

## Charlie Arch Burns



Charlie Arch Burns died peacefully on October 21, 2021 in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

He is survived by his wife Evelyn Jean Eilers Burns, and their three children: Doug Burns and his wife Nickie, Deborah Cochran and her husband Larry Cochran, and Taylor Burns and his wife Lou Anne Burns. Grandchildren and great children: Eric and Snow Burns and their children Calvin and Camille, Whitney and Tom Willard and their son Weston, Drew Cochran and his daughter Savannah, and Jared Draney.

Charlie lived a very full life beginning December 19, 1929 born to Heber V. Burns and Gladys Lehr in Mooreland, Oklahoma.

He is preceded in death by his parents, and his older sister Helen Gray, a stepbrother Tommy Gene Blakely, stepbrother William J. Young, and his stepmother Mabelle Burns. He attended school in Mooreland and graduated from Mooreland High School. After graduation, he started a business mowing and spraying sage brush to earn money to attend college. He received three collegiate degrees from Oklahoma State University, a bachelor's degree in Animal Husbandry in 1951, an M.S. degree in Rural Adult Education in 1963, and a doctorate in Education in 1966.

Charlie married his childhood sweetheart E. Jean Eilers on January 28, 1951. He served in the

U.S. Army beginning in August of 1951, serving in the 14th Infantry as First Lieutenant. He was discharged in 1953 after serving 11 months and 22 days in Korea. He received the Korean Service Medal with two bronze service stars, a combat infantry badge, and a U.N. Service Medal.

His life of public service began as an infantry platoon leader in the US Army in Korea in 1952 and 1953. Following his Army service, he began his civilian service as a 4-H agent in Kiowa County, Oklahoma from 1953 to 1957. In 1957, he became OSU Extension Director of Roger Mills County, Oklahoma, where he served for six years before taking sabbatical leave in order to pursue a doctorate degree at OSU. Following his sabbatical, he resumed his OSU career as Extension Director in Garfield County, District Director of the Southeast OSU Extension District, District Director of the OSU Tulsa Extension

District, and as an OSU Rural Development Specialist. He was Secretary/Treasurer, and later President of the nationwide Community Development Society. He retired in 1985.

After retiring, he enjoyed traveling with his wife to Mexico, Alaska, and many other points of interest.

Highlights of Charlie's life were his marriage and many years with his loving wife, Jean, his family, his work in Kiowa and Roger Mills Counties, and his role in establishing the Center for Local Government Technology at OSU. At an early age he developed a love of fishing, hunting, dogs, camping, and the outdoors which continued throughout his life.

Due to the pandemic, there will be a small private service for immediate family only.

"In- Memory of Charlie Burns" can be found at <https://Strodefh.com> for a lengthier obituary, photos and a place to make comments. Charlie Arch Burns died peacefully on October 21, 2021 in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

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