



Scott & Kathy Maline

September 5, 2025

Scott T. Maline, age 73, and Kathy L. Maline, age 71, both of Kearney, NE, passed away Friday, September 5, 2025, as a result of an automobile accident near Darr, NE. The Celebration of life will be on Monday, September 15, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at the Kearney E-Free Church. The family requests that those in attendance wear something colorful. Kathy loved a pop of color. There will be no visitation or burial. A livestream can be viewed by visiting www.kearneyefree.com/live prior to the start of the service on Monday. Please visit www.hlmkfuneral.com to leave a message or condolence. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Service is in charge of arrangements. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to a memorial fund at First National Bank - Kearney addressed to Heidi Wigley, Brooke Cooper, or Brett Maline. Alternative method for giving: <https://gofund.me/1526756b9>

Kathy Lynn Ross was born on January 8, 1954 in Cozad, Nebraska to Milton and Marge (Gaudreault) Ross. She graduated from Cozad High school in 1972, receiving her bachelor's degree in Education from Kearney State College. Starting her career in social work, she went on to serve children and families across the state as a teacher, para, and caregiver for 43 years. In her youth she could be seen twirling the baton, water skiing at Midway Lake, and participating in Job's Daughters.

Scott Taylor Maline was born on December 18, 1951 in Cozad, Nebraska to

Donald and Isabel (Taylor) Maline. He graduated from Cozad High school in 1970 and received his bachelor's degree in mathematics from Kearney State College. Starting his teaching and coaching journey in Gibbon, Nebraska, Scott went on to receive his Master's degree in Education Administration and completed his Doctorate of Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He was a lifelong educator who served children and the Nebraska communities of Gibbon, Geneva, Elkhorn, Minden, and Litchfield. He also went on to teach at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Scott was a lifelong athlete with numerous accolades at Cozad and Kearney State College; he loved any and all sports and his sense of humor earned him the beloved nickname "Scooter."

Kathy met her high school sweetheart, Scott, in the halls of Cozad High. They married on August 3, 1974 in Cozad, Nebraska and were devoted to each other for 51 years. The couple was blessed with three children: Heidi, and twins Brooke and Brett. Some of their recent favorite pastimes were pickleball, Friday night couples golf league, theater shows, and walks with their dog Rosco out at Yanny Park. Kathy was proud to be an active member of Chapter EG PEO in Kearney and loved volunteering for the Kearney Literacy Council. Scott was a member of Rotary International and volunteered for CASA and Teammates. Their children and extended family will cherish memories of special holidays and vacations and their unconditional love and support. Their legacy will live on through the many lives they've touched.

Kathy and Scott were devoted grandparents to Isabel, Evie, Abigail, and Lillian. They took many trips to New Zealand to see Heidi's family and were a constant presence in Brooke's girls' lives in Kearney.

Surviving relatives include Kathy's mother, Marge Ballard of Gothenburg, NE; children, Heidi (Dan) Wigley of Christchurch, NZ, Brooke (Doug) Cooper of Kearney, NE, Brett Maline of Los Angeles, CA; grandchildren, Isabel, Evie,

Abigail, Lillian; several sisters, brothers, nieces, nephews, and other extended family and friends.

They were preceded in death by Scott's parents, Donald and Isabel Maline; Kathy's father, Milton Ross; Scott's sister, Jane Maline and sister-in-law, Vicki Maline.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP **15**. 11:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

GM

“ *My condolences to the families of Scott & Kathy Maline. They both contributed to the education and well-being of many young people. Their lives were cut short by this tragic accident, but may we all remember their diligence, dedication and determination in helping others. Much love and healing to family & friends of Kathy & Scott.*

Ginny May - September 16, 2025 at 07:20 PM



“ *You were such a wonderful host family to me. Whenever I think of you, my memories are always filled with warmth and gratitude. Thank you so much for giving me such beautiful memories in the United States. May you rest peacefully in heaven.*

Hye Yoon Kim - September 16, 2025 at 05:04 AM

KN

“ *We were shocked with news of Kathy and Scott's tragic accident! What a wonderful couple. What a loss. We got to know them when we were superintendents in Minden and Cozad. They were a fun couple to be with and we enjoyed meeting them at administrative meetings and conferences and getting together with them when we moved to Kearney. We were unable to attend their funeral but watched it on line. What a meaningful service. Your comments were very touching. They will missed!*

Ken and Julie Nelson

Kenneth Nelson - September 15, 2025 at 02:09 PM

CL

“ Dear Brett, Brook, and the Maline family,

I am deeply sorry for the loss of your parents. There are no words that can ease the pain of such a profound and sudden tragedy. Please know that you are in the thoughts and prayers of many, and that support and love surround you during this incredibly difficult time.

