



Jack C. Harlan

September 18, 1924 - July 1, 2021

Jack Clinton Harlan died on Thursday, July 1, 2021, at his home in Okmulgee. Jack was born on September 18, 1924, in Clarksville, Arkansas, the only child of Kathleen Carl and Jackson Smith Harlan. Jack grew up in Prairie Grove, AR and after graduation from Prairie Grove High School, enlisted in the US Army Corps, serving as a 1st Lieutenant. Jack was a navigator, flying in B-17 bombers in Europe throughout World War 2. After his service, Jack attended the University of Arkansas, on the GI Bill and graduated in 1950 with a Bachelor of Science in Business, the same year he married Margaret Jean Collier.

As young boys, growing up in Prairie Grove, Arkansas, Jack, and Glenn Fidler always dreamed of being in the automobile business. In the fall of 1951, they learned of an opportunity in Okmulgee. They visited House-Evans Lincoln Mercury and with handshakes, secured a loan from First National Bank and a week later, moved to Okmulgee with their wives to establish Fidler-Harlan Motor Company at 6th and Muskogee in Downtown. Jack and Glenn worked together until their retirement in the early 1980's, serving second and third generations of families with their automobile needs. For nearly 30 years, they shared a desk and worked together (without any type of written agreement), became part of the Okmulgee business community and established life-long friendships, raised family and fulfilled their childhood dreams.

Jack served on the Board of Directors of First National Bank of Okmulgee for 53 years. He gave back to the community serving on the boards of the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital, Okmulgee Jaycees, Okmulgee Chamber of Commerce, First United Methodist Church and First Presbyterian Church. Jack was a 70+ year member of the Okmulgee Masonic Lodge #199, the Okmulgee Bedouin Shrine and a member of the Royal Order of Jesters. In retirement, the Fidler's and Harlan's delivered Meals on Wheels together every Thursday for many years and enjoyed RV travel across the US and Canada, spending summers for many years in Estes Park, Colorado.

Jack will be remembered for his smile and contagious laugh, his impeccable manners, his taste in clothes, his jitterbug and swing dance talent and a good scotch whiskey, shared in the company of family and good friends.

Jack was preceded in death by Margaret Jean "Sis" Collier and Alice Riggs Shirley. Jack was loved and cared for in his home until his death by Mary Ann Dean, Suzy Davis, Sarah Sier and Amber Niscior.

He is survived by children, Fred and Kellie Harlan, Mary Harlan Lewellen and Margaret and Rob Hess, all of Okmulgee, along with grandchildren, Andrew Harlan, Maggie and Brent Bailey, Jackson and Kelcey Hess, Alex Hess and Mark Hess and great grandson, Mason Bailey.

A celebration of Jack's life will be held on Monday, July 5, 2021, at 11am at the First Presbyterian Church of Okmulgee, with Rev. Jerry Fielder and Dan Sulivant presiding.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to Okmulgee Main Street or First Presbyterian Church of Okmulgee.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the McClendon-Winters Funeral Home

of Okmulgee.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL 5. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
401 South Seminole
Okmulgee, OK

Tribute Wall



“ Jack C. Harlan

December 20, 2022 at 11:29 AM



“ I am saddened to learn of Jack’s passing! My husband, Robert, and I purchased many cars from Fidler-Harlan and later he and his son were so very gracious to extend courtesy and assistance helping my daughter, Caryl, when she needed an automobile! We worked together in The First Presbyterian Church and served as Elders in the Church. We were privileged to know both, “Sis” and Alice as well as their children. Okmulgee has lost a great champion in his dedication to preserving the history and growth of the community! My prayers are with the family as they mourn his loss in the days, months and years to follow! May God comfort you and bring you peace! Caryl Taylor.

Caryl Taylor - July 09, 2021 at 10:25 AM



“ He is Home now and free.

Diane Cockburn - July 03, 2021 at 06:59 PM



“ hugs, ya'll. so very sorry. peace.



david miller - July 03, 2021 at 04:28 PM

MH

“ *Marlyn Harris lit a candle in memory of Jack C. Harlan*



Marlyn Harris - July 03, 2021 at 10:16 AM

SM

“ *Even though we were cousins, growing up with Jack in Prairie Grove was like having a third brother. Such good memories I have of our times together.*
Sarah Ruth Morton

Sarah Morton - July 02, 2021 at 06:39 PM

BD

“ *I just loved your dad. He was always so kind and funny. I have so many good memories of when I was growing up getting to run around inside of Fidler-Harlan and getting to ride in the car elevator. I am so sorry for your loss.*

Brenda Tommey Dean

Brenda Tommey Dean - July 02, 2021 at 02:57 PM

JF

“ *Jack was a great man. I'm sure he and dad had their first toddy in 20 years together last night.*

John F.

John Fidler - July 02, 2021 at 11:12 AM

JH

*One of the great men of Okmulgee!
Jerry Horn in New York*

Jerry Horn - July 02, 2021 at 01:04 PM

BW

*SHIRLEY & I WERE FOND OF JACK & ALICE, OUR TRIPS TO
COLORADO WERE SOME OF OUR BEST MEMORIES OF THEM.
OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS GO OUT TO THE FAMILY. REST
IN PEACE MY FRIEND.*

BILL AND SHIRLEY WEAVER - July 03, 2021 at 01:58 PM