



C. Roland Earsom

August 31, 1920 - May 21, 2012

The celebration of life for Charles Roland Earsom will be held 10:00 AM, Thursday, May 24, 2012 at the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Sulphur, OK with the Rev. Tim Kowalski officiating.

Roland, retired vocal music teacher and minister of the gospel, died Monday, May 21, 2012, following a cerebral hemorrhage. He was born on August 31, 1920, in Golden City, MO, to Rev. Charles A. and Jessie Mildred (Wasson) Earsom. He married Jewel Deane Staggers of Lamont, OK on August 17, 1948, his partner in life for nearly 64 years.

Roland graduated from Phillips University in Enid, in 1943 with degrees in music, science, and religion. He played in the band and served as student director of the Concert Choir. He graduated with his MA from Phillips Theological Seminary in 1947.

While attending college Roland preached in a number of churches, including Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) in Waynoka, Carrier, Orlando, and Cherokee. He taught in the public schools of Waynoka, Carrier, Lamont, Fox, Velma-Alma, Norman, and Sulphur. In the summers he sang in vocal groups, and conducted and performed in instrumental ensembles with the St. Louis Municipal Opera Company, and the Inspiration Point Fine Arts Colony, Eureka Springs, AR. Roland also served as full-time or interim pastor of churches in

Sulphur, Tishomingo, Pauls Valley, Ardmore, Duncan, Ada, Healdton, Weleetka, Wetumka, and Lindsay. From 1966 to 1987 he served as a seasonal ranger for the National Park Service at Platt National Park and Lake of the Arbuckles which became Chickasaw National Recreation Area.

Roland volunteered and served as an officer in the Arbuckle Historical Society of Sulphur, for more than 40 years. He co-authored and published one book about Murray County history and was working on his second. He was a former member of the Lions Club. In his retirement years, following 40 years in the public schools of Oklahoma, he was active in the Oklahoma Retired Educators Association of Murray County.

Roland was preceded in death by his parents, his older brother James Robert, his younger brother Edwin Howard and wife Jo Ann.

He is survived by his wife Jewel of the home; sons, Roland Eugene, of Oklahoma City; David Lee and wife Javonna, of Sulphur; Roger Kent and wife Julie, of Hallett, OK; Charles Arthur and wife Deborah, of Dougherty, OK; and Stephen Dean and wife Elsie, of Purcellville, VA. Further survivors include his sister in law Saralene Earsom of Bolivar, MO; brother in law Gerald Staggers of Sulphur; and sister in law Ava Lee Hillhouse and husband Laurence, of Blackwell, OK; as well as seven grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews, cousins, former students and a host of dear friends.

In lieu of flowers or other gifts, memorial contributions may be made to the Arbuckle Historical Society of Murray County, 402 West Muskogee Avenue, Sulphur, OK 73086; Texoma Christian Camp, c/o First Christian Church, 403 West Muskogee Avenue, Sulphur, OK 73086; the Phillips Theological Seminary, 901 N. Mingo Road, Tulsa, OK 74116; or the OREA Murray County Scholarship Fund, c/o Jo Ann Hefley, 302 East Allen Avenue, Davis, OK 73030.

Tribute Wall

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“ I only recently learned of Mr. Earsom's passing. He was my 8th grade science teacher (1968-1969) at Sulphur Jr. High School. He was a no-nonsense teacher--and I appreciated his approach. After a 25 year career in the United States Air Force, I, too, became a teacher, teaching English to high school students for nineteen years. Many were the the times when I wondered, "How would Mr. Earsom have handled this situation?" In his life, he served many thousands of lives. He made a huge difference. What a legacy! - Steven (Hearn) Wyrick

Steven Wyrick - December 06, 2023 at 06:04 PM



“ C. Roland Earsom

October 05, 2023 at 07:47 PM



“ Jewel and family,
I am so sadden to hear about Roland. My son just told me he had read it in the newspaper. I was gone on vacation and wasn't home at the time. You all have been such a big part of mine and my families lives in Lindsay. We shared a lot of good times and lots of singing. I know that Roland is singing with the angels and Dad and Mom and so many from the church are there with him. I was so fortunate to have known both of you. May God keep you in His care.##imported-begin##Cynthia Terry Malicoat##imported-end##

