



Warren B. Browning

July 20, 1927 - January 17, 2014

CENTRALIA — Warren B. Browning, 86 of Centralia died Friday, Jan. 17, 2014 at Green Tree in Mt. Vernon. Warren was born July 20, 1927 in Lowery City, Missouri, son of Dr. Warren C. Browning and Esther (Birch) Browning. He married Mary Wendt on June 17, 1950 in Mitchell, S.D., and she preceded him in death on Dec. 2, 2006. Warren is survived by three sons: David Browning of Centralia, Phillip Browning and wife Jean of San Bernardino, California and Paul Browning of Centralia; one daughter, Susan Eades of Eldorado, Illinois; eight grandchildren: Brian, Eric, Kristin, Sara, Josh, Taylor, Jon and Will; seven great-grandchildren; two nephews and a niece. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife and a sister, Karen Moriarity. Mr. Browning served in the U.S. Army during WWII. After WWII he received his bachelor and master's degrees in public administration from Kansas University. He was a City Manager for many years serving in Drumright, Okla., Pittsburg, Kan., Champaign, Brownsville, Texas, Lombard, Flagstaff, Ariz. and in Centralia for eight years. He was the Mayor of Centralia from 1993 – 1997 and was a Councilman for Centralia. He was the Past President of the Illinois City Managers Association, a member of the Illinois State Police Training Board, Illinois Law Enforcement Commission, the Past President of the Centralia Rotary Club, a member of the Champaign Rotary Club and a member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Centralia. He enjoyed trout fishing in Branson, Mo., was a big supporter of Kansas University Football and Basketball, and most of all he loved spending time with his family and friends.

Per Mr. Browning's wishes, he will be cremated and a Celebration of Life Service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. John's Episcopal Church in Centralia with Father Gene Tucker officiating. Entombment will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Park in Centralia. Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association and will be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home in Centralia, which is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

CA

“ Thoughts and Prayers go out to you all. Warren definitely was one of a kind. He is and will be greatly missed.

Coby Archer - January 24, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ Met Warren in 1969 shortly after being hired as City Manager of Normal, I lasted 28 years. In no small measure to the many times Warren assisted me with his sage advise and humor. I last saw Warren a little over 2 years ago when he was in a nursing home. He remembered me and we had a very nice chat about some of our mutual friends. PIR WARREN

Dave Anderson - January 23, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ My sympathies to Warren's family. I was hired by Warren in 1976 as an Administrative Intern in the Village of Lombard, thus began my career in local government. He was a great mentor and friend and was an honor to have known and worked with him. He was a credit to all the communities he served in. I will never forget him and Mary. John Marquart

John Marquart - January 22, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ Dave, Sorry to hear of your fathers passing..

Bruce Sandy Humphrey - January 22, 2014 at 12:00 AM

HW

“ So sorry to hear of Warren's passing. He and Virgil were such good colleagues, as well as friends. I have many happy memories of times spent with Warren and Mary.

Helen Wikoff - January 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CE

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all...your dad was such a special part of my life! He was kind and generous, and had the funniest sense of humor. I will truly miss him, but I know he is in a better place and is dancing with your mom right now! Love to you all!

Christine Esser - January 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ I had the pleasure of working with Warren Browning in all his capacities serving the people of Centralia and he did serve those people. He did what he believed to be right and usually history showed that what he decided was right. It was an honor to work with him and the people of Centralia should appreciate all that he did for them.

Mark Hodapp - January 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the family. Warren was City Manager during part of my tenure working for the City of Centralia. I considered him to be the best CM I had the pleasure of working with. Not only a great boss but a good mentor and friend. He will truly be missed.

Mike Pierceall - January 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM