



## Allen H. Zikmund

March 26, 1922 - January 29, 2018

Allen "Al" H. Zikmund, 95 of Kearney died Monday, January 29, 2018 at CHI Health - Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney.

Funeral services will be Friday, February 2, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. at First United Methodist Church in Kearney. Rev. Alan Davis will officiate. Private burial will be prior to services at Kearney Cemetery. Visitation is planned Thursday from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Service in Kearney. Memorials are suggested to the Zikmund Athletic Scholarship Fund established at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Athletic Programs at UNK, First United Methodist Church or the Peterson Senior Activity Center in Kearney. Visit [www.hlmkfuneral.com](http://www.hlmkfuneral.com) to leave a tribute or message of condolence. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney are in charge of arrangements.

Allen Herman Zikmund was born March 26, 1922, on a homestead farm near Ord, Nebraska, the only child of Henry and Ethel (Stowell) Zikmund. A 1939 graduate of Ord High School, Al was a vocal and instrumental musician, a member of the undefeated football team, and a track participant and broad jump state champion.

Zikmund attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, earning an education degree. He played halfback for the Cornhuskers, scoring a touchdown in the 1941 Rose Bowl, and was a track competitor. At UNL he was a member of Innocents Society and Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Upon graduation in 1943, Zikmund served as a naval lieutenant, commanding regiments of officer candidates at Columbia University, where he spent most of his naval career. After military service and considering a professional football career, Al returned to the University of Nebraska and obtained a master's degree.

He was united in marriage to Verlene Witham of Agra, Kansas, in a 1943 ceremony at Riverside Church in New York City. They raised their children, Sue, Jim, and Sally, while Al

taught and coached at Alliance and Grand Island, NE high schools. In 1955 the family moved to Kearney, NE, where “Zik” served as Kearney State College football coach and assisted the track coach and athletic director. He was an associate professor of physical education and served as athletic director for 17 years, retiring in 1987.

Al and Verlene enjoyed traveling throughout the country during their retirement. He loved to fish and hunt and was an active gardener. Among his interests were home repair and building at their home and their cabin at Harlan County Reservoir. In Kearney he served many years with the American Red Cross and held memberships in Kiwanis Golden K, Elks Lodge 984, American Legion, Athletics Associates, Loper Athletic Club, and Emeriti Faculty. He was a lifetime member of the United Methodist Church.

Preceded in death by his beloved wife, Verlene, Al leaves his children Sue and Paul Pocock of Castle Pines, CO; Jim and Vicki Zikmund of Kearney, NE; and Sally and Steve Husen of Grand Island, NE. He is survived by eight grandchildren and spouses: Chris and Kelly Pocock of Kearney, NE; Carrie Neddenriep of Parker, CO; Tom and Sara Zikmund of Alma, NE; Steve and Ashley Zikmund of Funk, NE; Jack and Nickie Melson of Pacific Junction, IA; Kate and Dan Horton of Manhattan, IL; Jeremy and Andrea Husen of Gretna, NE; and Tim and Emily Husen of Suwanee, GA. His great grandchildren include Peyton Pocock, Shelby Pocock, Mason Bennett, Dylan Neddenriep, Barrett Zikmund, Cole Zikmund, Shane Zikmund, Claire Horton, Jay Horton, Emerson Husen, Hudson Husen, and Harper Husen. One sister-in-law, Bonnie Johnson of Kenesaw, NE, also survives. Al leaves a host of family, friends, and former players.

# Cemetery Details

## Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I  
Kearney, NE 68847

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 1. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl  
2421 Avenue A  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 237-2259  
<https://www.hlmkfuneral.com>

## Funeral Service

FEB 2. 10:30 AM (CT)

First united Methodist Church  
4500 Linden Drive  
Kearney, NE 68847

# Tribute Wall



“ Allen H. Zikmund

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ My mother was a custodian at Kearney State about 40 years ago I remember Mr Zikmund being a very nice a caring man. He talked to anyone with respect and caring. My mother thought highly of him.  
Sincerely, Susan Hanna Daughter of Ruby Hanna

