



## Ronald E. Bovill

April 28, 2015 - April 28, 2015

Ron "Joe" Bovill, 76, of Kearney, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family On April 28, 2015 after a nearly three year battle with cancer.

A Memorial Mass will be on Monday, May 4, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Kearney, NE. Father Joe Hannappel will celebrate and private family burial will be later. There will be no Visitation. A Vigil Wake Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 3, 2015 at the church. In lieu of gifts and flowers, Memorials may be directed to the Ron Bovill and Jane Ziebarth-Bovill Scholarship Fund at the University of Nebraska Foundation. 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.

Ron Bovill was born in Malvern, Iowa on October 10, 1938, the son of Glen and Neva (Stogdill) Bovill. The long-time educator and coach graduated with a Masters Degree in Education from Kearney State College and a B.A. in Education from Wayne State University. Ron started his teaching and coaching career in Allen, Nebraska after graduating from Wayne State

University in 1961 where he was a member of the football team and active in the drama department, passions that he would carry throughout his life. He married Jane Ziebarth on March 4, 2000 in Axtell, NE.

Following 32 years of teaching and coaching at the high school level, Ron spent several years as a professor in the Education Department at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. In 2011, he was inducted into the UNK Academy for Teacher Education Excellence. He was the first director of the UNK Network of Partner Schools. Ron and his wife and fellow UNK professor, Jane Ziebarth-Bovill have been published several times in the field of

education and they co-authored the book *Amazing Alec: A Boy of Remarkable*

*Character*. Ron also wrote the novel *Absolution* and the poem *Life is Good* which was first published in the scholarly journal, *Education*.

Other teaching and coaching stops for Ron included St. Mary's High in O'Neill, St. Cecilia in Hastings and Aurora High School. His 1976 women's track team at Aurora High School was the Class B State Champions.

Prior to heading to Aurora, Ron worked as the News Director for KHAS-TV in Hastings for two and a half years. He also performed professionally in his one-man show as Mark Twain. Hollywood found him in the 70s and flew him out to California to shoot commercials as Mark Twain for Wells Fargo Bank.

An active member at St. James Church in Kearney, Ron delivered communion to home bound parishioners and was an honorary member of the Knights of Columbus. He also served as a mentor in Tom Osborne's TeamMates Mentoring Program to middle school kids and was a member of the Lion's Club.

Ron is survived by his wife, Dr. Jane Ziebarth-Bovill; children Kirk Bovill and his wife Joni of Los Angeles, CA, Kami Landenberger and husband Randy of Omaha, NE, Shawn Bovill and his wife Maria of Bangkok, Thailand, Pat Bovill and his wife Xan of Chicago, IL; four grandchildren, Tyler Landenberger, Lee Landenberger, Lane Landenberger and Kellen Bovill; mother Neva Bovill of Wahoo; sister Jo Anna Sheets of Lincoln, NE; brother Doug Bovill of Round Rock, TX and Father In Law Wayne Ziebarth

He was preceded in death by his father Glen Bovill and brother Larry Bovill.

PDF Printable Version

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ronald E. Bovill*

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *You meant a lot to me and many young men and women. A timeless legacy. Thank you Coach.*

**Andrew Allen** - May 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Wishing you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your hearts. I am sorry to hear of your lose but recall a Helen Keller quote. "What we have once enjoyed we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us."*

**Sherri Humrich Pearce** - May 13, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Joe: My 1952 - 1956 classmate from Wahoo High School. My sympathy, love and prayers to all your family.*

**Sharon Ellsberry Kolterman** - May 05, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *I'm sorry for Ron's passing. what a neat person. John Abe*

**John Abrahamson** - May 04, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ Our condolences for the family of Ron. He is remembered as a wonderful mentor for our Daughter Lisa while attending Aurora High School. We will always remain thankful that he was on the AHS staff during our time in Aurora. He was a fine gentleman who will be missed.

---

**Russ and Norma Gertsch** - May 04, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TE

“ Coach, you will be missed. You could always get your point across, but pick a player up at the same time. Our prayers go out to your family.

*Tim Ernst*  
1978

---

**Tim Ernst** - May 04, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ I am so sorry to hear of Ron's death. I admired his dedication and enthusiasm to teaching and learning having taught with him at Aurora. He did an unforgettable Mark Twain act. When Rollie Carter and Dr. Burling retired, Ron did an excellent job "roasting" them. Ron will be missed.

---

**Carolyn Bresee** - May 03, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ Mr. Bovill was my high school civics teacher and also helped coach me in track at St Cecilia's Catholic Schools in the early 2970's.. We all loved Mr. Bovill so much and one of his sayings to us all became a chant that we cheered at football games and more! "You gotta want it so bad" was his saying to us and we respected and loved him very much. I am so sorry for your loss. I had Mr. Bovill in 1971 and my niece Vanessa Gauthier had him as a college professor when she attended Kearney State. What a wonderful man he was.  
Gail Gauthier Bailey

---

**Gail Bailey** - May 03, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ Condolences to Mr. Bovill's family. He was a wonderful speech teacher and track coach who had the ability to bring out the best in every student and athlete. He was an unforgettable person, who will be missed by many. Hugs and Prayers!! Rest in Peace, Mr. Bovill.  
Lori (Andersen) Beck, Aurora H.S. '85

---

**Lori Andersen Beck** - May 03, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ Feel very fortunate to have known Coach. He was a great Coach, teacher and prepared us for life's journey.  
Class of 1970 St. Cecilia

---

**Bill Ashburn** - May 02, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ Chris Knievel has sent this Expressions of Sympathy card.

---

**Chris Knievel** - May 02, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NB

“ I was so saddened to read of Ron's death. My deepest sympathy to Jane and his family. I will always remember working with Ron as a partner school.

---

**Nancy Brosamle** - May 02, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ My deepest sympathy to Jane and family. I had the pleasure of getting to know Ron over the last several years. We both enjoyed talking about sports. What a great man!

---

**Doug Hohman** - May 02, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Mike Funk has sent this Expressions of Sympathy card.

---

**Mike Funk** - May 01, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ Coach Bovill's Family, I want to extend my sincerest sympathy in your loss. He was a tremendous man, teacher and coach that I feel blessed to have known. He was a Master Motivator, who inspired superior effort and achievement. If we are lucky, we play for a coach like Ron Bovill, and we are luckier still if their lessons remain with us. Please know he had a great impact in my life.

*Blessings and prayers,*

*Sondra Obermeier Herold  
Aurora 1976*

---

**Sondra 'Obermeier' Herold** - May 01, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ *Michael McCarville has sent this Expressions of Sympathy card.*

Michael McCarville - May 01, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ *Rest IN Peace Coach.*

Dennis Pavelka - May 01, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NE

“ *Mr. Bovil was a favorite of mine, a great teacher who inspired me, and definitely helped shape me into who I am today. Very grateful for his influence in my life. Praying for your family.*  
*Class of 1994*

Nikki Erickson - April 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *Coach you were a major positive influence to our class. And the best teacher.*

*St. Mary's class of 1968*

Scott Stewart - April 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ *Coach you were a great teacher and a food friend*  
*Class of 1968*

Tom Hickey - April 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM