



## William "Bill" Lutz

September 1, 1934 - July 28, 2018

William "Bill" Lutz, 83, Kansas City, Missouri (formerly of Topeka, Kansas) passed away peacefully Saturday, July 28, 2018.

Bill was born September 1, 1934 in Topeka, the son of Roy and Marguerite Loeffler Lutz. He attended Holy Name Grade School and graduated from Hayden High School. He spent his 20th and 21st birthdays in the hospital fighting for his life with two types of polio. He promised God that if He would give him the use of his arms and legs back, then he would give 25 years of his life to the youth of Topeka. He missed two basketball seasons but did everything in his power to regain his strength. When he was physically able, he returned to Holy Name School where he first began coaching. For 33 years Bill was involved with coaching basketball and baseball, making sure his athletes knew that he cared for them off the court as well as on. He taught them to keep their priorities in order, first was God and family, then school and then basketball.

Bill met the love of his life, Shirley Semler, and after the first few dates he told a friend that he would marry her. They became engaged but just a few short days before their wedding day his diagnosis of polio made them call it all off. Shirley stayed through those painful months and when his health improved, they planned it all again. They enjoyed 63 years together.

Bill's early career was in men's clothing, working in many of the well-known shops of the past, including Gibbs Clothing, Ray Beers and Frank Griggs Men's Wear. He retired from the State of Kansas Motor Vehicle Department.

Grateful to have shared Bill's life are his wife, Shirley; sons, Kent Lutz (Connie) and Kevin Lutz (Tish Aspegren); grandchildren, Brandon, Trisha Lutz-Ball (James), Payton, Laura Welker (Clint) and Jenna Joplin (John); and great-grandchildren, Aiden, Mya, Owen, Blake, Max and Annie. Bill was preceded in death by his grandson, Christopher Lutz and his siblings, Bob, Tom and Myrtle.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Friday at 11:30 a.m. at Mater Dei Holy Name Church, 1114 SW 10th Street, Topeka KS 66604. Visitation will be one hour prior to Mass. Burial will follow at Mount Hope Cemetery.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Special Olympics or Hayden Catholic High School sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614 or Charter Funeral Home, 77 NE 72nd Street, Gladstone MO 64118.

Condolences may be sent online to [www.kevinbrennanfamily.com](http://www.kevinbrennanfamily.com).

# Cemetery

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## Mount Hope Cemetery

4700 SW 17th Street

Topeka, KS, 66604

# Events

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**AUG** **Visitation** 10:30AM - 11:30AM

**3**

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Mater Dei Holy Name Church

1114 SW 10th Street, Topeka, KS, US, 66604

**AUG** **Mass of Christian Burial** 11:30AM

**3**

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Mater Dei Holy Name Church

1114 SW 10th Street, Topeka, KS, US, 66604

# Comments

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“ An external video has been added.



**Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home** - August 20, 2018 at 11:40 AM

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“ Dear Shirley, Kevin and Kent and Family,  
So veev sorry for your loss. We'll always remember as will others, our Mr. Lutz's warm smile and affirming hand shake. I always knew how proud he was of his wife and sons and grands. You wouldn't know if he was having a bad day because he greeted people and life with a gracious attitude. He enjoyed the people around him whatever setting. He was always glad to see you no matter how much time passed between encounters. He made one feel like family. God comfort and bless each of you. May the best of your memories of him bless and inspire you. With affection,  
Cathie and Mike Halpin

**Cathie Halpin** - August 08, 2018 at 06:24 AM

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“ Shirley & Kevin & Kent & Families  
I'm so sorry for your loss. We have been on vacation and just read the paper. I remember everything about Bill that is in the obituary. Even though he didn't "coach" the girls, I knew him well. I felt very special when he & Shirley trusted me to babysit you boys when you were little. He was indeed a great mentor, coach and truly had a love for his family, sports and Holy Name School! He loved coaching and really cared for every boy he coached. He was a very proud Father! As you grew older and moved away, every time I ran into him, he couldn't wait to tell me what you were up to. He just beamed when he spoke about you and his grandchildren.  
He certainly has touched so many young lives in Topeka!  
Sally (Gay) & John Brooke

**Sally Brooke** - August 04, 2018 at 04:49 PM

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“ I remember Coach from Holy Name.

I am very sorry for your loss.



**Julie Caton Spencer** - August 02, 2018 at 08:12 PM

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“ Lots of wonderful memories of Lincoln street, too many to choose the best. He will be forever in my favorite memories of childhood!

**kim** - August 02, 2018 at 09:30 AM

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“ Shirley and family,  
So very sorry for your loss. Bill was a remarkable person, great husband and parent. We are proud to have had Bill and Shirley as are friends. May God comfort you all in your time of mourning. RIP BILL, we love you.  
~ Gerry, Debbie, Matt, Tara Tinsley, Topeka, Kansas

**Gerard Tinsley** - August 02, 2018 at 09:03 AM

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“ We were friends of Bill and Shirley for many years; in fact, Bill sold Ray his wedding suit over 62 years ago. We were also friends through many years of baseball and basketball, both for and against Bill's teams. Our sympathy, thoughts and prayers go out to Shirley and family.

**Lavon Vossen** - August 02, 2018 at 08:05 AM

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“ As a high school senior many, many years ago, I worked for Mr. Lutz (as I called him) through an office coop program. I attended Topeka High in the mornings and worked at the Dept. of Revenue in the afternoon. Bill was my boss. I have thought about him so many times over the years and have the best memories of working for him in my first office job. I never saw him again after that year, but his positive impact on me has never been forgotten. There's no doubt his mentorship made an impact on my career. I regret never looking him up later to thank him. My deepest condolences are with all of his family and friends. He certainly was a special man.

**Dawn (Ketter) Kibbee** - August 02, 2018 at 07:23 AM

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“ Rest in Peace my friend. Thanks for the memories. You and Doc are flying high again. Save places for Shirley and me.  
Love you, Eileen Moore Hepford

**Eileen Moore Hepford** - August 01, 2018 at 07:33 PM

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“ Bill Lutz was my coach and more importantly my Friend. Shirley, you shared your life with a fine man. Mr Lutz gave so much to the youth of Topeka. No one cared as much for the success of all he came into contact with. My life was enriched by his place in it.

**Bob Zimmerman** - August 01, 2018 at 06:49 PM

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“ Shirley, Kent , Kevin. Very sorry to hear this. Prayers with you. Mark Sweeney

**Mark Sweeney** - July 31, 2018 at 11:42 PM

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“ Kevin and Family,  
I remember your folks well being a kid at Assumption Grade School. Such nice people. Soar with the Angels, Bill.

-Kathy (Butler) Votaw

**Kathy Votaw** - July 31, 2018 at 09:50 PM

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“ Shirley, Kevin and Kent,  
I am so sorry to hear of Bill's passing. He was a special part of my life, as a classmate and friend of my Dad, and as a friend of mine. He was truly a giant in Topeka youth sports and a life long supporter of Hayden High School. We have lost a great man, my thoughts and prayers are with all of you.  
God Bless

**Rick Strecker** - July 31, 2018 at 09:41 PM



“ May God bless Bill and his family's love I will take memories of your family forever

**Edmund pilarz** - August 01, 2018 at 04:44 AM



“ Ben and I have great memories of Bill and send our sympathy to all the family. I especially recall Bill taking a young coach's wife to the "away" games when he knew we only had one working car. So thoughtful in many ways!

**Klara Meseke** - August 01, 2018 at 09:05 AM



“ Shirley, Kevin and Kent, Sorry to about coaches passing. He will be missed. I'll see you Friday

**Tom Smith** - August 01, 2018 at 10:26 AM



“ Dear Shirley & Family,

I am so sorry to hear about your loss. I met Bill years ago while I was working with you Shirley at Northwestern National Insurance. The last time I saw Bill & you was during your photo section with the Church Directory.

I always thought Bill seem like such a positive person who was upbeat and always smiling. May it comfort you to know that he was well thought of in the Topeka community, and was a Godly man who lead a full life of service to others.

May he rest in peace.

Jan Dohrman

St. Marys, KS (formerly lived in Topeka)

**Jan Dohrman** - August 01, 2018 at 10:45 AM



“ Many great memories of Bill and his support for Hayden athletics. He was always so positive and encouraging whenever I had the pleasure of visiting with him. RIP

Dick Michaelis '71

**Dick Michaelis** - August 01, 2018 at 10:29 PM