



Floyd A. Holmes

January 13, 1916 - February 13, 2021

Floyd Arthur Holmes, (or Arthur Floyd Holmes, it was never clear which), age 105, of Grove, passed away peacefully at his residence at Grandwood Assisted Living on February 13, 2021, exactly one month after celebrating his 105th birthday. Floyd to family, and 'FA' or simply 'Holmes' to his friends, was born on the family farm near Prescott, KS, the third child of Arthur and Florence Holmes. He was preceded in death by his wife of 55 years, Carroll, his two older siblings, Hazel Grigsby and John Holmes, and two younger siblings, Ned Holmes and Mildred Holmes, who died in childhood. He is survived by his youngest sister Florine O'Rourke of Lawrence, KS; six nephews, two nieces, and many grand-nieces and nephews and their descendants.

Floyd was remarkable in many ways, not least by his energy, sense of humor, and amazing memory. Well past his centennial year he could still name all the US state capitols, all the counties in six states, and the names of almost all the members of the sports teams he competed against as a student, and the names of the minor league baseball players whose teams he followed during his long career. As though to emphasize his remarkable mental acuity, he spontaneously recited, verbatim, the poem *When the Last Picture of the Earth is Painted* by Rudyard Kipling for family and friends at his 102nd birthday celebration. He used to be fond of saying that he spent the first 30 years of his life getting an education, the next thirty working for someone else, and the last thirty playing golf and enjoying himself. Even he did not foresee his

longevity.

After attending a one-room grade school and graduating at 16 from high school in Prescott, KS (Class of '32), Floyd worked at farming for a time but his curiosity soon led him to Fort Scott Community College and then Kansas State University, where he obtained Bachelor and Masters degrees in entomology. In 2016 he was honored by K-State for his still legendary discovery, while a student, of the largest dragon fly fossil then known. Half of the fossil resides in the collections at K-State and the other half at Harvard's Museum of Natural History. He was a proud KSU Wildcat and endowed a scholarship in entomology at K-State for a graduate student working on economic entomology issues that would benefit agriculture. It was while he was a student at K-State that he met the love of his life, fellow student Carroll Buck. While on leave from the army in 1943 he and Carroll were married in Garnett, Kansas. He quickly returned to duty and spent most of the rest of his wartime service in the Pacific theatre with the army medical corps.

After discharge from the army following the war, Floyd secured a position with DuPont chemical company as a pesticide specialist. In many ways a dream job, it kept him outside, working with people, and on the move. He and Carroll had posts in Washington, Utah, Ohio, Indiana, and finally and longest, in California. Active, well-known, and a leader in his professional role in California, he and Carroll were equally well known at many of the leading golf courses in California. He was particularly pleased at their recognition for each of them having made a hole-in-one on the same hole at the same course.

Following his retirement, he and Carroll elected to relocate closer to family.

They built their retirement home in Buffalo Shores on Grand Lake near Grove, Oklahoma so they could golf and fish at their leisure. They stayed in Buffalo Shores until Carroll's death in 1998. At that time, Floyd moved into Grove. Despite the loss of Carroll, Floyd's enjoyment of travel did not diminish, and for a number of years his traveling companion was his sister-in-law, Eileen Funk, who had lost her husband some years before.

In 2015 Floyd moved to Grandwood Assisted Living in Grove. In 2017 he was

honored to serve as Grand Marshall of the Grove Christmas Parade, and this year Grove's mayor declared his 105th birthday Floyd A. Holmes Day. A fitting tribute to the acknowledged 'Oldest Man in Oklahoma'.

The family wishes to extend our heartfelt appreciation for the extended care provided to Floyd by the remarkable staff of Grandwood Assisted Living and by Hospice Compassus during his final days. A family memorial service is planned for the future at the Holmes Cemetery in Linn County, Kansas.

Arrangements entrusted to Nichols-Stephens Funeral & Cremation Services.

Tribute Wall



“ *Floyd A. Holmes*

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