

## William Maurice Kirk October 15, 1939 - February 5, 2014

William Maurice Kirk was born at the Norton County Hospital on October 15, 1939 as the second child of Maurice Irving and Edna Lea Hendrickson Kirk of rural Clayton in Decatur County, Kansas. Bill was raised on the family farm west of Clayton, Kansas. After graduating from Clayton High School, he attended Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas from 1957 until 1960.

While attending college, he joined the Kansas National Guard and was transferred to the United States Army Reserve in 1960. He ultimately received an honorable discharge from that service in 1963.

On August 13, 1961, Bill was married to Stephanie Ann Black of Topeka, Kansas. They were married in the Church of the Transfiguration in Moose Wyoming in Teton National Park. They then returned to Clayton and made their home with his parents, and worked with them in the transition of management of the family farm. They operated the farm for more than 40 years with the help of family and loyal employees. In the early 1970s, the family farm diversified with the construction of a then state of the art 500 sow swine confinement operation. They also expanded the farming operation by purchasing other land and renting additional acreage, and at one time the family farm encompassed more than 5,000 acres, including several irrigated parcels, and a large cattle herd.

Their first child, William N. Kirk was born in 1964, and their second son, Philip M. Kirk followed in 1966. Both boys attended and graduated from Jennings High School and later earned degrees from Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. During those school years, Bill and Stevie always made their sons a high priority, attending all of their boys' sporting and other school activities, and often with one son in high school and the other in college, would attend a sporting event on a Friday evening and then immediately travel to Manhattan for a college event the next day.

In addition to the operation of the family farm, Bill and Stevie owned and managed the Jennings Insurance Agency. While living in Decatur County, Bill served on the Board of Directors of the Jennings Bank from 1979 to 1988 and also served as president of the Decatur County Chamber of Commerce. He served as Chairman of the Kansas Water Authority's Upper Republican Basin Advisory committee and was a past president of the Decatur County Economic Development committee. In an effort to further serve his community, he received his party's nomination for the position of State Representative of the



120th District, which encompassed the area from the Colorado line to Phillipsburg in Northwest Kansas, but notwithstanding his strong campaign was defeated by the incumbent in a close election that required a recount to confirm its results.

In 1993, Bill was appointed by President Clinton to be the State Director of the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) and Rural Development Administration (RDA) in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). In 1994, these agencies were restructured and renamed Rural Economic and Community Development, an agency which oversaw the operation of Rural Utilities Service, Rural Housing and Community Development Service and Rural Business and Cooperative Development Service. In 1996, this mission was renamed USDA Rural Development, and provided necessary financing in the rural areas of the state for housing, community development, cooperative development, water and waste, and infrastructure through its loan and grant programs. In his eight years of service as State Director, Bill was involved in the National Partnership for Reinventing Government, and also served as Chairman of the Kansas Food and Ag Council and Chairman of the Kansas Rural Development Council (KRDC). In connection with his service, he was named a Friend of Rural Water by the Kansas Rural Water Association and a Friend of Rural Kansas by the KRDC. In addition, Vice President Al Gore presented Bill with the Hammer Award for his contributions to citizens of Kansas in connection with his leadership of the KRDC. Notwithstanding his time consuming job responsibilities during these years of service, Bill

completed his college studies and graduated from Friends University in 1995 with a B.S. degree in Human Resource Management.

Upon completion of his term as State Director, Bill worked as an Application Adjudicator for the Immigration and Naturalization Service, an agency of the Department of Homeland Security. Starting in 2002, he began his service as a Disaster Assistance Employee and as a Disaster Reservist for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In these positions, he worked as a Congressional Liaison, a Task Force Leader, Deputy Public Assistance Officer, Public Assistance Coordinator and Project Specialist in the Public Assistance Cadre, assisting public entities nationwide with federal assistance after a declared disaster for over 10 years.

He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.), Mountain Slope Masonic Lodge, Oberlin, Kansas, the Salina Kansas Scottish Rite and the Isis Shrine. He was a Past Master of the Jennings, Kansas, Masonic Lodge and Past Noble Grand of the Norcatour, Kansas I.O.O.F. Lodge. During his lifetime he also was a member of the Jennings, Kansas Lions Club and served as the Secretary of the Norton County Farmers Union for several years.

