



Bernard (Jade) E. Phillips Jr.

August 30, 1945 - October 4, 2019

Bernard (Jade) Earl Phillips, Jr., age 74, of Kearney, Nebraska, formerly of Beaver City and Curtis, Nebraska, passed away on Friday, October 4, 2019, at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska. He was born on August 30, 1945, at North Platte, Nebraska to Bernard and Doris V. (Linnemeyer) Phillips.

He grew up on a farm north of Maywood, Nebraska and then moved to Curtis, Nebraska during his sophomore year of High School. He would then graduate from the University of Nebraska School of Agriculture (UNSA) in Curtis in 1963. He furthered his education by attending Kearney State College and earned his Bachelors of Education degree in December of 1966.

He married Evelyn Marie Messersmith of Alliance, Nebraska, on August 15, 1964 and to this union three children were born: Brian, Trene, & Terri. He went on to earn two masters degrees from Chadron State College and spent 35 ½ years as an educator, coach, and administrator. He started his teaching career in Valentine, Nebraska, and then moved to teach and be principal at Beaver City High School at Beaver City, Nebraska. In 1996, Beaver City would consolidate into Southern Valley Schools. In 2002, Bernie finished his long-standing career in education. He was a member of the Elks Lodge #984 of Kearney, Nebraska, and former member of Nebraska Council of School Administrators, Nebraska Coaches Association, Nebraska Athletic Directors Association, and Nebraska Schoolmasters Club. He was devoted to his students and their academic and athletic pursuits. Many lasting relationships

were developed over his years as an educator due to his caring, strong-willed demeanor.

He coached football and girls/boys basketball at various levels and was head coach of the Beaver City 1986-1987 boys basketball team that earned a trip to the Nebraska State Basketball Tournament. He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed spending his time hunting, fishing, camping, and taking trips with the 5th wheel. Bernie especially enjoyed the 2 ½ month trip in 2006 that he and Evelyn took to Alaska. Many summers were spent at Lake McConaughy with family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his wife Evelyn Phillips of Kearney, Nebraska; Son: Brian Phillips, Kearney, Nebraska; Daughter: Trene (Alan) Garey, Curtis, Nebraska, Daughter: Terri (Todd) Schirmer, Kearney, Nebraska; Grandchildren: Kelcey (Ricky) Walker, Riley Garey, Regan Garey and fiancé Cole Scheer, Kellan Garey, and Madison Schirmer.

Private family inurnment will be at a later date. A public reception in Bernie's honor will be held at the Evangelical Free Church, 4010 7th Ave., Kearney, Nebraska, on Thursday, October 10th from 2 pm - 5 pm. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be left in Bernie's name. Please visit www.hlmkfuneral.com to leave a tribute or message of condolence. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Gathering and Celebration

OCT **10**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Kearney E- Free Church
4010 7th Ave.
Kearney, NE 68845

Tribute Wall



“ *Bernard (Jade) E. Phillips Jr.*

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss. I was so fortunate to have Bernie and Evelyn visit my classroom when Reagan was in third grade to share about their trip to Alaska. His salmon fishing stories were the best! Your family is in our thoughts and prayers. Julie and J.R. Clark*

Julie Clark - October 10, 2019 at 07:44 PM



“ *Bernie was one of the most genuine people I have had the privilege to know. He was an excellent cohort and respected by many. He was there for you, when needed. Our family owes him more thanks than we could ever give. Love to his terrific family, and know we care. Kennis and Nancy McClelland.*

Nancy McClelland - October 10, 2019 at 10:44 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bernard (Jade) E. Phillips Jr..*



October 09, 2019 at 07:02 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Bernard (Jade) E. Phillips Jr..*



October 08, 2019 at 11:59 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bernard (Jade) E. Phillips Jr..*



October 08, 2019 at 10:37 PM



“ *To the family of Bernie. When I went to school at beaver city and southern valley I was bullied. He watched over me like a father and I'm grateful for that. He will be Greatly missed. My prayers and thoughts go out to you in your time in need. He's with our Heavenly Father looking down on us till we get to see him again in heaven. ❤️*

Kathryn Henry - October 08, 2019 at 10:25 PM

BH

“ I would like to send my condolences to Bernie's family. He was a very honorable man in the school system or on the lake. He was a very dedicated educator and a coach. We developed a good relationship coaching against each other in basketball and even a better one on the lake catching walleye. I would call Bernie many times just to get a walleye report. He was always sharing his knowledge with others, you are about walleye or about a scouting report. We will all miss Bernie.

