



## Dr. Royal F. Jester Jr.

September 10, 1923 - October 4, 2018

Dr. Royal F. Jester, Jr., 95, died Thursday, October 4, 2018 at his home in Kearney.

Private Family Services will be held. Memorials are suggested to Kearney Public Schools Foundation or to the University of Nebraska Foundation for scholarships established at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Online condolences may be submitted at [www.hlmkfuneral.com](http://www.hlmkfuneral.com). Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney are in charge of arrangements.

He was born September 10, 1923 in Grand Island, NE to Dr. Royal F. and Amelia (Loewenstein) Jester, Sr. He grew up in Kearney and graduated from Kearney High School in 1941. He was veteran of WWII, serving in the United States Army for 3 years, including one year of school at North Carolina State and then was stationed in Germany before being discharged in 1946. He then continued his education at Kearney State College.

On September 14, 1947 he married Betty Jo Sprout in Franklin, NE. He then attended the University of Colorado where he graduated in 1949. He received his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Nebraska College of Medicine in 1953. He served an internship at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City and then returned to Kearney in general practice for

two years before returning to the University of Nebraska College of Medicine for an Ophthalmology residency for three years. He then returned to Kearney where he practiced Ophthalmology until retiring in July of 2002.

He was a member of the Kearney Public Schools Board of Education for 17 ½ years; served as Scoutmaster of Troop 139; and District Chairman of the Boy Scouts of America and was also an Eagle Scout.

He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church; Buffalo County Medical Society; Nebraska Medical Association; Nebraska Academy of Ophthalmology; American Academy of Ophthalmology, American College of Surgeons; American Medical Association; Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce/ Kearney Elk's Lodged #984; V.F.W. Post #759 and served on the staff of Good Samaritan Hospital.

Surviving relatives include sons, J. Randal Jester and his wife Mickey of Downers Grove, IL and Ronald Jester and his wife Beverly of Lincoln; daughter, Dr. Beth A. Jester of Santa Fe, NM; grandchildren, Brent Jester, Ryan Jester and his wife Laura, Cameron Jester, Nicholas Jester, Ben Bashline and Anna Bashline Spurway and her husband, Jonathan; great – grandchildren, Harrison Spurway, Beauden Spurway and Georgia Spurway.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife in 2013 and two brothers.

# Cemetery Details

## **Kearney Cemetery**

4400 Avenue I  
Kearney, NE 68847

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Royal F. Jester Jr.*

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January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM

“ Words cannot express how I feel. However, I would like to express what Dr. Jester meant to me. Dr. Jester was one of my employers at a time in my life where I was very impressionable.

*It was through that employment that I gained many skills and abilities, not only as a medical assistant, certified ophthalmic assistant, certified contact lens technician but as a human being. Through actions, Dr. Jester taught me how to treat people with kindness, love and respect. You could visually see how he always treated every patient, employee, friend or neighbor with the dignity that they deserved.*

*He was a man that took the time to teach me “the love of learning”. It was a gift I had not learned in my formative years - something that was not taught in college. Because of the lessons he taught me, I still take the time daily to learn something new, whether it is in the business realm, medical field, religion or politics.*

*One of the great memories I have was the first conference I attended in New Orleans, Louisiana. My eyes were opened to a whole new world, a world totally different to the Kearney, Nebraska where I had grown up. Dr. Jester, his wife Betty Jo, co-worker Kerry, my spouse Kirk and I enjoyed the Mardi Gras party the conference entertained us with. The taxi cab ride to a five star restaurant is a ride I will never forget. That first trip was one of many Dr. Jester provided for my learning experiences. I look back fondly at the good times we had.*

*The last time I visited with Dr. Jester was with my husband, Kirk and granddaughter, Charlotte. It was always so wonderful to visit with him. Charlotte left that day with two ceramic foxes that Dr. Jester gave her. She named them Royal and Betty Jo and they are placed with love on the top of the fireplace mantel at Charlotte's home. It is a joy to visit Charlotte and have the foxes as a reminder of such a gentle soul.*

*Royal was a man to look up to, a great role model for me, his family, his friends and his community. It was a great day the day he entered into Heaven and I look forward to the day I will see him again.*

*All my love to a truly Great Man, Rhonda*

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**Rhonda Ahrens** - October 14, 2018 at 09:14 PM

WV

“ *Dr Royal Jester was a beloved colleague whom I have admired for many years. He had a calm, reassuring presence which quietly hid his superb technical and medical skills.*

*Dr. Bill Vosik*

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**william vosik** - October 09, 2018 at 04:53 PM

TT

“ *We were neighbors with the Jesters, growing up on 3rd Avenue. Our family had some great times with Ronny, Randy & Beth. Wonderful memories of time spent at the Jester home. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Tom Tye II*

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**Tom Tye** - October 09, 2018 at 12:16 PM

SE

“ *Dr Royal was my favorite client for which I served as professional farm manager and assisted him in management, purchasing and exchanging properties over many years. He was always interested in what I thought would be best for the farms and I loved the time I got to spend with him. He was always so courteous, friendly and always asked about my family and how we were doing. When he got older and could not drive my office missed his regular drop-by visits and friendly manner he showed to anyone that happened to be in the office. Dr. Royal was a great man that contributed greatly to Kearney during his long career and life. I never met anyone that was not complementary of him as a person or a doctor. He will be missed badly by all.*

*Jeanine and I have a great memory of an evening dinner invitation to meet with the Jester family at their home in Vail, CO where we both were vacationing at the same time. Our prayers and best wishes to all of the family!*

*Steve and Jeanine England, and staff at Investment Property Exchange Inc.*

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**Stephen England** - October 07, 2018 at 06:50 PM