



## Wayne Kenwood Heise

July 28, 1928 - February 25, 2025

Celebration of life service for Wayne Kenwood Heise, 96, of Enid will be 10:00AM Saturday, March 15, 2025 at Redeemer Lutheran Church with Rev. Dwayne Schroeder officiating. Arrangements and cremation are by "World Famous" Anderson-Burriss Funeral Home & Crematory. (Per Wayne Heise)

Wayne was born on a farm near the Village of Bancroft Nebraska, on July 28, 1928, to Elmer Julius and Ruth Dorothy (Pruess) Heise.

He grew up on that farm in northeast Nebraska with his parents and his sister Joan. He graduated from Bancroft High School in 1946, and shortly thereafter became a self-employed teenage farmer. He farmed for three seasons; then the Korean War came along, and he enlisted in the United States Air Force. Wayne became a weapons mechanic in an atomic test group, then went through pilot training as an aviation cadet. He graduated in 1954 as a fighter pilot. Three days after graduation he married the love of his life Joan Tonjes, in Fremont, Nebraska. They were married for 67 years and had two children: Jayne and David. Deciding it was a lot more fun flying fast airplanes than driving a Farmall tractor, Wayne decided to make the Air Force his career.

Waynes Air Force career lasted for 22 years with overseas assignments in Europe, North Africa, and Vietnam. He also moved his family around the United States living in 8 different states, with Vance Air Force Base being his

final assignment.

After his career in the Air Force he had a second career in the insurance business for 22 years until his second retirement. He then began his final career as a flight simulator instructor at Vance Air Force Base until his last and final retirement at the age of 75. His retirement consisted of traveling, enjoying life and family and giving FREE advice to anyone who would listen.

Wayne is survived by his children Jayne Torline and husband Ron of Overland Park, Kansas, and David Heise of Los Angeles, California; grandson Matt S. Jones and wife Ela; great granddaughter Aryanna Jones; and his sister Joan Drake and husband Bennie of Duncan, Oklahoma.

He was preceded in death by the love of his life Joan Heise, his parents and his baby sister.

Memorials may be made through Anderson-Burriss to Redeemer Lutheran Church.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAR 15. 10:00 AM (CT)

Redeemer Lutheran Church  
215 S. Cleveland  
Enid, OK 73703

# Tribute Wall

JK

“ James and Kristal planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wayne Kenwood Heise.

James and Kristal - March 14, 2025 at 05:55 AM

JK

“ James and Kristal purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Wayne Kenwood Heise.



James and Kristal - March 14, 2025 at 05:55 AM

SJ

“ For more than thirty years, I considered myself a friend of Wayne. Principally, I knew him through the insurance profession which he served so ably. I remember when he and his wife built their home right at the entrance east of Rolling Oaks. It was the first house in that area. Later, when he was in full retirement, and after Joan's passing, he frequently ate lunch and dinner at Oakwood Country Club, usually alone. His condition was frail, but his sense of humor, smile, and good cheer never left him. He appeared to be patiently waiting.

Our friendship was not exceptional, and we did not know each other well. But he was a friendly, outgoing, optimistic man who never seemed to be affected by anything adverse. He was always optimistic. He could answer almost any question put to him by one of those he had insured, and the integrity of his representations were never in doubt.

His passing marks yet again that there are only so few left who fought in the Korean War. He was a child of the Great Plains who did well as husband, father, aviator, aircraft mechanic, friend, and neighbor who was, to use an expression, the salt of the earth. He will be missed.

Signed,

Stephen Jones

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Stephen Jones - March 12, 2025 at 12:56 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Wayne Kenwood Heise.*



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March 06, 2025 at 11:47 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Wayne Kenwood Heise.*



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March 04, 2025 at 09:37 AM

SS

“ There isn't enough space for me to write all the incredible memories I have of Wayne. When we moved in to the house across the street from Wayne & Jo on Quailwood Drive, they were the first people we met, and our first dinner invitation (I still have the handwritten menu crafted by Wayne). Our children did their yearly Easter egg hunt in Grandpa Wayne's backyard, he delighted in finding lost eggs and returning them to the kids for the next 6 months. He taught me about cooking, and who knew that I would come to love capers, pork tenderloin and asparagus. Wayne was such an inspiration to me and I often marveled at his ability to keep such a finely manicured lawn and landscape. He had the best looking rock driveway in existence. He helped my son with his oral history project, he was lucky to get to listen to Wayne recount his time in Vietnam where he served our country with honor. Joan used to blush when Wayne and I would trade jokes, he would say "Sue baby, I've got one for you today", and Joan would say, "oh you two, when you're together oh my". I had to stay on my game to keep up with Wayne. I used to like to sneak up and kiss him on the cheek in front of his coffee club buddies at DaVinci's. That always got some laughs.

Wayne was so kind, funny, smart, strong and talented. He dearly loved his wife Joan, and they were such a wonderful example of a loving marriage. He was so proud of Jayne and David. I couldn't have asked for better neighbors than Wayne and Joan. We loved them dearly, and it helps to know they are together again.

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**Sue Scott** - March 02, 2025 at 06:29 PM

NC

Well said Sue! He just genuinely loved people. He is the embodiment of "Live to love and love to live"

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**Nancy Close** - March 08, 2025 at 08:15 AM

JH

“ Wayne was my absolute favorite customer when I used to be a server! He was wise and gave the best advice. Wayne was a genuine soul that truly cared about others and it showed. Rest in peace ☐



Judith H - March 02, 2025 at 06:22 PM

NC

“ Wayne and Joan were our next door neighbors for many years. As a young couple with three little girls, they took us under their wing and became like grandparents to our daughters. Wayne was forever cooking for the girls. All it took was a phone call from him saying “I made soup!” and the house would empty and you would find all three girls sitting in his kitchen devouring the best soup they had ever eaten. Steve and I loved to share a glass of wine with them both and hear many fun stories of their life adventures. Two of the best people I’ve known.

Nancy Close - March 01, 2025 at 03:09 PM

SS

Ditto to all of this!! Our family dearly loved Wayne & Joan!!

Sue Scott - March 02, 2025 at 06:08 PM

DT

“ Dr. John and the Cornerstone Chiro Team purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Wayne Kenwood Heise.



Dr. John and the Cornerstone Chiro Team - February 27, 2025 at 02:56 PM

HT

“ Wayne would come in at least once a week here at Cafe Volare, where he shared so many of his amazing and wild stories. I know he is now with his beautiful bride. Rest in Peace Wayne! I hope they have biscuits n gravy in heaven ❤️

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**Haylie thompson** - February 27, 2025 at 10:20 AM

JM

“ Wayne and Joan was such good neighbors. I live right behind them and Wayne always would give me a friendly “Hello Neighbor”. I will miss my neighbors The Heise couple.

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**Janice Marrs** - February 26, 2025 at 07:37 PM

CA

“ I hadn't know Wayne but for a very short moment. I actually had finally got to meet him this past Christmas..I felt like I've known him for quite some time,beings I heard so much about him. He was funny and sweet...I know he will be greatly missed .

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**Carol Averitt** - February 26, 2025 at 06:22 PM