

Obituary

Hal Bruce Sager

Sept. 18, 1947 - March 26, 2014



Sager

Hal Bruce Sager was born in Colby, Kan., on Sept. 18, 1947. He died of natural causes on Wednesday, March 26, 2014, at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, in Aurora, Colo.

Hal was the son of Robert (Bob) Sager and Dorothy Sager (nee McDougal). He grew up in Bird City, Kan., with his five brothers: R. Warren, Fred, Douglas, Wayne and Alan; and two sisters: Janet (Siegfried) and Janey.

He attended Bird City schools from elementary school through high school graduation in 1965. He remained very close with his high school classmates, and often shared stories of sporting events, hunting trips, and small-town teenage life with close friends.

In high school, Hal was active in football, basketball, track, science club and especially the school's band, vocal and theatre productions. Music provided great enjoyment for Hal. He played the drums in several bands during high school and the years following graduation, and was often asked to sing for weddings and memorial services.

His sons fondly remember Saturday hunting excursions during their youth, when they and their father would sing song, after song, after song as the radio played classic hits and folk favorites.

Hal was drafted into the Army on Oct. 10, 1967, in Denver, Colo., and was sent to Fort Bliss, Texas for his basic training, and then to Fort Leonardwood, Mo., with an awarded MOS of 71B30 (Clerk Typist). He was then transferred to Fort Carson, Colo., for training for deployment to Vietnam.

He left for Vietnam on July 22, 1968, as part of the only brigade sized element ever flown to Vietnam. He served 363 days in Vietnam and came back to the United States on July 20, 1969, the day Neil Armstrong walked on the moon.

He was discharged from active duty at the rank of Specialist Fifth Class (E-5 Sgt) that same day, and spent 4 1/2 years in inactive reserves. He was honorably discharged on Oct. 1, 1973, after completing his 6-year obligation.

While he was in Vietnam, Northern I-Corp, he was part of the only battalion-sized element ever given permission to run an operation into the demilitarized zone to dislodge the North Vietnamese Army from their southerly protected areas by

attacking them from the north side of the zone. This operation had support from Army, Marine, Air Force, and Navy American troops, plus Vietnamese Army and Vietnamese Scouts. The Navy had the New Jersey (16-inch guns), Ranger, and Enterprise (aircraft carriers) firing and flying from the gulf of Tonkin.

The awards Hal attained while on active duty included: National Defense Service Medal, Expert M-14, Sharpshooter M-16, Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct Medal, Bronze Star Medal, and Vietnam Combat Medal with two Overseas Bars.

Hal married his wife, Judy Sager (nee Crawford), on April 21, 1979, at the Immanuel United Methodist Church in Bird City. Two boys were added to this family, Chad on July 9, 1982, and Michael on April 21, 1985. Later, Chad and his wife Becky welcomed two daughters, Quinn and Linden, who made Hal a very proud and happy "grandpa."

When Hal came home, he went to work in the family business, McDougal-Sager Grain Company, which he and his brother Doug purchased in 1989. Interacting with customers and managing the grain elevator was a constant joy for Hal. When times were busy he could be found dumping trucks and cleaning bins along with his employees, and when the pace of work slowed he cherished his daily conversations with local farmers about crops, markets, and life in general.

Volunteer service was extremely important to Hal, though he likely viewed it as just another part of small-town life. He served as a special deputy for 24 years with sheriff Ray Lee, as fire chief for Bird City and Rural Fire District No. 1 for 26 years, as American Legion Post 352 Commander for 11 years, as a Cheyenne County emergency medical technician for 19 years, as master of ceremonies for the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show for 36 years, and as announcer and statistician with Cheylin School activities at various times for over 30 years. He served in various capacities with the local Boy Scout troop and 4-H club during his sons' involvement as well as coaching summer baseball.

Hal was also very active in the Cheyenne County Wildlife organization, serving on its board of directors and assisting with numerous club projects. He was honored by the organization as the Sportsman of the Year in 2011.

Hal served previously on the city council in Bird City as councilman and at the time of his death was currently serving as mayor. When he wasn't working or otherwise volunteering, the

other hobbies Hal enjoyed at various times include gardening, hunting, fishing, and taking in arts and music performances.