Bill Holliday - October 08, 2019 at 06:14 PM

LB

“ Lanham's, Stineman's, Brouillette's, J. Billeter purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Bernard (Jade) E. Phillips Jr..



Lanham's, Stineman's, Brouillette's, J. Billeter - October 08, 2019 at 09:57 AM

DP

“ *Evelyn and Family*

We are so sad and surprised to hear of Jade's passing. We had no idea he was ill. You have our sincere condolences.

I know you have heard of the hundreds of stories associated with Jade and me in the years just prior to and during high school. I have such fond memories of he and his dad taking me with them hunting and fishing, and then there were all the times just hanging out together in Maywood and Curtis. Phyllis and I also have fond memories living close to you guys in Kearney during our college days. So long ago, but never forgotten. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family.

Delbert and Phyllis Prindle

Delbert and Phyllis Prindle - October 07, 2019 at 09:08 PM

RP

“ *We have such great memories of Bernie as our coach and principal at Beaver City High School and also as a friend to both Roger and me. Our condolences to Evelyn and family. Roger and Barb Powell*

Roger & Barb Powell - October 06, 2019 at 11:17 PM

BH

“ *Our deepest sympathies to all the family. Bernie was one of the best teachers I ever had at Beaver City High School. Sending Prayers.*



Beverly Linner Hilker - October 06, 2019 at 07:13 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Bernard (Jade) E. Phillips Jr..*



October 06, 2019 at 06:17 PM



“ *Bernie believed in all of his athletes. And, he cared about us as if we too, were his children. He drove us to be better than we thought we could ever be, then accept that fact, and work to be even better. He had playoffs for the remaining varsity uniform before every game in 86-87. We all won it at times. Stacy (Wooden) beat me out to suit up for the state tournament. I was disappointed and Bernie knew it. He came up to me after showers, put his arm around me, and told me he was proud because I had given everything I had. He then asked if I was going to the tournament. Of course I was, but wasn't going to be the same. He gave me his crooked grin and said that he expected me on the bus because I was part of the family. Even though I didn't get to suit up, Bernie made sure that I knew he loved me and I was part of his world. Bernie touched every soul he met, most in a profound way. I will forever be in his debt for the life lessons he taught us all. Rest In Peace Bernie. Your job here on earth is finally finished. Well done Coach!*

Warren Bell (class 1989 BCHS) - October 06, 2019 at 05:55 PM

CM

“ In 1987, when I was 10 years old, Uncle Jade called me and asked me to bring a shotgun along to the family Thanksgiving gathering at their place in a few weeks. I was so excited that he called me! The morning we went pheasant hunting we flushed a lot of birds. Every time I would shoot at one, and every time Uncle Jade would say "Good thing you missed, that was another hen." (In a not overly excited, yet teaching voice) By the end of the day I was well versed in pheasant identification! Thank you for that memory, Uncle Jade.

I also remember fishing at Lake McConaughy. Every summer we would put up alfalfa hay on the pivot. Three cuttings total. I spent more time on a tractor watching the clouds than the windrows knowing if the rains came Dad would stop haying and come get me. We would then quickly stock the camper and go to McConaughy to fish with Uncle Jade and family for a few days. Not sure how many fish I caught on those trips, but I sure learned a lot about fishing, boats, and other things that my mother never needs to hear about! Thank you for this memory, Uncle Jade.

Clay Messersmith

Clay Messersmith - October 06, 2019 at 04:54 PM

MN

“ My deepest sympathies to the entire family. Thank you for sharing Bernie with us. I will always treasure the times with you all in Beaver City. Bernie sure gave me an example to aspire to in education and administration. While there are many, many memories with Bernie, one I remember is when he came out to show me how to drive on the wet clay roads. He made me drive around the circle on the Sappa creek, I made it half way, stopped his blazer and walked around to the passenger side and said, "take me home". My goodness, so many good times with such a great colleague. Still chewing on those Jolly Ranchers he started me on! Love you all!
Merrell

Merrell Nelsen - October 06, 2019 at 04:11 PM

JB

“ My heart hurts since hearing of Bernies passing. What a great role model and mentor he was to myself and every student that knew him. I could go on and on but I remember the fishing and camping trips that I tagged along on with Upson's. And of course the iron finger. I had the iron finger in my chest once...and I deserved it...and it taught me my lesson. My dearest sympathies to all of the Phillips family.

Joshua Becker - October 06, 2019 at 02:46 PM

SS

“ Shirley Schirmer lit a candle in memory of Bernard (Jade) E. Phillips Jr.



Shirley Schirmer - October 06, 2019 at 02:36 PM