June 04, 2012 at 02:17 PM



“ I am sorry I could not attend Roland's service. I am thankful for the friendship that we had, and I will miss him. My sympathies are with you.##imported-begin##Martha Summers##imported-end##

May 27, 2012 at 09:34 PM



“ It was such an honor to have Mrs. Earsom as my music teacher...even though I could not sing that well I loved being in his class. Every time I go to Sulphur I look at their house and wonder how they are doing. Life will definitely be different without him in the community - he was truly a great man. My thoughts and prayers for his family.##imported-begin##Dena O'Gwin Ball##imported-end##

May 25, 2012 at 12:03 AM



“ What an amazing life and huge loss for the Sulphur Community. God Bless.##imported-begin##Jim Marks##imported-end##

May 24, 2012 at 02:56 PM



“ Mr. Earsom,
Was an inspiration to me when I was a student at SHS. He always had beautiful music for us to sing and motivated us to do more. He included everyone and we became musicians whether we were talented or not. He was an amazing man of many interests. We were blessed to be a part of his life.##imported-begin##Janet Holmes Fountain##imported-end##

May 24, 2012 at 01:01 PM



“ See: Send Private Condolences###imported-begin##Don & Nancy Dyer###imported-end##

May 24, 2012 at 09:59 AM



“ We have wonderful memories of Mr. Earsom. Nick has recounted many times his story of going to Tri-State. Mr. Earsom took the choir to Enid to perform with choirs from all over. When all the choirs were assembled, Nick and the other Sulphur kids were surprised to see Mr. Earsom take the podium to direct. He hadn't told any of them before that. What an accomplishment that was -- to be chosen to direct at Tri-State!###imported-begin##Nick and Teresa Schwake###imported-end##

May 23, 2012 at 11:19 PM



“ We are very sorry about Mr. Earsom. He was an inspiration for all of us. Our prayers are with your family.###imported-begin##James & Jeanne Burns###imported-end##

May 23, 2012 at 10:38 PM



“ Jewell and Family: I just heard about Roland. I am so sorry to hear of his passing. Roland was very special to me. I will be unable to attend the service, but know that my love and prayers are with you all. I know that you know the comfort God affords us, just be sure to lean on God for support right now. If there is anything I can do, please do not hesitate to contact me. Jewell, I love you dearly.###imported-begin##Jane Worden###imported-end##

May 23, 2012 at 03:25 PM



“ Sulphur has lost another pillar of the community. Mr. Earsom was a respected educator who consistently displayed his interest and concern for his students. His contributions to the community (even after his retirement) are legion and he will be sorely missed. I only regret that I did not have the opportunity to stop by the Historical Society and speak with him again. May God bless his family during this time - a time to celebrate a great man and his contributions to the community.##imported-begin##Eddie Martin##imported-end##

May 23, 2012 at 03:03 PM



“ There is a new star in the heavens tonight, and a new star in Heaven.
You were my voice teacher for 6 years, my Explorer Scout leader, the minister I heard on certain Sundays, and the only school teacher to ever give me licks. You have enriched the world with your presence. Thank you for sharing yourself.##imported-begin##David P Crass##imported-end##

May 23, 2012 at 01:30 PM



“ Mrs. Earsom and Family, Please accept my sincere sympathies upon the death of a truly great teacher. I am so glad that I passed his way and was able to learn from him. He was a wonderful man that became a unreplaceable leader to Sulphur. He was the guiding force to the wonderful museum which I can now take my grandchildren to. No one will ever know what this museum means and will mean to future generation. Thank you for all your many gifts and talents which you so freely shared with all.
Please rest in Peace Mr.Earsom.
Singcerely your former student
Cooper##imported-begin##Becky Cooper Moreland##imported-end##

May 23, 2012 at 12:35 PM



“ my condolences to the family. i know that mr. earsom was a wonderful teacher, not just in school but in life as well. he exemplified what a christian should be.##imported-begin##jennifer eaves mihill##imported-end##

May 23, 2012 at 12:14 PM