Bill was proud of his farm heritage, and incorporated his love of farming in a unique toy farm implement collection. Over the last several years, Bill and Stevie traveled to many farm toy shows and he has an extensive collection. He also recently reconditioned the John Deere pedal tractor "operated" by his two boys more than 40 years ago.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Maurice and Edna, as well as by his sister, Genevieve Benien. He is survived by his wife, Stephanie Ann, of more than 52 years; his son, William N. Kirk, Vero Beach, Florida; his son, Philip M. Kirk and his wife, Shelly, Oak Grove, Missouri and her two children, Krystal and Kyle Jones; his two grandsons, William (Liam) Skyler Kirk and Albert (Albie) Jonathan Kirk, Vero Beach, Florida; his sister's daughters and his nieces, Reva L. Benien, Norton, Kansas and Ruth M. Benien, Kansas City, Kansas; and many other family members and close friends who were also very important to Bill throughout his nearly 75 years of life.

Memorials may be made to The William M. Kirk Rural Development Fund, % Kansas Rural Communities Foundation, P.O. Box 25, Wamego, Kansas 66547 or the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718 or to the Clayton Cemetery Memorial Fund.

A celebration of Bill's life was held at the Clayton United Methodist Church, Clayton, Kansas on Monday, February 10, 2014 at 2 p.m. Interment in the Clayton Cemetery followed.

The family received friends on Sunday, February 9, 2014 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the Enfield Funeral Home, Norton, Kansas. Condolences may be sent to [www.enfieldfh.com](http://www.enfieldfh.com)

## HaysMed seeing patients in remodeled institute

The Dreiling/Schmidt Cancer Institute is now seeing patients in their newly remodeled area. The new space features a more modernized look, enhanced privacy and comfort for patients and new clinical treatment areas. Partial funding of the renovation came from contributions given to the HaysMed Foundation capital campaign, Beyond Medicine.

Patients and visitors now enjoy a new generous central reception area for ease in checking in. There are four additional treatment rooms, two additional exam rooms, larger consultation areas and a designated lab draw room. The new treatment rooms offer patients light open spaces with private treatment options available. The patient library is complete with computer connections and there is a dedicated pharmacy area for mixing medications. In addition, a spacious image boutique is available providing patients with wigs, scarves, turbans, kerchiefs and other head coverings. The exterior of the building also received a significant facelift.

"We are very excited to provide a more comfortable and aesthetically pleasing experience for our patients," said Bryce Young, Chief Operating Officer at HaysMed. "We are always looking for ways to raise the bar on the care we offer and this remodel is just another way to do that. The number of patients we take care of locally

and from all of Western Kansas is steadily increasing and we are committed to making their experience here exceptional."

The Radiation Oncology Department is comprised of Dr. Babu Prasad, MD, who sees patients along with the radiation therapists who give the treatments. The radiation oncology department also utilizes the services of medical dosimetrists, a medical physicist, nurses and support staff. They provide state of the art radiation treatment that includes intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) and image guided radiation therapy (IGRT) that greatly minimizes side effects to normal tissue.

Three oncologists, Dr. Sameh Abuerreish, Dr. January Fields, and Dr. Anne P. O'Dea serve as the lead physicians for the Medical Oncology Department at Dreiling/Schmidt Cancer Institute. Mid level staff includes Diana Staley, APRN-C; and Cameron Williby, APRN-C. Together they provide comprehensive, compassionate, patient centered services including chemotherapy, consultations, second opinions and follow up care. Also part of the staff is a licensed specialist clinical social worker who provides psychosocial support and counseling for patients and caregivers. The Dreiling/Schmidt Cancer Institute is also a Midwest Cancer Alliance clinical research partner.

## Detour meeting rescheduled

The Kansas Department of Transportation has rescheduled an open house regarding the pavement replacement and closure of K-23 Highway from Hoxie to the U.S.83/K-383 junction, scheduled to take place this spring. A formal introduction will be made at 11 a.m. followed by informal breakout sessions on:

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2014  
At the Hoxie EMS Building,  
1717 Oakley (on East U.S. 24 Highway)  
Hoxie, KS 67740  
From

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
The open house will be hosted by Kansas Department of Transportation. Transportation Engineers as well as employees with the prime contractor in charge of the project will outline the temporary phasing of construction, detail the official state detour, and answer specific questions regarding access to county roads.

Please call Travis Scott at (785) 877-3315 if you have questions or special needs regarding this meeting.

## Three national initiatives offered to producers

Eric B. Banks, State Conservationist with U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), announced three National Initiatives being offered in Kansas through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): On-Farm Energy, Organic, and Seasonal High Tunnel.

