



## Harlan "Harley" Watson

March 8, 1926 - June 24, 2014

Harlan "Harley" Watson  
Kearney resident

Harlan "Harley" Watson, 88, of Kearney, died Wednesday, June 24, 2014 at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney. Funeral Services will be held 10:30 A.M. Saturday, June 28th at the First Presbyterian Church in Kearney with the Rev. Dr. Stephen Price-Gibson officiating. Burial will follow at the Presbyterian Cemetery in Campbell, NE with Military Honors provided by the Navy Honors Team in conjunction with the Campbell American Legion Post # 169. Visitation will be 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Friday at the funeral home and one hour prior to the service at the church. Memorials are suggested to the family for future designation. Condolences or personal reflections may be submitted at [www.or sfh.com](http://www.or sfh.com). O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Harlan Leonard Watson was born in Campbell, Nebraska on March 8, 1926 to Leonard Wesley Watson and Lulu (McCoy) Watson. Harley was baptized in the Congregational Church in Campbell and attended that Sunday School and church in his youth. He attended the Campbell Public School and graduated in 1943.

Following graduation from high school, he attended the University of

Nebraska for one semester, after which he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1944. He received training in the Navy Hospital Corps and was assigned to Navy Hospitals in Idaho, California, Hawaii, and Guam. He was discharged in May of 1946. After his military service, he returned to UNL, graduating in January of 1950 with a BA in Liberal Arts. The first year after graduation was spent working for the Nebraska Welfare Department at Dakota City, Nebraska. In 1951, he was employed by the Northern Natural Gas Co. - a short time at South Sioux City, Nebraska, eleven years at Paullina, IA, four years at Welcome, MN and eighteen years at the headquarters office in Omaha, NE. The company name was changed to InterNorth and later to Enron Corporation. He took early retirement in February of 1983.

Harley and Louise M. Cook met while students at UNL and were married following her graduation. They were married in Omaha, NE on February 2, 1952. He was survived by Mary K. Roethemeyer and husband, Gordon of Kearney, NE, Claudia L. Cecetka and husband, Rich of Ord, NE, Leonard A. Watson and wife, Cindi of Elk Grove, CA, Jane F. Minardi of Arlington, TX, and Richard G. Watson and wife, Mary of Omaha, NE; nine grandchildren, and five great grandchildren, as well as his sister-in-law, Kathleen M. Gray of Reno, NV and a brother-in-law, Doug L' Heurreux.

Harley and Louise spent the first 20 years of their retirement in Sun City, AZ. They moved to Kearney, NE in 2003. They have been active in Presbyterian Churches in Paullina, IA, Sun City, AZ, and Kearney, NE. Harley was a member of the Lions Club while living in Paullina. He also was a Mason. He was an organizer of the Enron Retirees Association in Arizona, and served the organization as its first president and secretary for over 15 years. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Louise Watson; and sister, Mary Lou L' Heurreux.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **27**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations  
4115 Ave N  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 234-3500  
info@osrfh.com  
<https://www.osrfh.com>

## Funeral Service

JUN **28**. 10:30 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church  
4511 6th Ave.  
Kearney, NE 68845

# Tribute Wall



“ *Harlan "Harley" Watson*

---

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *Harley gave me (us) so many laughs as Marty and my Nieghbor on Q. Loved talking to him over the fence to see how his day went or was going. Always checked with Harley to see if Bob ( across the street) was able to solve the world troubles on there walk together. Loved watching Harley and his daughter Mary Kay mowing and running from snakes in the yard. Knew Harley would be outside in evening as Louise would be watching baseball. He just didn't want to watch that much of baseball. Marty and I was back 1st of June. Was so glad to be able to visit with him. But sad that's our last visit. Loved this man. Always put a smile on my face. :-)*

*Marty and Peggy Garrels  
Tucson AZ*

---

**Marty & Peggy Garrels** - June 26, 2014 at 09:23 PM

RB

“ The message below was written and distributed to Harley's Northern Natural Gas friends just before Harley passed.

*I was not aware, but am not surprised to find out, that he was my Masonic Brother. Soft and safe to thee, my brother, be thy resting place! Bright and glorious be thy rising from it!*

*Another fine pipeliner headed for that Big Pipeline Warehouse in the sky—where there is always good company, old friends, a light breeze, clean floors, free Cokes in the Servel refrigerator, a friendly dog and cat, sharp tools, clean workbench, a two-tone blue short-wheelbase Ford welding truck with a six-foot whip, just enough MJT's to keep the crew busy for the foreseeable future, a drinking fountain running cold and clear with Living Water, a clean and graffiti-free bathroom, no cussing, smoking or chewing going on, the kindly District Master carefully tending to all of our needs and always available 24-7 in His corner office, the four-wire connecting directly to the Heavenly Father in His suite on the 15th floor, a daily bulletin with NNG common stock price up ¼, PCB-free valve grease, asbestos-free Transite siding, Rockwell plug valves, Fisher regulators, AOSmith pipe, Bonney fittings, job postings of interest and no whining or complaining.*

*Harley: Well done, good and faithful servant—you are Level 1. Thanks for the many years of service and friendship to all of us. Our prayers are with you as you approach the Warehouse—may those last few miles of road be smooth, dry, dust free and pothole-free. Save us a place in the lunchroom—we'll join you there soon enough. I can smell the bacon cooking for today's lunch of BOLT's.*

*Rich & Ruthanne Barber  
Brentwood, CA*

---

Richard Barber - June 25, 2014 at 07:33 PM

JB

“ Harley and Louise were so special in Hugh;s and my life and so many fun shopping trips we did have together.. Now the three of them are together shopping at Walmart but left behind so many memories that no one can take away.. You kids have so much to be proud of , the friends, works,, they did for the world and will continue to do in Heaven. Never loose contact as we will always be here to cry together and remember together.. God;s love and mine to each one of you,,, jacque banks

---

**jacque banks** - June 25, 2014 at 05:30 PM

JL

*Harley & Louise were a Blessing to many. It was a joy having them as residents at Northridge Place. We will miss them dearly.  
Jennifer Long, Concierge @ Northridge*

---

**Jennifer Long** - June 26, 2014 at 02:04 PM

KL

“ *Karan L'Heureux purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of Harlan "Harley" Watson.*



---

**Karan L'Heureux** - June 25, 2014 at 12:16 PM