

# OBITUARIES

## Vernon Jacobs Aug. 30, 1927 - Sept. 11, 2012



Woodson of Overland Park. Vernon is also survived by two sisters, Georgine Fisher and Janice Kaba; 17 grandchildren, Doug Roeder and wife Tracy, Brian Roeder, John Jacobs and wife Monica; Kelli Quigley and husband Brad, Wendy Cudnik and husband Justin, Josh and Zach Mann, Jason Jacobs and wife Melissa, Jared Jacobs and wife Tressa, Jessica Bailey and husband Dustin, Janae Jacobs, Kristin and Austin Gilmer, Kyle

Oetken and Parker, Ryan and Bayley Woodson. Vernon is also survived by 12 great-grandchildren.

Those preceding him in death are parents, John and Regina Jacobs; brother, Harvey Jacobs; four sisters, Alma Leiker, Joyce Jacobs, Vera Milke and Betty Werth; and granddaughter, Kendra Mann O'Brien.

Services will be at 10 a.m. on Saturday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Hays with burial at St. Joseph Cemetery of Hays.

Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. on Friday at Hays Memorial Chapel Funeral Home. A parish vigil service will be at 6:30 p.m. on Friday at the funeral home.

A memorial has been established to The American Stroke Association.

Condolences can be sent to the family at [www.haysmemorial.com](http://www.haysmemorial.com).

Vernon Jacobs, 85, of Overland Park, died Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2012 at Garden Terrace Rest Home in Overland Park.

Vernon was born to the late John and Regina (Bieker) Jacobs in rural Ellis County on Aug. 30, 1927. He attended country school in rural Ellis County and graduated from Hays High School in 1945.

On Oct. 11, 1948, Vernon was united in marriage to Gladys Schmidt in Catherine. Together they raised their family in Edmond and farmed in Norton and Graham Counties for 40 years.

Vernon is survived by his wife, Gladys; sons, Vern and his wife, Sue, of Norton, Jan of Edmond and Dale of Kearney, Neb.; daughters, Brenda Jacobs of Overland Park, Joan Mann and her husband, Ken- nis, of Leawood, Debbie Brandt and her husband, Tim, of Lawrence, Patty Gilmer of Colorado Springs, Colo. and Pam

## Claron H. "Dick" Voss April 20, 1937 - Sept. 13, 2012

Claron H. Voss, the son of Keith and Opal (Olds) Voss, was born on April 20, 1937 in Densmore and passed away on Sept. 13, 2012 at Norton County Hospital at the age of 75.

He grew up in Colby and attended the Colby Schools. He graduated from Colby High School in 1955 and attended Fort Hays State University. Dick then took over the family farm southeast of Norton where he spent his life farming and enjoying his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was a member of the Army National Guard, 110th Ordinance, which was called up to active duty during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Dick was united in marriage to Sondra McDaniel and to this union, Kelly Diane was born. In January 1966, he was united in marriage to Carol Price and into this union were brought Georgia Ann and James Patrick.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother in infancy and one brother, Bill.

Left to celebrate his life are his wife, Carol, of the home; daughters, Kelly and husband Gordon Solomon of Ellis, Georgia and husband Kurt Mann of Norton; son Jim and wife Cindy of Almena; grandchildren, Shana (Tyler) Harting, Bo Garrison, Laura (Mark) Benfer, Kent Mann, Cody Nickell, Andy Nickell, Lexi Voss, Carlie Voss and great-grandsons Dustin Harting and Carson Harting; sisters JoAnn (Keith) Moss of Colorado, Janet (Dick) Edwards of Texas and brother, Roger (Marlene) Voss of Colby.

Services will be held on Monday, Sept. 17 at 10:30 a.m. at the Church of God in Norton.

Burial will be at the Norton Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Denver Fisher House or Hospice Services of Northwest Kansas. Both were a vital part in the last three years of Dick's life.

Arrangements are being made by Pauls Funeral Home of Oberlin.

## Lois Esther (Edson) Nelson June 1915 - August 2012

Lois Esther (Edson) Nelson (June 1915-August 2012), a 44-year resident of Joshua Tree, died peacefully Wednesday morning at the age of 97, in the care of VNA Hospice and CCC of Joshua Tree.

She was born in Norton in 1915, and was married to George

Wayne Nelson for 58 years and is survived by their three children, Gordon W. Nelson of California, John W. Nelson (and Rebecca Sesock) of Oklahoma and Gloria N. Case (and Michael Case) of California. Mrs. Nelson was grandmother to Cheryl Nelson, Jeff and Veronica Shaf-

fer, Stacey Hamerton-Kelly and Jennifer Nelson. She was great-grandmother to Aaron, Ashton, Ryan, Ian, Jenna, Janelle and Myia.

In accordance with her wishes, there will be no services.

## Commander candidate announced

Michael D. Helm, a veteran of service in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, is announced by the Department of Nebraska as a candidate for the high office of national commander of The American Legion. A 41-year continuous member of Jack Helt Post 313 in Lebanon, Neb., Helm served with the 82nd Airborne Division in Ft. Bragg, N.C., and earned his Ranger tab during the winter of 1972.



Mike Helm, Past Department Commander (1987-88) and Past National Vice Commander (2003-04), is in his third year of service as Chairman of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission. He formerly served as Chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission from 2004-2009.

Mike was born in McCook, Neb. He grew up in

the Norcatour area where he still lives today. He is a rural mail carrier for USPS with more than 33 years of service.

At the local and state levels, Helm has served as post adjutant, post commander, county commander, district commander, department area and senior vice commander, in addition to numerous committee assignments and chairmanships. He was Nebraska's first Vietnam era veteran elected as department commander. Mike takes great pride in having been selected to serve

as Nebraska's official American Legion representative at the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in 1982.

