

Robert “Bob” Leroy Keefer
5/4/1932 to 3/20/2026

Robert “Bob” Leroy Keefer, age 93, passed away peacefully on 3/20/26, leaving behind a life defined by service, kindness, and devotion to family. Known for his kindness and generosity, Bob believed in treating everyone with respect and compassion. He will be remembered for his steady character, warm spirit, and willingness to help others.

Bob was born on May 4, 1932, in Rexford, Kansas, to Nellie Lois Wilcox Keefer and Walter Leroy Keefer during the Great Depression. He grew up with his older sister, Betty Joan, and was deeply influenced by his grandparents, whose care and values shaped his life.

A talented musician, Bob moved to Oberlin, Kansas, during junior high to pursue music and graduated from Decatur County High School in 1950. He attended the University of Kansas, where he met Opal Lea Smith. They married on September 4, 1954, beginning a loving partnership of 71 years.

Bob was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army in 1956. His military career took him to Fort Sill, Fort Bliss, Germany, Vietnam, Chicago, and back to Germany before he completed his service in Colorado Springs, retiring in 1976 from NORAD at the rank of Lt. Colonel. Along the way, he and Opal welcomed three daughters: Daria, Ann, and Cynthia.

Following retirement, Bob owned and operated coin laundries for over 20 years. He had a lifelong love of music, played trumpet, and sang in a college barbershop quartet.

Bob’s greatest joy was his family. He was a devoted husband, a loving and supportive father, and a man who instilled strong values in his children. He also enjoyed antique cars—especially Model A Fords—and restoring vintage clocks.

Bob was a member of Al Kaly Shrine, the St. Thomas Masonic Lodge in Colby/KS, Pikes Peak Model A Ford Club, Pikes Peak Vintage Motor Car Club of America, and proud member of the KU Alumni Association. He was a member of The Tuesday Coffee group for 40 years, making this an important part of each week and solving problems with his friends.

Bob is preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Nellie Keefer, and his sister, Betty. He is survived by his beloved wife, Opal Lea; daughters Daria McClung (Wilson), Ann Antisdell (Monte), and Cynthia Eversole (Butch); and grandchildren Lexi, Aric, Cecilia, and Raleigh.

The family wishes to extend their heartfelt appreciation to Pikes Peak Hospice and all of the Cornerstone caregivers who gave tender care to our father. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Bob’s honor may be made to [Pikes Peak Hospice](#), Al Kaly Shrine (PO Box 193; Pueblo, CO 81002 include Patient Transportation to Shriners Hospitals), or First Presbyterian Church Deacon’s Fund.

Burial services will be with full military honors at Pikes Peak National Cemetery on April 2, 2026, at 2:00pm. Celebration of Life will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs on Monday, April 13, 2026, at 2:00pm. There will be live streaming of the Celebration of Life. Both services are open to family and friends.