



Elvin “Zeke” Zimmerman

July 27, 1927 – August 28, 2012

Elvin "Zeke" Zimmerman, 85, longtime Ogallala resident, died Tuesday, August 28, 2012, in Heritage Estates in Gering, Nebr. after a lengthy illness surrounded by family.

Elvin was born on July 27, 1927 at the family farm near Big Springs, NE to Samuel P. and Julia E. (McConnell) Zimmerman. The youngest of three children he kept his older brother Marvin and sister Velma on their toes trying to keep up with him.

Elvin attended school in Big Springs and graduated from Big Springs High School in 1945. He enlisted in the Marines and was on a ship headed overseas when WWII ended. Returning to Nebraska he took the opportunity to learn to fly and got a great view of the farms below him.

Attending a dance in Julesburg he met the woman who was to become his wife. Although friends tried to convince her that he was a bit of a rebel rouser, true love won out and on October 17, 1948 he and Mildred M. Powell were married in Julesburg, CO. Together they raised three children, Stanley E, Sharon A and James K.

For the first 16 years of their marriage Zeke and Mildred farmed in the Big Springs area. Then the Nebraska Game Commission hired Zeke as a game warden. He excelled at this because he knew all the tricks. Zeke was stationed for a short time in Ainsworth and then spent many years in Valentine enjoying the sandhills. In 1977 he transferred to Ogallala, NE and served for a total of 27 years with the Nebraska Game Commission. Zeke was a founding member of the Conservation Officers Association and served as an officer of the association and on the Board of Directors. His distinguished career included receiving the Loren Bunny Award, Big Mac Sports Club award and the Shikar Safari International Wildlife Officer of the year in 1975. He was a member of Masonic Lodge #159, VFW Post 3755 and Elks Lodge #1760.

If there was a good catfish to be caught, a duck or goose to be found or a deer or antelope to be had, Zeke would find them. He was especially proud of the antelope he got in the fall of 2011 at the age of 84. It just proves you can't keep a good hunter down. The only time you did not worry about hunting was during Husker football season. When football season was over he was an avid reader.

Grandpa “Papa” was a story teller to his 7 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Some of these stories have left a lasting impressions on his grandkids.

Preceding him in death were his parents and one brother Marvin Zimmerman.



Zeke is survived by his wife, Mildred, his children Stan (Clare) of Glenwood, MD, Sharon (Jeff) Lee of Boise, ID and Jim (Mayda) of Gering NE, 7 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, his sister Velma Morrow of Ogallala, NE, his niece and nephew, many cousins and friends. Memorials are suggested to the Denver Fisher House 1954 N. Quentin Street, Aurora, CO 80045 or Heritage Estates, 2325 Lodge Drive, Gering NE 69341

Inurnment Committal Services are scheduled for Wednesday Sept. 5th, at 9 a.m.. in the Big Springs Cemetery with Masonic Rites by the Ogallala Masonic Lodge #159 AF & AM. The Memorial Service will follow at 10:30 a.m. in the Ogallala First United Methodist Church with Rev. Chuck Rager officiating. The flag presentation will be given by the Nebraska Game and Parks Law Enforcement Division.

Online condolences may be sent to webmaster@drauckerfh.com.

Draucker Funeral Home of Ogallala is in charge of arrangements.