May you find some comfort in one another, in the love that remains, and in the memories that will forever hold them close. Their presence will live on in the hearts of all who loved them, and in the strength of your family.

*With deepest sympathy,
Claude*

claudia - September 15, 2025 at 11:26 AM

CC

“ Claudia C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Scott & Kathy Maline.

Claudia C. - September 15, 2025 at 11:20 AM

TB

“ *Brett, Brooke, Heidi, and Maline & Ross Families:*

We are heartbroken with the loss of Scott and Kathy in this tragic accident. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. While Scott was superintendent at Minden Public Schools, I was the Director of Gifted Education at ESU #11 and Tammy was a 2nd grade teacher at Minden. Scott and Kathy were both very supportive of all programs we worked with, but I particularly appreciated their support of the ESU#11 Summer Honors Program over the years. Scott and Kathy touched many lives and we are all a lot better off today as a result. They will be missed by all.

Tim and Tammy Burke

Tim Burke - September 15, 2025 at 10:24 AM

JM

“ *Heidi, Brooke and Brett*

We are so sorry for the loss of your parents. Our hearts go out to you. I was your Dad's superintendent during his first principalship in Geneva, NE. He was a great principal! Your Mom, too, fit right into the community and played an active role in your Dad's success. Elenore and I enjoyed them so much. May your faith, friends and family help fill the void that they left. We know they are in good hands now and all of you are, too, because they raised you well! GOD BLESS.

Jim and Elenore Merritt

Jim Merritt - September 14, 2025 at 04:45 PM

CA

“ Craig A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Scott & Kathy Maline.

Craig A. - September 14, 2025 at 10:23 AM

JS

“ Devastated over this news as I worked closely with Scott for four years and will forever be grateful for his guidance and mentorship. My wife and I would spend an evening at Scott and Kathy’s house over the Holidays and they were always such gracious hosts. My thoughts and prayers are with the Maline family during this difficult time.

Jeff Smith

Jeff Smith - September 13, 2025 at 02:36 PM

MS

“ Our Hearts break for all of the family! Our prayers and love go out to whole family! May GOD wrap his arms around Kathy & Scott! Bless this Family!
Hugs !

Allen and Margaret Stoltz!!



Margaret stoltz - September 13, 2025 at 11:27 AM

C1

“ Cozad Class of 1972 planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Scott & Kathy Maline.

Cozad Class of 1972 - September 12, 2025 at 11:37 PM

C1

“ Cozad Class of 1972 purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Scott & Kathy Maline.



Cozad Class of 1972 - September 12, 2025 at 11:37 PM

MF

“ Michael Boehler Family purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Scott & Kathy Maline.



Michael Boehler Family - September 12, 2025 at 08:15 AM

MF

“ Michael Boehler Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Scott & Kathy Maline.

Michael Boehler Family - September 12, 2025 at 08:15 AM

SA

“ Scott coached at Gibbon with my dad, Fred Reed. I remember my mom picking Kathy up to carpool to away games with us. To me as a little 10 year old girl they were “Ken & Barbie”. I got my first teaching job out of college in Elkhorn (1985) when Scott was a principal at EHS. He was a hero, mentor, and such a fun person! Kathy was always a woman of grace , and kindness. They made a difference in every community they lived. They will be greatly missed by many!
It's with a heavy heart I'm writing this. Sarah Reed Nordlund

Sarah - September 11, 2025 at 09:49 PM

BR

“ I enjoyed being Scott’s supervisor at CASA. He was a very nice volunteer. Praying for his family.

Barb Rios - September 11, 2025 at 09:32 PM

DC

“ Doug & Gail White, Brit & Cortney purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Scott & Kathy Maline.



Doug & Gail White, Brit & Cortney - September 11, 2025 at 07:56 PM

MK

“ Mark, Nancy, Collin, Kate, and the kids purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Scott & Kathy Maline.



