



## Earl Edmond Kelly

November 30, 1912 - October 6, 2008

Earl Edmond Kelly, 95, of Cedar Vale, Kansas passed away October 6, 2008 at the Via Christi Regional Medical Center in Wichita, Kansas.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 pm Saturday at the First Baptist Church of Cedar Vale. Burial will take place at the Round Mound Cemetery immediately following the service. The body will lie in state at the Zimmerman Funeral Home in Howard, KS between 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Friday October 10, 2008. The family will be present to meet friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Zimmerman Funeral Home will be responsible for funeral arrangements.

Earl was born November 30, 1912, in Harmon, OK, to William and Irene (Custer) Kelly. He was raised and educated in the Harmon area and graduated from Arnett High School in 1934.

Earl married Irene Coram on December 10, 1936 in Woodward, OK. After working briefly in the oil field, in highway construction, and as a Rawleigh salesman, they moved to Cedar Vale, KS in 1938. Earl and Irene farmed and ranched in the Cedar Vale area for over 60 years while raising a family of five children. In addition to their farming and ranching efforts, Earl operated a custom harvesting crew for 36 years as well as a seeding and fencing crew for 10 years.

Earl, as a man of faith, was active in local churches, serving as Sunday School teacher, Sunday School superintendent, trustee, and deacon. He published two religious books based on his bible studies. Earl expanded his influence when he also hosted a weekly bible study on radio station KGGF in Coffeyville and became known to his listeners as Neighbor Earl.

Earl also assumed many civic responsibilities. He served on the Cedar Vale school board for 16 years and was a member of Lion's Club and the Chamber of Commerce. Earl supported local youth by providing summer employment, coaching summer baseball, and supporting 4-H programs. Earl also represented Chautauqua County as a delegate to the State Board of Agriculture.

Earl and Irene traveled extensively because of Irene's duties with Associated Country Women of the World. These travels took them to 49 states and to countries in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, and North America, including a six-week around-the-world trip.

Earl was preceded in death by his wife, Irene; son, Gerry; grandson Jason; brothers Lee, Bert, and Claude; and sisters Ava Bryant and Nellie Cook.

Earl is survived by his daughter Patsy Johnson and husband Robert of South Windham, CT; his son Carl Kelly and wife JoAnn of Peck; his son Myrl Kelly and wife Judy of Wichita; his son Lynn and wife Kay of Grenola; and daughter-in-law Linda Kelly of Lawrence.

Earl is also survived by granddaughters Karen Sharp, Julie Johnson, Jill Todd, Jennifer Zrelloff, Shannon Kelly, Holly Adams, Elizabeth Richards, Rachel Kelly, and Anne Kelly; grandsons Bruce Kelly, Steven Kelly, Michael Kelly, Matthew Kelly, Justin Kelly, Alex Kelly, Drew Kelly, Chris Kelly, and Daniel Kelly; and 23 great-grandchildren.

Memorials have been established at three of the churches where Earl attended, Wauneta United Methodist Church, First Baptist Church of Cedar Vale, and the Grenola Christian Church. Contributions may be made through the funeral home. Online condolences may be left at [www.countrysidefh.com](http://www.countrysidefh.com).