



## Elmer Loy Pense

January 6, 1941 - December 10, 2023

Elmer Loy Pense was born on Monday, January 6, 1941 in Cedar Vale, Kansas, the son of Elmer and Orene (Wallain) Pense. He passed from this life into heaven on Sunday, December 10, 2023 at his home in Broken Arrow. He was 82 years, 11 months and 4 days of age.

Elmer's love of baseball began as a young boy in the early 1950s. Braden Winch sponsored the local Little League Team for many years, helping boys develop a fun skill, but more importantly, providing a strong grounding for life-long friendships. He also started honing in on basketball, the sport for which he was most well-known, and for which he received the most awards.

A local December 4, 1958 newspaper article shared sketches of the members of the Broken Arrow Tigers Basketball team. Elmer had been given the nickname of "Goose" somewhere along the way.

"At the start of basketball season of his senior year, seventeen-year-old "Goose" was described as: A three-year letterman in basketball, and has lettered for BA in both baseball and track. In basketball, Elmer is the play-maker of the team; the floor general so to speak. His, is the responsibility of steering the action to bring defeat to the opponent. His ability and speed, coupled with a good shooting eye and coolness under fire, make him a real spark-plug for the team. Francis Wheeler is banking pretty heavily on "Goose"

to bring the Tigers through the basketball season successfully. Although the shortest member of the “A” squad of starters, Pense uses his 5 foot 10 inches to great advantage and his agility and ball handling, more than compensates for the few inches he gives to the opposing players.”

“Academically, Pense is majoring in business courses offered by the BA High School. An “A” student, he is a member of both the National and State Honor Society. A great sports enthusiast, as well as a good scholar, Elmer is the type of boy that is a credit to his school. Although he did not play football this year, Goose likes all kinds of sports. He enjoys hunting, fishing, swimming and surfing.” (NEVER IN HIS LIFE.....HE ADDED THAT JUST FOR FUN HE TOLD ME!

Elmer was a 1959 graduate of Broken Arrow high school, and dearly loved his classmates and appreciated those dedicated teachers who gave him the keys to success. He earned scholarships for academics and sports to attend Northern Oklahoma Junior College in Tonkawa, Oklahoma, where he instantly became the star of their basketball program. At NOC, “Pense, despite his handicap of being one of the shortest men on campus at 5”9”, often had to guard players a half foot taller than himself. He averaged 14 points a game while qualifying as Northern’s playmaker. He scored 50 points in two games at the end of the season of 1960-61. In baseball, he batted over .400 all year while handling the shortstop position. His coach, Jerry Cross, said he was the best player in the conference.”

“The Broken Arrow lad also stars in the classroom. He logged a phenomenal 3.91 average while carrying 17 hours the first semester as a freshman, to top all sophomore boys who were carrying at least 12 hours. The school’s first Maverick Award was presented to Elmer in 1961 for the his “athletic ability coupled with an outstanding display of sportsmanship, while representing Northern in Junior College competition.”

Following Junior College, Elmer received a scholarship to Kansas University in Lawrence, Kansas where he was promised they would not red-shirt him. BUT THEY DID RED-SHIRT HIM! So come Christmas break, Elmer packed up his duds and headed home! He never looked back. He went to work full time for Broken Arrow Public Schools.

Elmer was among the first group to be inducted into the Broken Arrow High School Athletic Hall of Fame in October 1995. His photo can be viewed in the High School Basketball sports building.

Elmer devoted 31 plus years to the Broken Arrow Public School System, retiring on December 31, 1994, from the position of Assistant Superintendent for Business and Support Services. Elmer was an avid sports fan who enjoyed antiquing; traveling, especially the trips to Branson; watching old Westerns and any sport on TV, except hockey or soccer.

The family requests memorials to, College of the Ozarks, [www.cofo.edu](http://www.cofo.edu), or P. O. Box 17, Point Lookout, MO 65726. COFO is a very special school according to Elmer & Marcella. It provides a tremendous opportunity for students willing to WORK their way through four years of college, and graduate debt free, thus also being called "Hard Work U." Do yourself a favor and read up on the school, which now offers elementary through college degrees. College of the Ozarks was Incorporated in 1906 as The School of the Ozarks, to serve financially needy youth primarily from the Ozarks region.

Elmer was a member of The Assembly of God Church, Broken Arrow, and was a supporter of the College of the Ozarks.