Mark, Nancy, Collin, Kate, and the kids - September 11, 2025 at 11:46 AM

SK

“ Kathy and I were on same floor in the dorm our freshman year. I was also a baton twirler. Something I think her kids and grandkids should know was her rare ability to take a nap and hold her contacts between her thumbs and forefingers. This was the old days of hard contacts. They were both treasures and am so sorry for your loss.

sue kramer - September 11, 2025 at 10:20 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Scott & Kathy Maline.

September 11, 2025 at 09:39 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Scott & Kathy Maline.



September 11, 2025 at 09:39 AM

TS

“Brad and I were so saddened to hear of the passing of Scott and Kathy Maline. Most people know that the four of us shared a chapter of life together in Litchfield while running the school. Of course, much of the leadership fell to Scott and Brad, but Kathy and I were right there—supporting, helping, and walking through those trying times together.

I'll never forget one particular call in the middle of the turmoil. Scott simply asked me, "Tina, how are you doing?" That memory still brings tears to my eyes, because it showed how deeply he cared, even when carrying his own burdens.

Kathy and I stayed in touch off and on through the years, and though it's been a long time since we last spoke, I'll always cherish her kindness and strength. Their love for their children and grandchildren was evident in every conversation—they were truly a picture-perfect family, even as they faced their own hardships.

Scott and Kathy were lifelong educators—steadfast, resilient, and admirable. Leadership in education is not an easy path; I saw firsthand how rough it can be. Yet Scott carried it with grace, and Kathy stood faithfully beside him.

Our hearts and prayers are with their family. May the memory of their love and legacy bring comfort in the days ahead.

Tina Stithem - September 11, 2025 at 02:30 AM

LN

“Kathy was my freshman roommate in college.. just the best ever.. Scott was as always close by.. the perfect couple💕it's been 50 some years but we kept in touch through yearly Christmas cards.. sharing our beautiful families with each other.. will miss them so..
LaDonna (Risseeuw) Nelson

LaDonna Nelson - September 10, 2025 at 11:32 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Scott & Kathy Maline.

September 10, 2025 at 10:26 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Scott & Kathy Maline.



September 10, 2025 at 10:26 AM



“ Brett and family, our hearts are breaking over your loss. Tom and I are glad we met your parents during a visit to LA. We met them again in Kearney for dinner once when driving through Nebraska. We certainly enjoyed our visit with them. Brett, we are pleased Nathan has such a good midwestern friend in LA. ❤️ Tom & Lana Caywood



Lana Caywood - September 09, 2025 at 08:36 PM



“ Steph Koenig and Chris Riggi planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Scott & Kathy Maline.

Steph Koenig and Chris Riggi - September 09, 2025 at 12:47 PM

SR

“ *Steph Koenig and Chris Riggi purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Scott & Kathy Maline.*



Steph Koenig and Chris Riggi - September 09, 2025 at 12:47 PM

DL

“ *I worked in the area as an administrator while Scott was the supt at Litchfield. We attended many of the same meetings regularly, and had some great conversations. He always left an impression. I'm so saddened by this tragic loss for his family and friends. Prayers sent.*

Dawn Lewis - September 09, 2025 at 09:51 AM

RT

“ *Joann and I are heartbroken over this terrible accident. Scott and his siblings were my cousins and we spent many fun times at family reunions and vacations to Uncle Don and Aunt Isabel's cabin in Colorado. Over the years we were separated by distance and family responsibilities, but always kept in touch. We loved stopping by and seeing Scott and Kathy while being in Nebraska and their visit to our home in Oregon. I know they are now resting in peace in our Savior's home. May God bless the Maline family. ❤️❤️🙏🙏*

Rick & Joann Taylor - September 08, 2025 at 06:04 PM

PK

“ Scott was my principal for 6 years at Elkhorn High School. He and Kathy were always so supportive and positive. I appreciated working with Scott and have wonderful memories of those years. I am so sorry to hear of their passing. May God give you strength and peace in the days and months ahead. Pam Kooiker

Pam Kooiker - September 08, 2025 at 11:02 AM

CW

I grew up in Cozad, NE living a few blocks away from Kathy. Scott and Kathy were high school sweethearts that everyone adored. I cannot imagine what their families must be going through. Thoughts and prayers are with the Maline's and the Ross Family. They entered the gates of heaven 🙏 together ❤️.
Rest in Peace Scott and Kathy.

