Joe Everett Winstead was born in Wichita Falls, Texas to Leonard E. Winstead and Nellie Helen (Reaser) Winstead on March 17, 1938. Thanks to the quick actions of his mother, the deal his older sister, Janet, made to trade her baby brother to a neighbor for a puppy fell through – much to Janet’s chagrin! Joe went on to grow up doing all the things a kid in north Texas might do - riding horses, hanging out at the local drug store, and delivering telegrams during WW2. After high school he embarked on his journey through higher education which never really ended. Following Janet to Midwestern State University, Joe was mentored by Dr. Art Beyer who was not only a teacher but also employed Joe on the grounds “Crew“ which, when not chasing jack rabbits on bush hogs, did its best to beautify the campus. Joe played clarinet in the Midwestern band and was a performer in the band’s *Cavalcade of Melody* shows (which may explain in part his daughters’ careers in the performing arts and not the sciences!). Joe then earned his MS at Ohio University, served as a captain in the US Army, and survived (literally & figuratively) the PHD program at the University of Texas.

After many years on the faculty of Western Kentucky University, Joe ventured into the dark side of academia by becoming the chair of the department of biology at Morehead State University. His fate was sealed when he was offered the position of Dean of the College of Science and Technology at Arkansas Southern University. When not annoying upper administration on behalf of his students and faculty, Joe served terms as president of both the Kentucky Academy of Science and the Association of Southeastern Biologists and endeavored to enlighten the creationists and climate change deniers of the world. After retirement, Joe returned to the light by traveling, doing consulting work, research projects, enjoying fine scotch whiskey, and spoiling his dogs. Joe went that “big rodeo in the sky” on November 20, 2019.

Preceding him in death are sisters, Janet and Martha. Joe is survived by his pesky little brother, Leonard (Butch) Winstead of Newscastle, Texas; daughters Cynthia Backstrom-Winstead (Håkan) of Springfield, Missouri; Courtney Cunningham (Dustin) of Orlando, Florida; wife Jessie L. Wren of Westview, Kentucky; devoted step children and a menagerie of grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In lieu of a funeral, Joe requests that you visit your local Waffle House or Huddle House restaurant and have a piece of pie and a cup of coffee in his honor. He also requests that you vote early and often! If you don’t like pie, a donation to Hosparus Kentucky would be appreciated.