Hal is survived by his wife Judy, son Chad and his wife Becky, of Atwood; son Michael, of Denver, Colo.; granddaughters Quinn and Linden, also of Atwood; brother R. Warren and his wife Deloris, of Lacrosse; sister Janet (Siegfried) and her husband Danny, of St. Francis; brother Fred and his wife Pam, of Colby; brother Douglas, of Glen Haven, Colo.; sister Janey, of St. Francis; brother Wayne and his wife Peggy, of Salina; and brother Alan and his wife Tonya, of Colby, along with many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Bob (Aug. 29, 2002) and Dorothy Sager (March 15, 2009). Memorials may be sent to the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Association, Cheyenne County Wildlife, American Legion Post 352, or a charity of choice.

A celebration of life was held at the Immanuel United Methodist Church, in Bird City on Saturday, April 5. Graveside services and military honors followed at the Bird City Cemetery.

University of Kansas honors Cheylin students at banquet

Two Cheylin and two St. Francis students were among 51 northwest Kansas seniors honored by the University of Kansas as Kansas Honors Students, the top 10 percent of this year's high school class.

Cheylin High School students Ty Carmichael, son of Wade and Tammi Carmichael and Walker Janicke, son of Clayton and Lori Janicke - were introduced by Principal and Superintendent Shelly Angelos.

The St. Francis Community High School students - Randee Grover, daughter of Shannon and Raquel Grover and Bailey Merklin, daughter of Steve Merklin and Natasha Wilson - were introduced at a dinner April 2 in Colby by Principal David Morrow.

Mike and Brenda Day, Cheyenne County Coordinators and KU alumni, presented the students with a dictionary and honored them for their achievements.

KU Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, noting a lot of purple clothing in the crowd, congratulated the students for their performance so far in life, but reminded them that it took the help and

support of a lot of people, including family and teachers, to get them this far.

"As a first-generation college student," said the chancellor, who holds bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees, and was provost at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill before coming to KU, "I can assure you that I wouldn't be here today if it weren't for the support of my family."

"Many of you will go on to college, and you are exactly the kind of students we would like to see at the University of Kansas."

But regardless of where they go - and the largest contingent seemed to be headed to Kansas State - she urged all the students to be leaders, to help build healthy communities and to work to change the world.

She said Brian McClendon, a Lawrence native and KU graduate who headed the team that built Google Earth, had set an example for that, but each one of them could - and should - contribute something.

"Work these ideas into your lives," she said, "and I promise



Janicke



Carmichael

you, you won't go wrong."

The Kansas Honors Program, sponsored by the KU Alumni Association, has recognized more than 120,000 seniors since 1971, the university says. This year, it will highlight the success of 3,500 students from 360 high schools from all 105 Kansas counties - regardless of where they plan to go to college.

Everyone was entertained by Nicole Burkart and Han Wang in a musical performance.

Students from Brewster, Colby, Decatur, Golden Plains, Goodland, Heartland Christian, Hoxie, Oakley, Quinter, Rawlins County, Triplains, Wallace County, Westkan, and Wheatland were also honored.

Teams are still needed for Relay for Life

The Cheyenne County American Cancer Relay for Life committee is still looking for teams to walk in this year's relay. In an effort to bring in more participating, the hours have been changed for this year's relay.

The event starts at noon on Saturday, June 7, at Sawhill Park, St. Francis. The activities will run to midnight.

Yes, said Betty Loudon, Relay publicity chairman, we will be walking from noon until midnight. These new hours have been sought for years and we are excited to be able to do it this year!

People are urged to talk to their team members and sign up for all-day fun at Sawhill Park. Call Christy Wurm at 785-332-2650

Supper and refreshments
The regularly scheduled supper in the park will be held with the survivors as guests of the committee. Pam and Jim Bolin will cook and the public is invited

for a "free-will-offering" dinner. The Cheyenne Shrine Club will be present with drinks, including water and pop, and popcorn, cotton candy and snow cones.

Survivor Lap
The Survivor Lap around the park will start at 7 p.m. with the survivors and caregivers walking the next lap. The luminaria ceremony will begin at dusk. Luminaria are being sold now by committee members and team members, and will be available all afternoon at the park. Their cost is \$10 each and are purchased in memory or in honor of a loved one who suffered or suffers from cancer.

