



Edward E. Bridwell

January 13, 1925 - December 8, 2017

Rev. Dr. Edward E. Bridwell, 92, Lincoln, died December 8, 2017 at Northview Independence House in Lincoln. Graveside services will be 1:00 pm, Monday, December 11, 2017 at the Kearney Cemetery with Pastor Dustin Bower officiating. A family gathering and celebration will be at First Christian Church in Minden from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Memorials are suggested to Ministerial Relief and Assistance Fund of the Christian Church Pension Fund – pensionfund.org

He often said, “Friday the 13th was a lucky day for me,” because he was born on Friday, January 13, 1925 on the family farm north of Stockton, Kansas. He was baptized on April 9, 1939 in Main Street Christian Church of Stockton and graduated from Stockton High School in the class of 1943.

He was inducted into the United States Navy in 1944 and served as a Sonarman, 3rd class and a deep sea diver on board the USS Tolowa (ATF-116) which saw action at the Battle of Okinawa. At the conclusion of the war he saw the devastation that was wrought by the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki.

He was discharged in 1946 and began studies for ministry at Manhattan Bible College at Kansas State University. His home church ordained him and three friends on August 10, 1947. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1950. Over the course of nearly 40 years in ministry he served 13 churches in Texas,

Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska, two of them as a student and the last 3 as an interim minister. His postgraduate education included earning a Master of Divinity in 1959, a Doctor of Ministry in 1974, and in 1994a PhD in Psychology. He wrote many privately published books of which half were scholarly and the rest were autobiographical.

He was an avid pilot which he developed into an additional career as flight instructor, charter pilot, and crop-duster. He held many certifications including Instructor and Airline Transport Pilot. In the early 1970s, while he was pastoring a church full-time and studying for his Doctor of Ministry degree, he was also a civilian flight instructor in the T-41 for the Air Force. In his later years he joined the Civil Air Patrol as chaplain with the rank of Major and used his own airplane in search and rescue missions.

He married Helen May Nelson in 1948 while they were in college. To their union were born two children. Their 40 year marriage ended with her death in 1988. He married LaVon Waldron, the widow of a dear friend and minister colleague, in 1989. They were married 28 years until his death on December 8, 2017.

Until recently he suffered few of the limitations of advanced age. He was an avid walker which kept him strong in body and purpose. Yet due to the limitations caused by dementia, his ability to enjoy life began to diminish. Disability overtook him only in the last few months.

Surviving are his widow, LaVon Marsh Waldron Bridwell; his son, Stephen Edward, with his wife Renee, of Wichita, Kansas; his daughter, Virginia Ruth Bridwell, and husband David Van Heyningen of Bothell, Washington; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; his step-sons, Richard Waldron and wife Linda, of Hastings; Ken Waldron and wife Mona, of Lincoln; Bryant Waldron (deceased) and wife Rhonda of Navarre, Florida; Gary Waldron and

wife, Lorelei, of Lincoln; 12 step-grandchildren and 18 step-great grandchildren.

No one who truly knew him mourns his death. Instead we celebrate that he took many calculated risks to have a well-lived life in which he focused on enjoyable work, worthy causes, and human need.

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847

Previous Events

Graveside Service

DEC 11. 1:00 PM (CT)

Kearney Cemetery
4400 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847

Gathering and Celebration

DEC 11. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

First Christian Church
444 N. Brown
Minden, NE 68959

Tribute Wall



“ *Edward E. Bridwell*

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *Carolyn L Harber lit a candle in memory of Edward E. Bridwell*



Carolyn L Harber - December 09, 2017 at 09:32 AM



“ *I met Ed and his family while he ministered at First Christian Church in Pratt, KS. I my wife and family were serving the First Christian Church in Stafford, KS at that time. Our friendship deepened over the years. I remember our flying with Ed and Helen (he was the pilot) to a General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Dallas, TX. I was privileged to be the director of a CYF conference where their son, Steve, committed his life to full-time Christian service. What a blessing this family has been, and continues to be, to me. God bless you all! Emerson (Ike) Gillett*

Emerson Gillett - December 08, 2017 at 10:30 PM