Mike and his wife, Debbie, are the parents of five young Legion Family members.

## NEW ALMELO NEWS

By Betty Otter

On Aug. 25, Marion and Marilyn Otter attended the 40th Anniversary of their nephew, Bill and Sharon Levendofsky in Concordia. Others attending were an aunt, Donna Roth, and daughter, Joan, of Marion, Iowa and an uncle, Don Hickert of McCook, Neb. On Sunday, Aug. 26, Marion and Marilyn attended mass at the St. Joseph Sister's Convent; where they visited with Sister Francis Margaret Otter and Sister Mary Esther Otter.

A.F. and Ruth Vahling received the Norton County Farm Bureau Century Farm Award at the annual meeting on Aug.

28. Ruth and son, Dick, accepted the award. Others honored with Century Farm Awards were James and Shanna Brooks and Whitney Farm. Each were saluted and honored during a slide show presentation and given a certificate, license plate and farm sign designating them as recipients of the Century Farm Award. The Vahling farm is about a mile from New Almelo.

Family coming to the home of Alfred and Betty Otter for Labor Day weekend were Karl Otter of Great Bend; Charles and Cury Otter of Salina; Mark and Sheila Otter and family of Ulysses.

Marcia Aumiller and Missy

Rumback attended the wedding of a nephew and cousin, Cory and Liz Herl in Mulvane on Sunday, Sept. 9.

Ardith and Hailee Scheetz and Sharon Thibault traveled to Florida for the baptism of Sharon's granddaughter, Gabrielle Helena Lankford. The baptism was held Sept. 9,

Call Mike with all your social news.  
877-3361  
[mstephens@nwkansan.com](mailto:mstephens@nwkansan.com)

## Birth Announcement



Bill and Amye Jones of Norton are the parents of a son born at the Hays Medical Center on Aug. 28, 2012. Levi Francis Jones was born at 10:12 a.m., weighing eight pounds, 11 ounces and was 21 inches long. He was welcomed by two big brothers, Silas William, 8, and Eli Sawyer, 6.

Maternal grandparents are Cheryl Smith of Norton and Alvin Smith also of Norton. Paternal grandparents are Alice Jones and the late Francis Jones of Norton.

## Building with entrepreneurship

By Ron Wilson

Huck Boyd Institute

Omaha, Nebraska. It's time for the announcement of the National Dealer of the Year Award by Lester Buildings. And the winner is...not some big construction company in Denver or New York, but an entrepreneur and his family from rural Kansas.

Joe Kormanik is co-owner of K-Construction, a family construction business in Alta Vista, Kansas. Joe was raised at El Dorado. While in high school, he met his wife-to-be, Carla. His future father-in-law became a construction superintendent in Iowa and Joe worked for him there.

In 1974, Joe began his career in the post-frame building industry as a crew member. He worked his way up over time to be a crew foreman, salesman, and then regional manager with different companies. As he advanced through the ranks, Joe and Carla lived and worked in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas.

In 1985, they moved back to Carla's home area at Alta Vista. Joe continued to erect buildings, and in 1991 their son Jason suggested they go into business for themselves. The business became known as K-Construction (with the letter K, as in Kormanik).

"I work for my wife," Joe said with a smile. "The money goes to her." Carla is the bookkeeper and their son helped manage the crew.

In 2002, Joe was approached by the Lester Building company to serve as a dealer. He gladly took this on. "Lester is one of the top manufacturers of post-frame buildings in the nation," Joe said. They continued to grow the business.

In 2004, tragedy struck when their son Jason was killed in a car accident. Their other son Ben stepped in and filled Jason's role and kept the company operating.

Today the business has grown to include Joe, Carla, and their son Ben plus eleven employees and a sub crew. Joe has a working relationship with several other subcontractors as well. The business includes construction of commercial, agricultural, and residential type structures.

"Back in the '90s, most of our business was farm," Joe said. "Nowadays we do houses and larger buildings and commercial

projects too."

Recent projects include what might be called a mancave, with a shop connected to living quarters. One recent example was valued at more than a third-of-a-million dollars. Another they finished to look almost like a condominium inside. One recent project in Lawrence included a 26-foot-tall observation tower and a spiral staircase.

"(When I got started,) I thought the problem would be: I don't have enough business," Joe said. "But instead, it's that I can't find enough qualified workers."

"We will do a turnkey project with a firm price," Joe said. "We try to incorporate everything so the customer has no surprises."

Joe and his family have built the business volume to about \$2.5 million in 2011. "I believe in a high degree of reliability and attention to detail," Joe said.

"A lot of our employees have been with us a long time, and we're fortunate to have them," he said. Many of the company's projects have earned the Award of Excellence, and in 2007 K-Construction was named by Lester Buildings as its National

Dealer of the Year.

Not bad for a company from the rural community of Alta Vista, population 434 people. Now, that's rural.

In fact, when a city councilman in Alta Vista stepped down, Joe was recruited to fill out the unexpired term. Joe didn't run for re-election but was written in again and elected to the City Council. He is also active in his church, serving on the Board of Deacons.

"We enjoy what we're doing and we hope to continue to expand," Joe said. "We currently have a draftsman, we've hired a mechanic, and we'd like to add another salesman."

For more information about this company, go to [www.k-constructioninc.com](http://www.k-constructioninc.com).

It's time to leave Omaha, Nebraska, where we find the National Dealer of the Year Award has been presented to Joe Kormanik. We commend Joe and Carla, their son Ben and all those involved with K-Construction for making a difference with hard work and entrepreneurship. It's good to see that, in rural Kansas, business is building.

Sept. 14-Sept. 18

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