He is survived by:

His wife, Marcella Pense, of the home

Nieces, Valerie Pense Mullins and husband Bobby Mullins  
of Broken Arrow, OK  
Jana Kay Smith Day and husband Kenny Day,  
of Broken Arrow, OK

Nephews, Jeffrey Smith, of Tulsa, OK  
Jerrod Smith, of Broken Arrow, OK  
Mat Weeks, of Fair Grove, MO

Great Nieces, Katlyn Weeks, of Utah  
Brikel Weeks, of Salt Lake City, Utah  
Chelsea Weeks, of Claremore, OK  
Bailey Weeks and husband David Legere,  
of Glendale, AZ  
Emily Day, of Shawnee/Broken Arrow, OK  
Jessie Mullins, of Tulsa, OK  
Taylor Mullins, of Coweta, OK  
Bailey Mullins, of Tulsa, OK

Great Nephews: Jackson Weeks and wife Arika, of Phoenix, AZ  
Caleb Weeks, of San Diego, CA  
Levi Weeks and wife Rachel, of Surprise, AZ  
Tyler Day of Broken Arrow, OK  
Kyler Smith, of Broken Arrow, OK  
Brody Weeks and wife Mari, of Price, UT  
Brock Weeks, of Nephi, UT

Aunt, Katie Pense, Broken Arrow, OK

Elmer was preceded in death by his parents, Elmer and Orene; brother, Lawrence; Father and Mother-in-laws Otis & Ruby Johnston, Niece, Tawna Weeks.

# Cemetery Details

## Park Grove Cemetery

1000 W. Houston St.  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
(918) 259-8691

# Previous Events

## Viewing

DEC 14. 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home  
1660 South Elm Place  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
(918) 258-9623  
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Visitation

DEC 14. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home  
1660 South Elm Place  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
(918) 258-9623  
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Funeral Service

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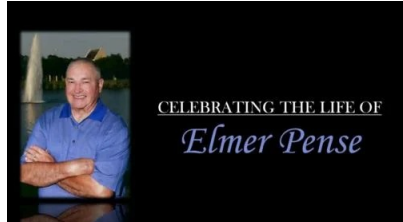
DEC 15. 10:00 AM (CT)

The Assembly  
3500 W. New Orleans  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
(918) 251-8591  
<http://www.theassembly.org>

# Tribute Wall



“ Hayhurst Funeral Home created a Funeral Service in memory of Elmer Loy Pense



Hayhurst Funeral Home - December 15, 2023 at 06:16 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Elmer Pense



Marcella Pense - January 15, 2024 at 05:31 AM



Elmer rides the merry-go-round in Woodland Hills Mall with Chelsea Weeks, around age 3.

Marcella Pense - March 27, 2024 at 02:20 AM

LC

“ *Marcella:*  
*Our deepest condolences on your loss. We pray for all of you and know that Elmer is with our Lord.*  
*Layda and Nick Duris*  
*Carpentersville, IL*



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**Layda Cardoso-Duris** - December 18, 2023 at 10:49 AM

MP

*Layda & Nick,*  
*Thank you so much for your note of support. I was blessed to have him as my husband for 44 years.*  
*Marcella*

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**Marcella Pense** - December 29, 2023 at 01:38 PM

MP

*Thank you so much Nick & Layda.*

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**Marcella Pense** - March 27, 2024 at 02:09 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Pictorial Video Tribute*



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**Hayhurst Funeral Home** - December 15, 2023 at 04:59 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Elmer Loy Pense.*



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December 14, 2023 at 06:29 PM



“ *Denny and Kathy Brumley planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Elmer Loy Pense.*

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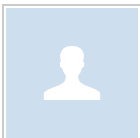
**Denny and Kathy Brumley** - December 14, 2023 at 06:29 PM



“ *Elmer Loy was just a good person, through and through. I'm so glad he and Marcella came to Class of 61 birthday party in June. I think he had a good time visiting with everyone.*

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**Margaret Ann Perry Martin** - December 14, 2023 at 01:58 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elmer Loy Pense.*



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December 13, 2023 at 10:41 PM

MJ

“ We moved across the street, in country terms, from them in 86. We were waving neighbors. His 2 tone blue truck was an often sight turning into 121st. My sincere condolences to his wife and family and friends.

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**Marquitta Jackson** - December 13, 2023 at 03:52 PM

MP

*Marquitta, thank you for your sweet message.*

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**Marcella Pense** - December 14, 2023 at 12:37 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Elmer Loy Pense.



