

OBITUARY

**Max Leo Hunt**

(October 14, 1923 - October 29, 2016)



Max L. Hunt, 93, passed away peacefully on October 29th, 2016 in Paradise Valley, AZ, surrounded by his loving family. Visitation will be held at 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., Sunday, November 13, 2016 at Rollins Funeral Home in Platte City. A private graveside service will be held at Leavenworth National Cemetery in Leavenworth, KS. In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift to the KCI Rotary Club or Platte City Lion's Club in Max's memory.

Max was born to Tom and Nellie Hunt on October 14, 1923 on the family farm outside Attica, KS. He graduated from Attica High School in 1942, attended Kansas University for one year before he and his brother Duane enlisted in the United States Navy. His courageous heart was for his country – part of the 'greatest generation' that sacrificed all to defend our freedom during World War II. Max was trained as a pilot in the Navy and was honorably discharged on December 14th, 1945. He remained in the Navy Reserves until July 1st, 1963, retiring as a Lieutenant Commander.

Max married Phyllis Covey on July 6th, 1947. He gave Phyllis his devoted heart and a love that lasted a lifetime. They were married 59 years until Phyllis's death on February 7th, 2007. Max and Phyllis started their lives together in Wichita, KS and then moved to Pierceville, KS where Max took a job with the CAB at the Garden City, KS airport.

Max loved to fly. He purchased a small plane which he used to go barnstorming (until Phyllis said “no more”) and to deliver newspapers in rural Kansas – dropping mail bags and newspapers from the air. He also was a flight instructor, teaching many students and a daughter and granddaughter how to fly. In 1958, Max was hired by Central Airlines and he moved the family to Ft. Worth, Texas and then to Platte County, Missouri where he was promoted to Captain in 1961. Max flew a DC-3, Convair 580, and Boeing 737 over his 25 year career with Central and Frontier Airlines, retiring on October 14th, 1983. Max was a pilot during the golden age of aviation, when pilots flew the planes (not computers) and for 40 years he flew without ever putting a scratch on a plane. For this, Max had a thankful heart, never taking for granted that he was given the gift of a career that to him never felt like work.

After retirement, Max and Phyllis enjoyed spending 20+ winters in Cave Creek, AZ. Max made it his job each winter to collect and clean hundreds of stray golf balls for the Platte County R-III golf teams. Always happiest when busy outdoors, Max eagerly completed whatever projects his son Greg could find for him to do on their beautiful property along the creek.

As most know, Max was an ardent KU fan – much to the chagrin of his K-State relatives. He loved following the Jayhawks and proudly displayed his KU flag on game day.

Max also had a heart of a servant leader. He coached little league, volunteered in his church, and passionately pursued excellence in education as a school board member of the Platte County R-III school district for 11 years. Max served the citizens of Platte County, MO as a member of the Zoning Board for 9 years and as Platte County’s Western District Commissioner from 1982 to 1988. He was also an active member of the KCI Chapter of Rotary International and the Lion’s Club. Max had a humble heart, he and Phyllis often giving to help needy local students and community members anonymously.

Above all, Max will be remembered for his heart of devotion to his family. He was dedicated to his wife and his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, leaving them a legacy of unconditional love, honesty, hard work, sacrifice, and integrity. Max was supportive of their dreams, allowing each to pursue a path uniquely their own. And Max leaves his family the priceless gift of a good name and reputation, for “a good name is more desirable than great riches” (Proverbs 22:1).

Max was preceded in death by his wife, Phyllis; sisters Rena Imel and Vivian Hughbanks; brothers Lloyd and Duane Hunt. He is survived by his sisters June Crenshaw, Wamego KS and Wilda Brock, New Plymouth ID and one brother Ralph Hunt, Attica KS; three daughters, Diana Robbins, South Yarmouth MA, Cathy Cavitt (Bruce), Prairie Village KS, Cheryl Searcy, Cave Creek AZ; two sons Greg Hunt (Kathy), Cave Creek AZ; Doug Hunt (Mary Ann) Middleton WI; 14 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

The family wishes to express their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Max’s many Timber Park neighbors, especially Larry and Sue Turner, for their help to Max after Phyllis passed, and to Anca, Myrna, Bonnie and Janet, his dedicated and loving caregivers in Paradise Valley. We are deeply grateful.

Arrangements by: Rollins Funeral Home—Platte City, MO. [www.rollinsfuneralhome.net](http://www.rollinsfuneralhome.net)