



Chester Howard Wheatley

March 8, 1921 - April 9, 2018

Chester H. Wheatley, 97, of Thayer, KS passed away at his home on April 9, 2018. He was born on March 8, 1921 to Lester and Audrey (Neal) Wheatley in Derby, IN. Upon graduating from Tell City high school , Chester joined the Civilian Conservation Corps, (one of Roosevelt's economy boosting plans) in order to save up money to go to college. In the fall of 1941 he went to Ball State University for one year where he played basketball. One weekend he was hitchhiking home from college to visit family and was picked up by a recruiter who encouraged him to join the service before he was drafted. He chose to sign up with the U.S. Navy V-5 Aviation Cadet Program, completed flight training and joined the U.S. Navy where he was a pilot during WWII and was promoted to Lieutenant Commander. During one of his training sessions in Hutchinson Kansas he had a stop over in Wichita Kansas where he met Donice Stires when they had to share a cab ride to Hutchinson and she had to sit on his lap. He married Donice Fern Stires in Los Angeles, CA in 1945. She preceded him in death in 2008.

After proudly serving his country for 20 years, Chester worked for the Lansing Correctional Facility as a purchasing officer for 19 years. He was a proud member of The American Legion, VFW, and Naval Reserve Association.

Chester is survived by:

Grandson:

Brad Wheatley and wife Brenda of Chisago, MN

Sister-In-Law:

Glenna Wheatley

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Donice Wheatley; 3 premature sons in infancy; and an adopted son, Michael Wheatley; and siblings, Louise Biddle, Mary Schenk, and Rogers Wheatley.

Cremation has been requested.

Contributions may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

Chet was an extremely generous and interesting man and he will be missed by anyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

The family will hold a memorial service at United Methodist Church in Thayer, KS on Saturday, May 5, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. Online condolences may be left at www.countrysidefh.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to Countryside Funeral Home 101 N. Highland, Chanute, KS. 66720.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY 5. 11:00 AM (CT)

Thayer United Methodist Church
203 N. Okmulgee
Thayer, KS 66776

Tribute Wall

AS

“ He was amazing and beloved as well as his wonderful wife. Love you Chet and thank you for always being my pen pal.

Ashley Stites - October 14, 2018 at 02:02 AM

Holly Riggio Whitworth

“ My mom, Chet ad his wife Donnie had been close freinds since the late 60's when I was a kid. They were in and out of each other's houses, playing pitch, canasta and all sorts of card comes. The coffee pot was always on. Chet was like a second father to me, called on to get on me when I wasn't acting like mom thought i should, debating my opinion, and making me think. He was interesting with the driest sense of humor. After we moved to CA we only saw him on vacations, and he never changed. It was no surprise to read from others whose lives he has touched. He was always "The officer and the gentlemen". To you Chet, "May you be half way to heaven before the devil knows your gone."

Holly Riggio Whitworth - May 04, 2018 at 08:09 PM

NF

“ The Neosho County Community College Foundation would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Chester Wheatley. Mr. Wheatley was without a doubt one of the most interesting people I have had the priviledge to meet, in addition he was kind and generous. I will miss our dinners together in Thayer. He has and will continue to touch many lives at Neosho County Community College because of his generosity. Thank you Chester and rest in peace.

NCCC Foundation - May 01, 2018 at 09:32 AM

MP

“ Chet, Donnie and Mike were a big part of our lives. My mom, Sarah Riggio, and Donnie were best friends, and Mike and I were involved, and friends til his death. Many evenings were spent at their house in Thayer playing cards, watching tv, listening to Mike play the piano, and just talking. Mom loved to give Chet bags of multi-color popcorn for his birthday, It wasn't til Donnie died that we realized that Chet was the one who wrote and sent us so many cards. I'm so sorry to hear of his passing, I learned so much from him. I miss the whole family.

Margaret S. Patton - April 25, 2018 at 03:47 PM

MO

“ Chester was my neighbor in Thayer when my kids were small. Him and his dog would always come to the edge of the fence and talk for some time to my son. He was a great man with lots of stories.
Prayers to the family.
Mary Osborn (Showalter)

Mary Osborn - April 22, 2018 at 08:52 PM