



Owen C. Russell

January 23, 1933 - June 26, 2025

Owen Clarkson Russell, 92, of Butte des Morts, Wisconsin, passed away on June 26, 2025, after a brief illness.

He was born in Idabel, Oklahoma, to Paris Owen and Marie (Clarkson) Russell and had one sibling, Joyce (Russell) Besson. At 16, Owen set a goal to design the engine that would win the 500-mile race—and achieved it at 36 as a design engineer for Ford’s NASCAR team, contributing to the 1968–69 Boss 429 racing engine.

A licensed pilot and certified flight instructor, Owen worked for Mooney Aircraft in Kerrville, Texas, and later retired from Mercury Marine in 1991. His retirement was filled with hands-on projects: building a Murphy Rebel experimental plane with amphibious floats, a Van’s RV-9, a 1965 GT-40 kit car, and restoring vehicles with his son Brian.

Owen married Josephine Little in 1953 at the Grand Avenue Church of Christ in Okmulgee, Oklahoma. He is survived by Josephine, his wife of 71 years; children Carol Allen (Mansfield, OH), Steven Russell (Indianapolis, IN), Pamela Ford (Jenks, OK), Brian Russell (Winneconne, WI), and Sylvia Brennan (Muskogee, OK); 11 grandchildren; and 5 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Joyce, and grandson Mathew Allen.

Owen and Josephine were longtime active members of the Mason Street Church of Christ in Appleton, Wisconsin.

To honor a life well lived, the family will have private family graveside.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the McClendon-Winters Funeral Home of Okmulgee, Oklahoma. Memories, condolences, photos and videos may be shared with the family on Owen's Tribute Page of our website. www.mcclendon-winters.com

Tribute Wall

KK

“ As one of Owen's former Mooney partners, I quickly grew to appreciate his dedication to detail, skill, humor, and PATIENCE! Thank you, Owen, for a ton of great memories!

Kent Kruse - June 30, 2025 at 04:42 PM



Thank you, Dr. Kruse. It may have been us 5 kids that helped him learn patience. :-)

Steven Russell - July 08, 2025 at 05:53 PM

BB

“ 5 files added to the album Owen flying, and with Mercury friends



Bob Booty - June 29, 2025 at 11:32 PM



Thanks, Bob. And we have many great memories of time with you too.

Steven Russell - July 07, 2025 at 11:32 PM

DM

“ Guys, i'm so sorry. Great guy growing up in
mugtown 1970s. God bless, y'a'll and rip, sir.



David Miller - June 27, 2025 at 04:38 PM