

Elmer Willmann

(Sept. 2, 1928-May 15, 2019)

Elmer H. Willmann of Clay Center, Kansas, passed away on May 15, 2019 at Stormont Vail Hospital in Topeka surrounded by his family. He was 90 years old.

Elmer was born on September 2, 1928 in Broughton, Kansas, the only child of Henry and Esther (Fritz) Willmann. He attended a one room schoolhouse in Broughton and Clay Center High School. He was confirmed at St. Paul Lutheran Church and remained a lifelong member.

Elmer married Dorothy Beichter on April 8, 1951. Together they made a home and raised four children on their farm near Clay Center for over 50 years. Dorothy preceded him in death on November 16, 2004.

Elmer farmed his entire life, sharing his work with his father, mother, wife and son, Gail. His favorite time was wheat harvest

season and he loved to drive the combine. It was a coveted right of passage for each child grandchild and great grandchild to ride in the combine with Elmer. For many years Elmer farmed during the day and worked the night shift as a supervisor and truck driver for Gilmore-Tatge and Hutchinson/Mayrath.

Besides his passion for his family and farming, Elmer loved visiting with his friends about politics and sports. His family enjoyed hearing him tell stories about his life experiences. He did not know a stranger. He was the primary caregiver for his parents and wife in their home in their final days.

Elmer's survivors include his daughter, Linda (Jim) McMurray, Burlington; three sons, Gary (Sherrie) Willmann, Gail (Dawn) Willmann and Mark (Janet) Willmann, all of Clay Center; nine

grandchildren, Lance (Reagan) Willmann, Topeka; Alissa (Andrew) Cummins, Clay Center; Cory (Becky) Willmann, Wakefield; Laura (Kimon) Hatzianastasiadis, Orlando, Florida; Katie McMurray, Burlington; Kyle (Andrea) Willmann, Clay Center; Leslie (Adam) Pinter, Clay Center; Karlie Willmann, Clay Center; and Blake Willmann, Clay Center; and 11 great grandchildren.

Visitation will be held Sunday, May 19, from 2 to 5 p.m. at Neill-Schwensen-Rook Funeral Home in Clay Center and the funeral service will be held 10:30 a.m. Monday, May 20, at the St. Paul Lutheran Church, Clay Center. Burial will follow at Greenwood Cemetery, Clay Center.

Memorial contributions can be made to St. Paul Lutheran Church and may be sent in care of the funeral home.