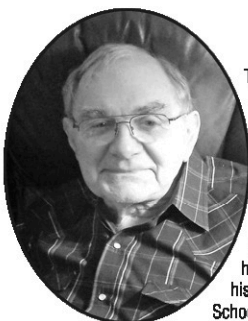


# Westbrook

## Featured Resident



### John Tipton

John Burwell Tipton was born to Stribling and Lucille Tipton in North Kansas City, MO. He moved to Paris, MO, and was raised by his grandparents, Burl and Clara Tipton, and his Aunt Lela. He has one brother, Bill, who is eight years older than him. He grew up on a working farm that had cattle, horses, sheep, chickens, hogs, wheat, beans and corn. John had a love of horses from a young age. His favorite is a Tennessee walking horse. At the age of eight or so, John was a jockey for a while at the Paris Fairgrounds. When he was 15, he moved back to North Kansas City with his parents. He graduated from North Kansas City High School.

John went to work at a full service gas station after graduation. He did it all – pumped gas, washed windows and changed oil. He joined the Army. It was good that it wasn't the Navy since he got seasick on ships. He spent 16 months in Korea before return stateside.

While in high school, John met Margaret Toombs. They never dated in school but they did have several friends in common. After high school, they continued to hang out with a lot of the same friends and eventually they started dating themselves. They dated for about three years and were married in 1955 when John returned from Korea. Eleven months later, their son, Paul, was born. Eleven and a half months later, Tim was born. Eleven years later, their daughter, Shelly, was born.

John went to work managing gas stations. He eventually bought several stations (Phillips 66 and Citgo) of his own. He moved his family from North Kansas City to the country between Liberty and Excelsior Springs. In 1964, John sold his gas stations and went to work for Western Bakers Supplies, which was bought out by Dawn Food Products in 1983. John was the National Sales Manager to Sam's Club Stores while with Dawn Foods. He helped Sam's Club set up the bakeries in their stores – selling them everything they needed, helping them get set up and was at the store openings. When he retired in 2000, he had helped start 310 bakeries within Sam's Club.

John moved his family to forty acres in Lawson in 1971 because it was getting too crowded where they were living. In 1973, they moved to 80 acres in Elmira and sold the forty acres in Lawson. In 1983, they sold the Elmira land and bought 247 acres in Lawson. He built both the house and the barn. He loved spending time in the barn with the cows. He still owns the property and continues to run cattle on the land with the help of Paul, his wife, Terry, and the grandkids.

John was very active in the Lawson Christian Presbyterian Church. His family has always been very important as well. Besides the three children and their spouses, he has ten grandchildren (Michael Tipton, Mary Crawford, Kate Tipton, Jennifer Trout, John Tipton, Erin Kellam, Kelly Tipton, Scott Tipton, Kahlin Brown and Riley Brown) and six great grandchildren (Jasper and Olivia Tipton, Kasie Lyons, Brogan and Grayden Crawford, Nellie Trout and Korie Kellam). The grandkids like to argue over which one is his favorite. Of course, each one thinks they are the one. He's attended almost every football, softball and basketball game as well as track meets his grandkids have participated in. He helped them show cattle when they were in 4-H. He raises Red Angus and currently has about 60 head. John also loves Western Swing music, especially Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys. He grew up listening to them and passed this love along to his kids. John also likes horse racing.

Margaret has lots of medical problems. For about ten years, John took care of Margaret full time while still managing the farm. It finally took its toll on him. In 2012, John suffered a stroke. Margaret now resides at Excelsior Springs Nursing and Rehab. John moved here to Westbrook in September 2012. He goes every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday to visit Margaret. According to John, the best part of Westbrook is the people and that he gets good care. John and Margaret have been married 58 years and counting.

*Terry S. - Everything and everyone here are all great. It's been a great experience for my dad and I don't think either of us would change a thing.*

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