Susan - February 03, 2018 at 08:51 PM



“ I would like to send my condolences to the Zikmund family for the loss of your loved one. Coach Zikmund was an outstanding coach, teacher, and friend. The Kearney State physical education department was one of the best in the state. I had coach Zikmund in my undergraduate and graduate programs and just loved him as a teacher and a friend. His football theory class was one that really sticks out in my mind. He really had a young coach prepared to go out into the world and coach football. He taught you the eight-man game and the 11 man game. He was an outstanding teacher, a fantastic football coach, and even a better athletic director. Any time a former student or player would go back to Kearney and bump into coach, he always remembered who you were. I could write a book On all his accomplishments and the love that all of us had for him as a teacher. Kearney State College and the University of Nebraska Kearney had a winner in this guy for many years. We as students were the ones that benefited from that. Thank you coach Zikmund!  
Bill Holliday

Bill Holliday - February 02, 2018 at 07:34 PM



“ As a graduate of both Ord High School and KSC I had the privilege of helping Coach Zikmund's induction to the Ord High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2015. He gave a remarkable acceptance speech (at age 93) reliving his days growing up in Ord in the 1930s. He spoke about his high school coach, Helmut Brockman, who introduced him to winning (He said "Helmut' was a good name for a football coach"). His message blended humor, history and honor and received a standing ovation by the crowd. He was a remarkable man who lived a remarkable life. The community of Ord can be proud to claim him as a native son.

Sidney Jablonski - February 01, 2018 at 10:29 PM

SJ

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Sidney Jablonski** - February 01, 2018 at 09:31 PM

SJ

“ As a graduate of both Ord High School and KSC I had the privilege of helping Coach Zikmund’s induction to the Ord High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2015. He gave a remarkable acceptance speech (at age 93) reliving his days growing up in Ord in the 1930s. He spoke about his high school coach, Helmut Brockman who introduced him to winning (He said “‘Helmut’ was a good name for a football coach”). His message blended humor, history and honor and received a standing ovation by the crowd. He was a remarkable man who lived a remarkable life. The community of Ord can be proud to claim him as a native son.



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**Sid Jablonski** - February 01, 2018 at 08:20 PM

MO

“ I played for coach Zikmund during the 1968/69 seasons, I was a junior college transfer from Independence, Kansas. Upon my visit to Kearney to decide where I would finish my collegiate eligibility it didn't take me long to decide KSC was the right place for me. Coach Zikmund impressed me like no other coach I had talked to. He made me feel that I was needed and wanted in the KSC football program. After mentioning I was an avid outdoor sportsman, he said I would be welcome any time at his cabin on a local lake. He was easy to play for. Practices were fun and he always had us prepared to play the game. You went into every game believing you were going to win. I vividly recall taking some of classes. Water safety, first aid, a coaching class. I still have the play book he had us make for that class. I recall sitting in his office just to talk. He always had an open door and had time for you. After graduation from KSC I taught and coached football in Canton, Ohio. I tried to employ his coaching style. I am grateful to have been able to attend the reunion given to him several years ago. I had a nice visit with him, he recalled I was from Vestal, N.Y. and complimented me by saying I was one of the toughest kids he coached. He always had a way of making you smile

*Rest in Peace Coach,*

*Mike Olenski # 82*

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**Mike Olenski** - February 01, 2018 at 06:29 PM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of Allen H. Zikmund.*



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February 01, 2018 at 04:01 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Allen H. Zikmund.*



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January 31, 2018 at 08:28 PM

MG

“ Quoted from Pat Gloor:  
“Al “Zik” was a wonderful part of our history in our journeys of life. Cal and I shared so many enjoyable memories that started with Alliance and continued into many more good times shared beyond.”  
Peace in the memories.  
The sons and families also share many good memories...  
The Gloor Family

Mark Gloor - January 31, 2018 at 06:03 PM



“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Allen H. Zikmund.