Cindy Wells - September 08, 2025 at 10:21 PM

DB

Please accept my sympathy on the tragic death of Scott and Kathy. Things will be tough, but you will make it.
Dick Beechner

Dick Beechner - September 11, 2025 at 10:48 AM

GA

“ Scott and Kathy lived in Chapel Hill and were members of Peace Presbyterian Church when they lived in Elkhorn. We were deeply saddened to hear of their fatal accident. My wife, Joyce, also taught in the Elkhorn Schools. I grew up on a farm near Lexington, and Cozad was a rivalry, so we had many things in common. We watched our kids grow up with theirs. Our prayers are with Heidi, Brook, and Brett.

Gaylan and Joyce Abood

Gaylan and Joyce Abood - September 08, 2025 at 01:03 AM

MN

So very sorry for your loss...Scott was my superintendent in Minden for 10 years! It was great working under him and I taught Brook and Brett. Kathy was always very supportive. May they RIP!
Michael and Mary Nickel

Michael and Mary Nickel - September 08, 2025 at 12:39 PM

MY

Never take life for granted. I am deeply saddened by the news of Scott and Kathy's passing. Their smiles, energy, and beautiful souls have Blessed so many others on this earth. May they Rest in Peace knowing they have left a legacy for us to carry on. Please extend my sincerest sympathy to their children and extended family as they share memories and celebrate the good life Scott and Kathy shared with so many people.

Marilyn Yeutter

Marilyn Yeutter - September 08, 2025 at 01:43 PM

BS

Scott & I were principals together in Elkhorn. Our families were friends & we attended Peace Presbyterian Church with them. This news was devastating and our family sends our love & prayers to Heidi, Brooke & Brett & the other family members.. Scott & Kathy will be missed. RIP, Scott & Kathy..

Barry & Jeanne Stark & family

Barry Stark - September 08, 2025 at 08:06 PM

TH

My family met the Maline family when we moved to Cozad from North Platte in 1957. We have such wonderful memories from our times together. Our deepest sympathies to Scott and Kathy's children, Heidi, Brooke and Brett and their families. May God give you strength, comfort and peace knowing that Scott and Kathy have an eternal home in Heaven.

Terry Heltne - September 09, 2025 at 12:08 PM

KL

I first met Dr. Maline when I took a school law course at UNK several years ago. He was a great story teller who was able to bring important lessons (regarding boring content) to life! I never forgot what he taught us. Later on, our paths crossed as we were both members of the Nebraska Schoolmaster's Club. He was such an affable guy who was respected by all of his peers. May God give your family peace knowing he and Kathy are together in the eternal afterlife.

Kraig Lofquist - September 10, 2025 at 10:12 AM

KM

*Heidi, Brett, and Brook and all of the Maline family, I hope you can feel the comfort of all the prayers going up on your behalf. Your parents were wonderful people, whom (like everyone else), I adored. When Kathy was a para at Park Elementary, she helped our staff develop a special program (called the Transitional Learning Center) for children on the Autism Spectrum. She had the perfect calm, patient, and loving countenance that served children with special needs so perfectly. I will always remember her for how she interacted with few words and many encouraging smiles with our children. She was simply so sweet (and funny)! Both parents served so many families throughout their careers in education, and I am proud to call both of your parents my friends. Lovingly,
Katie Mathews*

Kathleen Mathews - September 11, 2025 at 10:17 AM

LC

Scott and I spent many hours traveling the byways and highways of Nebraska visiting rural School Districts. I am proud to have called him my friend.

Larry Cihal - September 12, 2025 at 11:19 AM

GS

Dear Marge, Kent & Maline & Ross Families. My heart is so broken for all of you and as well as mine. My Dad was in business with Kathy's dad, "Ross", Marge was my sister's baton instructor, & so many other family connections over the years from when I was probably 5 years old. We've lost touch over the years, but my memories have not been. I appreciate what the Ross' did for my family over the years and the connections that we made. Continued thoughts, prayers, & hugs across the miles. As difficult as it is, let's celebrate their well lived lives as grateful & faithful servants to our communities.

Gary Skala - September 14, 2025 at 08:51 PM