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December 12, 2023 at 04:52 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Elmer Loy Pense.



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December 12, 2023 at 08:34 AM

TF

“ The Gillean Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Elmer Loy Pense.

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**The Gillean Family** - December 12, 2023 at 08:34 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Elmer Loy Pense.*



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December 12, 2023 at 07:01 AM



“ *Rosie and Steve McWilliams planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Elmer Loy Pense.*

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**Rosie and Steve McWilliams** - December 12, 2023 at 07:01 AM



“ *I worked at the Board of Education part of my Senior year in high school in 1981. I was a Clerical Office Education student. I would talk to Elmer as I walked through offices. I soon discovered he had worked with my dad at Braden Winch. Elmer was always so nice & fun to talk with.*

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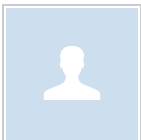
**June Karraker** - December 11, 2023 at 06:46 PM



*June, thank you for your sweet comments.*

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**Marcella Pense** - December 14, 2023 at 12:37 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Elmer Loy Pense.*



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December 11, 2023 at 05:36 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Elmer Loy Pense.*



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December 11, 2023 at 03:48 PM



“ *Elmer was a sweetheart. When I was an asst principal at the high school, we had a student in a wheelchair that needed a ramp built to access one of his classrooms. It was the first day of school, which is always chaotic. By the end of the day, I walked by the area as a worker was putting the finishing touches on the ramp. Elmer ran his department to help kids, and he particularly wanted to take care of issues to help our disadvantaged special ed students. Not everyone is like that. I appreciated him for many years for his caring attitude. This story is just one of many.*

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**Betty Gerber** - December 11, 2023 at 03:37 PM

MP

*Betty, I hadn't heard that story, but it does sound like Elmer. Thank you.*

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**Marcella Pense** - December 14, 2023 at 12:36 AM

SS

“ Truthfully, who in Broken Arrow didn't know (even love) Elmer. From his classmates, teammates, teachers, coworkers, neighbors or church family, he never met anyone he couldn't talk with or share tales. He will certainly be missed by so many. Prayers of blessings, comfort, and peace to Marcella in the loss of not only her one true love but her very best friend. RIP Elmer.

Shirley A. Showman

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Shirley Showman - December 11, 2023 at 02:37 PM

MP

You nailed it Shirley! Love you!

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Marcella Pense - December 14, 2023 at 12:35 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elmer Loy Pense.



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December 11, 2023 at 12:09 PM

TF

“ The Jerry Medlin family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Elmer Pense.

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The Jerry Medlin family - December 11, 2023 at 12:09 PM

JM

“ This is certainly one I didn't want to hear. Like Danny, I've known Elmer most of my life. One of THE BEST Broken Arrow Tiger basketball players, my favorite Little League umpire, and just simply an outstanding human being! REST IN PEACE MY FRIEND! 🇺🇸 🙏🏻

Jerry Medlin - December 11, 2023 at 11:48 AM

MP

Thank you for your kind words Jerry.

Marcella Pense - December 14, 2023 at 12:34 AM

DS

“ I've known Elmer most of my life. Always friendly and a joy to be around, this is such a shock to hear of his passing. I just spoke with him a few weeks ago at our Saturday morning coffee meeting. My first job was working with Elmer at the Board of Education. Thinking about and praying for all the family.

Dannie Sawyer - December 11, 2023 at 09:42 AM

MP

Thank you so much for your sweet message, Dannie.

Marcella Pense - December 14, 2023 at 12:39 AM

KM

“ Sending this hug... I'm speechless and brokenhearted



Karen McEntire - December 11, 2023 at 12:14 AM

MP

*Karen, you were one of those special kids that Elmer liked to torment, and he so enjoyed it. I love you and appreciate all you're doing to make his service perfect.*

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**Marcella Pense** - December 14, 2023 at 12:41 AM

HH

“ *It is our honor and privilege to serve the Pense family and to provide this permanent tribute website in memory of Elmer.*



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**Hayhurst Funeral Home** - December 11, 2023 at 12:12 AM

MP

*Jack, I'm so glad that we made our arrangements early; it sure makes it easier. We truly see that your organization is far and above all the rest of the local choices. I appreciate all of your patience with me. I appreciate your personal, sincere caring.*

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**Marcella Pense** - December 14, 2023 at 12:44 AM