



Donald Lackey

August 21, 1932 - May 2, 2018

Donald Lackey, 85, of Kearney, died on Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at Brookdale Northridge in Kearney. Memorial services will be on Saturday, May 12, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Kearney. Pastor Sean Dougherty will officiate. Private family inurnment will be prior to services. There will be no visitation. Memorials are suggested to First Baptist Church Building Fund. No flowers or plants, please. Online condolences may be submitted by visiting www.hlmkfuneral.com. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney are in charge of arrangements.

Don was born in Paxton, IL on August 21, 1932 to George and Lula (Dietterle) Lackey. Don was the older of two sons. His childhood was spent in Loda, IL where his parents owned the general store.

He always wanted to try a career in baseball but realized a batting average that approximated his weight prevented that, so he went to umpiring school in Florida and became a minor league umpire for two years. Don completed his military obligation in the Korean War. After the war, he enrolled in college at Eastern Illinois, and after four years working for the Illinois Youth Commission dealing with juvenile delinquents, he began his teaching and coaching career in Ashton, Illinois. In Ashton met Clara, a widow with two children, Bill and Becky, and they had Julie together. Don completed his PhD at the University of Iowa, and then moved the family to Kearney, Nebraska where he completed

a 29-year tenure at UNK. He was inducted into the UNK Athletic Hall of Fame in 2004 for Meritorious Service. He served on the staff from 1969 until his retirement in 1998, providing invaluable service to coaches, athletes and students. From 1971 until retiring, he served as chairman of the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation and Leisure Studies. Don was deeply involved in the planning for, and occupation of, the Health and Sports Center and the renovated Cushing Coliseum. When Don first arrived at UNK, he was an assistant football coach for two years before being named department chairman.

His retirement saw cancer, the death of Bill, RV winters in the south, and a two year stay in Lincoln. Work in the church was very important and rewarding to him. There have been many more days of joy and blessings than sorrows and pains and we thank God for the years He granted.

Survivors include daughters, Becky and husband John Ciemnoczolowski of Hastings, Julie and husband Dennis Florom of Lincoln; eight grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.

Don was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Clara; 1 brother, Dean; son, Bill Jeter.

Tribute Wall



“ Donald Lackey

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ Doc took ne under his wing and truly cared for me. He was a true role model! Doc really took care of his work study workers. If you worked hard for him, he treated you like his own kid. I remember many times he would take me a half mile across campus, past all the long lines of students waiting to register for classes (back then that was how we got our classes), and took me to the front of the line. I felt bad for cutting but he brought me up to the front lady and said "get this boy his classes." Doc had my schedule all figured out and definitely had the pull around the institution. There is absolutely no better people in this world then Doc and Clara Lackey. The world is a lesser place now. My heart hurts for his family and my prayers go out to you all. I cannot express how much I loved this guy! God Bless You Doc!

Love, Kurt Holliday

P.S. even though I do not like the White Sox's, I will be rooting for them this year!

Kurt Holliday - May 10, 2018 at 03:05 PM



“ Dr. Lackey took me under his wing as my unofficial advisor when I transferred to UNK. He was always positive and gracious, and he left a lasting example of compassion and leadership. Will have great memories of Doc - he will be sorely missed!

John Vanderbeek - May 09, 2018 at 01:52 PM

TL

“ Dr Lackey was always so nice to me. His daughter Julie and I were good friends. After many years of not living in Kearney, and moving back after I was injured in the Army, every time I saw him he would stop and say hello. He would tell how Julie and her family were doing. He would always ask me how I was doing and how was my family. Not many people stop and talk and genuinely want to hear how your life is going. Dr Lackey cared and he always had a smile on his face when he talked about his family. RIP

Tammy Lawter - May 09, 2018 at 10:43 AM

TR

“ Certain few people have tremendous influences on our lives. Dr. Lackey was one of those people for me. He seemed to have a sense of when someone was struggling and was always there with support. He was a great mentor and friend to me and later to my brother and sister who also attended KSC. He continued to be so as life went on after our college years. We are all lucky to have been touched by Dr. Lackey.

