career took his family to Chicago, Illinois; Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Albert Lea, Minnesota; and a final stop in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Blaine and Tony raised two daughters in Oklahoma City. He was an enthusiastic skier, although not a good one. He also loved to attend the Express Cattle Sales in Oklahoma City. Blaine never lost his love for the people, land, and cattle in western Illinois. He visited often and called to check on things even when he wasn't there. He will be remembered for his love of family and friends, hearty laugh, and passion for all things agriculture. Blaine leaves behind a loving family in his wife, Tony, his children, Gwen (Alan) Niemann, and Amy (Jim) Martin, grandchildren, Avery and Ashton Niemann, Mary Grace and Miller Martin, his brother, Dwight Shoemaker, nephews, Ryan (Amy) Shoemaker, and Justin Shoemaker, brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Mark and Denise Seligman, niece, Johanna, and four great nephews and nieces.



In Memory of

Blaine E. Shoemaker

October 8, 1937 ~ December 6, 2022



A Scottish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back,

May the sun shine warm upon your face.

May the rains fall soft upon your fields.

And until we meet again

*may God hold you
in the palm of His hand.*

In Memory of

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October 8, 1937 ~ December 6, 2022

Service

11:00 a.m. Wednesday, December 14, 2022

College Avenue Presbyterian Church

Aledo, Illinois

Officiating

Reverend Wayne Furr

Organist

Linda Bell

Pallbearers

Alan Niemann ~ Ryan Shoemaker ~ Jim Martin

David Poel ~ Miller Martin ~ Barrett Celecki

Honorary Pallbearers

Dwight Shoemaker

Jim Yerkey

Interment

Aledo Cemetery

