



Dr. Doyle Ervin Howitt, EdD

July 22, 1930 - May 24, 2025

Dr. Doyle Ervin Howitt, EdD, a beloved father and grandfather and friend, passed away peacefully in North Platte NE on May 24th at the age of 94. Memorial services will be held to celebrate Doyles life, 10:30 am, June 5, 2025, at Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney with interment to follow immediately at Kearney Cemetery. Visitation will be from 9:30 to 10:30 am, June 5, 2025, at the funeral home. All friends and family are welcome. The family asks that donations in Doyles name be made to the University of Nebraska Foundation, or the 1890 Collective.

He was born in Sunol, NE on July 22, 1930. He attended Duel County High School in Chappell, NE, served his country in the Army at Ft. Smith AR during the Korean War, and attended the University of Wyoming and Nebraska State Teachers College to complete his undergraduate study, and then received his Master's in Education and Doctorate in Education from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. His life was defined by quiet strength, unwavering integrity, his passion for service, and a deep love for his family, University, and his motorcycles. After retiring from UNK Administration, Doyle devoted himself to supporting and advocating the Elderhostel program within the University, to his family and friends, and to his art. Doyle was widely known within the regional community as an advocate for and contributor to the Arts. As an artist himself, working in exotic woods, Doyle was a prolific creator, and was a regularly featured artist at MONA and collective galleries in Lincoln, Omaha, and Kansas City, he found a supportive fan base for his turnings across four continents.

He leaves behind a community that is richer for having known him, a life's work that has touched and improved countless lives, and a family that is blessed to call him "Dad" and "Papa".

He is survived by his Son, Blake, his Daughter in Law Cheryl, and his grandchildren, Anna, Taylor, Chynna, Connor and Catherine.

He was preceded in death by his Wife, Norma; his Son, Scott; his parents and siblings;

nieces and nephews, and many lifelong friends.

Please follow the link for the family tribute video <https://youtu.be/DwohCaLQ390>

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 5. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

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

Memorial Service

JUN 5. 10:30 AM (CT)

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral And Cremation Services
2421 Ave. A
Kearney, NE 68847

Tribute Wall

BH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Blake Howitt - August 27, 2025 at 12:10 PM

JT

“ Doyle Howitt was a friend to many. He was a treasured member of the Artists' Cooperative Gallery in Omaha, NE. He also exhibited his sought-after wood-turning art pieces at The Burkholder Project in Lincoln, NE.

During retirement, Doyle volunteered at the Museum of Nebraska Art in Kearney and advocated for Nebraska Artists. Dr. Howitt was also an appreciated volunteer at the Crane Trust Nature & Visitor Center.

Doyle made a profound difference in the lives of many. My husband and I hold him in our fondest memories. JK Thorsen

Julie Kregness Thorsen - August 24, 2025 at 02:34 PM

TH

“ My sincerest condolences to Dr. Howitt's family. I was blessed to meet Dr. Howitt when I was a new professor at UNK, and he was always so gracious in giving guest lectures in my Aging class every year. The Family Science student-scholars he spoke to adored him and sat on the edge of their seats when he spoke about aspects of aging, especially being a caregiver for his late wife. Dr. Howitt's light will forever shine through the many students, staff, and faculty whom he enriched. He was a gentle soul and a true gift. Thank you, family, for sharing Dr. Howitt with UNK. Toni Hill, Ph.D.



Toni Hill - June 01, 2025 at 09:14 PM

RM

“ I was fortunate to have many inspiring teachers in my many years of school but “Mr.Howitt” was the best. Our little school in Edgar, Nebraska had a terrible football team, no thanks to me, but Doyle Howitt led us to the Nebraska state academic championship for class D schools. My classmates still get together every year and this is always a fond memory. Robert H. Mikkelsen MD

Robert H. Mikkelsen - May 30, 2025 at 03:58 PM

SN

My last 5 years at Edgar Public School, Doyle Howitt was Superintendent & a teacher. I had him for typing & Speech classes. Great memories & Speech class we were prepared for college classes. Mr. Howitt was a strong personality with discipline while having a gentle, caring concern for each student. I applaud my classmate, Robert Mikkelsen, for his comments as he was right on with his words. Thanks! When our class graduated Mr. Howitt moved onto Kearney State College. What a surprise when I went to register for classes at KSC, my advisor was Doyle Howitt!! He was a super advisor. The education world was his life. And all who have been touched by Doyle Howitt are the better for it. During my college years I babysat for Doyle & Norma. Special people always ready to listen & share their wisdom. Scott & Blake two fun boys.

Special thoughts, prayers, & memories to the family, especially Blake. Thanks for sharing Doyle all those years. Our conversations always included his pride in his family.

Sharon(Fitzke)Floth

Sharon(Fitzke)Floth, Adams, NE - June 07, 2025 at 08:23 PM

JA

“ *Sending prayers for family and friends from your Kearney First United Methodist Church family.*

Jo Ellen Axthelm - May 30, 2025 at 12:44 PM