January 31, 2018 at 07:44 AM

KC

“ Early 60s, Zik's staff was officiating a Friday night Championship football game--- Amherst vs Sumner. After the game my path to bus met Coach's path to their car-- Coach Zik angled over and said, "Good game 75!!!! My coach Stutzman had played for Zik at then KSTC.... Coach Cecil asked, "Do you know who that was?" This sophomore didn't----- Will always remember Coach Cecil said, "THAT WAS GOD!!!!!" :)  
I would later play football for Zik and the Lopers and vividly recall his chants and rants on "PRIDE, DEDICATION, DESIRE AND DETERMINATION!!!"  
I told Coach some time back about how proud he should be of the impact he has had/is having on High School kids across the state and country. Coach said, "Oh I haven't coached for along time!!!!" Yes but the kids you've taught and coached are out there TEACHING AND COACHING..... AND..... the subsequent generations are TEACHING AND COACHING .... and theTHEIR message is based on ""YOUR----- PRIDE, DEDICATION, DESIRE AND DETERMINATION!!!!""  
Coach just smiled at the thought.....  
"Good Game ---Coach----- Good Game!!!!!"  
an old D-tackle from the 60s..... KWCarmann

Ken Carmann - January 30, 2018 at 05:22 PM



“ *Heartfelt Memories was purchased for the family of Allen H. Zikmund.*



January 30, 2018 at 11:22 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Allen H. Zikmund.*



January 30, 2018 at 09:58 AM

WG

“ *I have many fond memories of "Coach", too many to expand here, but when I would go over to his house for something, about 3 hours later I would leave with some of the most wonderful stories I would ever hear. He was a member of my Big Red Boosters and loved coming. He would always impress some of the current Husker coaches and they loved meeting and listening to him. Loved his "right place, right time" and "where's the fullback stories", wish I had gotten them down on video for you guys, was always my intention. My thoughts and prayers will be with you Jim and Sally! Great man! He will be missed!*  
*Wayne Garrelts*

**Wayne Garrelts** - January 29, 2018 at 07:46 PM

JW

*Jim and Sally sorry to here about your Dad i know Dad thought the world of him and i enjoyed watching his teams play god bless all of you*

**jerry wescoat** - January 30, 2018 at 05:45 PM

GS

*I too have many memories of Coach Zikmund and his character through 4 years of playing for him at KSC. I left after graduating in Jan 1971 for the Marine Corps and 26 years later retired as a Colonel of Marines. His coaching and teaching gave me the character to succeed in that career. I'm 70 years old now and still remember the "Eagle" as some of us called him, with his towering figure and neatly shaved bald head. I'll never forget the Eagle!*

*Colonel Grant Sparks, USMC, Retired*

**Grant Sparks** - January 31, 2018 at 09:38 AM

TS

*Mr. Zikmund ( Jim) and family, heartfelt prayers for comfort for you all.*

*Tammy Leonard Schleicher*

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**Tammy Schleicher** - February 01, 2018 at 09:19 AM

FH

*So sorry to here of your lose. I am praying for you and your families remember your friends and family are there for you and be sure to remember all the good time you shared with him.*

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**Fonda Hanks** - February 01, 2018 at 05:26 PM

SJ

*As a graduate of both Ord High School and KSC I had the privilege of helping Coach Zikmund's induction to the Ord High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2015. He gave a remarkable acceptance speech (at age 93) reliving his days growing up in Ord in the 1930s. He spoke about his high school coach, Helmut Brockman, who introduced him to winning (He said "Helmut' was a good name for a football coach"). His message blended humor, history and honor and received a standing ovation by the crowd. He was a remarkable man who lived a remarkable life. The community of Ord can be proud to claim him as a native son.*

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**Sidney Jablonski** - February 02, 2018 at 08:31 AM

MK

*so sorry to hear about Coach Zik. So much has been said about his mentoring coaching teaching etc, that it's hard to not add so much more! I only played for him a short time due to a severe knee injury, but he had such an influence on me as a teacher and Coach one can only say he touched so many educators and coaches lives and sucesses I want to say you were honored to have had the fortune of knowing him. Thanks Coach Zik you are in a high place of honor in heaven I'm sure! Milt Kennedy class of 1975, Go Lopers*

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**milt kennedy** - February 13, 2018 at 11:02 PM