While NRCS accepts applications for EQIP on a continuous basis throughout the year, there will be two sign-up periods, with cutoff deadlines of Feb. 21, 2014, and April 18, 2014, for the On-Farm Energy, Organic, and Seasonal High Tunnel Initiatives.

"We encourage our producers to take advantage of the conservation opportunities being made available to them through these EQIP initiatives," Banks said.

### Initiatives Overview

**On-Farm Energy Initiative:** Producers work with an NRCS-approved Technical Service Provider (TSP) to develop Agricultural Energy Management Plans or farm energy audits that assess energy consumption on an operation. NRCS may also provide assistance to implement various recommended measures identified in the energy audit through the use of conservation practice standards offered through this initiative.

**Organic Initiative:** NRCS will assist producers with installation of conservation practices on agricultural operations related to organic production. Producers currently certified as organic, transitioning to organic, or National Organic Program exempt will have access to a broad set of conservation practices to assist in treating their resource concerns while fulfilling

many of the requirements in an Organic System Plan.

**Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative:** NRCS helps producers implement high tunnels that extend growing seasons for high value crops in an environmentally safe manner. High tunnel benefits include better plant and soil quality and fewer nutrients and pesticides in the environment.

### Eligibility

EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to eligible participants to install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land. Conservation practices must be implemented to NRCS standards and specifications. In Kansas, socially disadvantaged, limited resource, and beginning farmers and ranchers will receive a higher payment rate for eligible con-

servation practices applied.

### Information Available

For more information about EQIP, or other programs offered by NRCS, please contact your local USDA Service Center or go to the web site [www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov).

Call Mike with all your social news. 877-3361 [mstephens@nwkansas.com](mailto:mstephens@nwkansas.com)

**Deb Jones Fundraiser**  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15**  
**4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**  
**Norton American Legion Ballroom**  
North Highway 283, Norton, KS

- Pulled Pork
  - Barbecue Beans
  - Potato Salad •Rolls,
  - Dessert •Tea •Coffee
- Free Will Donation to help with Medical Expenses
- Cash Donations Accepted at First State Bank**

## Bock-Glasco Engagement

Charley and Roberta Bock, Cawker City, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Melodie Jean, to Ted D. Glasco, son of Lynn and Candy Glasco, Bird City.

Melodie is a graduate of Waconda East High School. She holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Fort Hays State University and a biblical degree in youth ministry from Victory Bible Institute, Tulsa, Okla. She is currently working on her master's degree in school counseling. Melodie is a high school biology teacher in Norton.

Ted is a graduate of Cheylin High School. A Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force, he holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from Kansas State University and a master's degree in aerospace science from Oklahoma State University. He is stationed at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.,



and is currently deployed to Afghanistan. The couple is planning an Oct. 4, 2014 wedding at the Living Water Fellowship, Bird City.

The Newly Opened  
**Beaver Bar**  
at 415 9th Street in Beaver City, NE is Having a Valentine's Special

**(2) Steaks for \$24.95**  
Reservations Are Suggested

**PRIME RIB EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT**  
**308-268-5144**

*How about a fresh-baked treat for your sweet?*

**Bring Your Valentine to Destination Kitchen**

**Friday Night Feb. 14 Only**

*We will be serving Pasta, Pizza, Sandwiches, Salad Bar and Desserts from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.*

Remember - Starting Saturday, Feb. 15 we will be open every Saturday from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. SERVING FROM 11:00-2:00 AND 5:00-9:00

115 W. Main, Norton, KS - Phone: 785-877-2911  
Hours: Tues. through Fri.: 9-5:30; Sat.: 9-9; Closed Monday  
[www.destinationkitchenks.com](http://www.destinationkitchenks.com)

Feb. 7- Feb. 12

Showing at the  
**NORTON THEATRE**  
**Ride Along**  
1 Hour, 50 Minutes (PG-13)

Friday and Saturday: 8:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 5:00 p.m.  
Mon., Tues., Wed.: 7:00 p.m.

**The Lego Movie**  
1 Hour, 50 Minutes  
In 3D (PG)

Ride Along is \$7.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children 12 and under. \$3/tx on Sunday  
The Lego Movie is \$7.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children. NO Sunday discount

**COMING SOON**

**Visit our Website: [nortontheatre.com](http://nortontheatre.com)**

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