Tom Ritzdorf

Tom Ritzdorf - May 09, 2018 at 09:42 AM

DD

“ When the ROTC Department closed in 1996, they wanted to keep the canon firing at the games. I asked Dr. Lackey to ask what we should call it since it wasn't ROTC anymore. He said, "It should be the Antelope Artillery." So he coined the name for that group.

*Dennis Dop, 1SG (Ret)
US Army*

Dennis Dop - May 08, 2018 at 07:39 PM

SM

“ Dr. Lackey was one of my teachers my first semester, freshman year at KSC. I learned a great deal from him and later shared the same church and congregation. He and Clara were wonderful spiritual leaders to our group of young couples at church. I loved them both. Many prayers to you all.

*Shari (Marshall Frost) McClure
Hemingford, NE*

Shari McClure - May 07, 2018 at 08:57 AM

FH

“ I always looked at Don as a "solid rock," someone whom you could count on at any time. He was of great support to my mother, Nina Hammer, who lived down the street from Clara and Don for many years. Don was a bulwark of support to the First Baptist Church and made lasting contributions to UNK. He personally led the management and design of the Cushing Coliseum, which turned out to be a quality venue. Hard to believe Don is gone, but he will not be forgotten.

Fred Hammer

fred hammer - May 05, 2018 at 10:18 AM

BH

“ Dr. Don Lackey was one of the best educators in the physical education department on the campuses of Kearney State College and the University of Nebraska Kearney. Dr. Lackey was one that would go out of his way to help all students on the campus. He was a sports enthusiast and followed them all with passion. Any student that had him as an instructor would definitely be blessed with the best. Rest in peace my friend.

Bill Holliday

Bill Holliday - May 04, 2018 at 10:15 PM

JO

“ Sorry for your loss. Great man!! Very influential in my life while attending college and a great role model who helped guide me in the right direction. Dr. Lackey, you will be missed.

Jon - May 04, 2018 at 01:31 PM

MR

“ Don was a wonderful teacher and mentor for me, I will never forget him.

Matthew Roberts - May 04, 2018 at 11:38 AM

MA

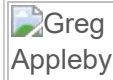
“ Sorry for your loss. Now he can be reunited with Claire. Don was a very important mentor as a department chair, colleague and a friend. RIP

Mary - May 04, 2018 at 09:38 AM

AC

With our loss of Don here on earth is Gods gain in Heaven. In my heart and mind Don will always has and always will be a person that I am very proud to call my friend

Andy Compton - May 06, 2018 at 05:52 PM

Greg Appleby

Dr. Lackey was one of the best teachers I ever had and a major reason I got a degree from Kearney State College. He got me my first coaching job at Overton while I was in college and is the main reason I was able to get into teaching and coaching. He influenced so many lives!! RIP Dr. Lackey.

Greg Appleby - May 07, 2018 at 05:22 PM

NL

Dr. Lackey was an outstanding teacher who had a big impact on my professional career. I always enjoyed visiting with him after my time at UNK as well. He will be missed!

Nathan Lightle - May 09, 2018 at 10:34 AM

BJ

Doc, was a mentor, boss, father figure and a good friend to me during and after college. I stopped in to see him in March and we watched the high school basketball state tournament and ate lunch together that day and I am so thankful we had that time together. Rest in peace Doc, you made a difference in my life.

~Bill Jelkin

Bill Jelkin - May 09, 2018 at 11:28 AM

MN

I never really understood the real meaning of mentor until I met Dr. Lackey. What an example of a life of faith, service, and discipline. Every day I think of something I learned from him. The Lord put him in my life at just the right time, and was I ever blessed. Wishing the family the Lord's blessings.

Michael Nieuwenhuis

michael nieuwenhuis - May 10, 2018 at 12:27 AM

DG

I was also fortunate to have Doc as a boss, mentor, and friend during my time in college and throughout my life. I remember stopping by to talk to Doc and another student would already be in his office. He always made time for everyone. I enjoyed seeing Doc and Clara over the years, which was not as often as I would have liked. They were two great people and the White Sox lost two great fans! They will be missed. My condolences to their family.

Dan Gall

Dan Gall - May 10, 2018 at 12:50 PM