Silent auction
This year's auction will be a silent auction. This means that all the baskets and merchandise will be on display all afternoon at tables at the park and people can write a bid on each one. Then check back later, as someone will probably bid higher and this goes

on all afternoon until the final time. The last person and highest bid wins the merchandise.

There will be all kinds of games and activities going on for the teams. If a team or firm would like to donate baskets or merchandise to be auctioned off, contact any committee member or Pat Rose, chairman, at 785-332-5348, for pick up of the items.

Students involved
Pat reports that the collection buckets are already in place at the grade school. Students are urged to bring change from home and there will be a contest for

the class which raises the most money for the American Cancer Relay for Life. Several activities are planned for the students and the winning team gets a pizza party.

More information
For additional information, contact any committee member. Let's plan on the best relay we have ever had, Mrs. Loudon said. She can be reached at 785-332-4338.



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Seller's Mineral Rights Included
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Tract #7 - 40± Ac. Grass/Homesite; Borders County Rd. 37
Stock Well & Bottomless Tank
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Tract #9 - 240± Ac. Grass; Live water in SW corner

TRACTS #10 & #11 Riverbottom, Bluffs, Grassland, Home & Improvements
Located in 1N-44W, Sec. 10, 11 & 15;
1 mi. West of Wray bordering Hwy 34
Seller's Mineral Rights Included
Tract #10 - 62± Ac. Scenic Riverbottom & Bluffs Grass
Tract #11 - 240± Ac. Republican Riverbottom, Scenic Grass & Bluffs, Home & Improvements; Includes 1,634 sq. ft. 2-bedroom, 2-bath home, shop, 3+ bay garage; Domestic/Stock Well

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Preparation Seminar for Divine Mercy Sunday

- We call it *ETERNITY*

Saturday, April 26
9 a.m. - Noon
(A light lunch will be served)

St. Joseph Catholic Church Hall
Bird City

*Confession will be available for anyone who requires this sacrament or has not been able to attend the Reconciliation Service offered during Lent.

Presented by: Roberta Lambert, a lay contemplative from Abilene, Texas. *She is certified by the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy for completing the theology and spirituality course in DIVINE MERCY ESSENTIALS and has been dedicated to promoting this spectacular Feat of Mercy since her miraculous conversion 29 years ago.*

"Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy" (300)

— AUCTION —

Joes, Colo.
¼ east on Hwy 36, 5 south & ¼ east
April 15, 2014 • 10:30 AM, MDT

Tractors: '05 Case IH STX325 Accur Steer 4WD, 16 spd PS, 3pt, 4 hyd, pto, perform monitor, climate control, rear diff lock, auto spd control, only 3690 hrs; '92 Versatile 9030 bi-directional w/ldr 8' bucket & grapple, 3pt, pto & hyd both ends w/high output hyd for swather, only 3671 hrs; '90 Versatile 946 4WD, 3pt; '85 Versatile 856 4WD, 3pt; **Combine & Sprayer:** '92 Agco R72 C&S special, model 7275, sep hrs 3676; 8 & 12 row corn hds; 30' wheat hd; Wilmar 8100 SP sprayer, 90' SS boom w/850g SS tank, 4900 hrs; **Trucks & Trailers:** '88 KW T800 TT day cab w/10L Cummins, 9 spd, Reyco suspension; wet kit; only 120,800 one owner miles; '73 Timpte 40' hopper trl; '67 Timpte 40' flatbed; '74 Ford F600 only 53K one owner miles w/16' box & Westfield brush-type hyd drill fill auger; **Machinery:** JD 7200 Max E 2 vacuum planter, 16x30", Precision eSet plates for corn, soy & milo; Krause 45' 2146 disc; Flex King XL 42' sweep plow; Richardson 45' mulcher; 6- Versatile 2000 shovel drills; IHC 165 6-bottom 3pt plow; 2- A&L grain carts; NH 791 manure sprdr; Danhuser post driver; Intucoln G800 welder; livestock Equip: Powder River cattle & calf chutes; 200+ steel panels; genstock

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