



Marvin Eugene Darrah, Ph.D.

February 24, 1931 - May 29, 2019

Marvin Eugene Darrah, Ph.D., 88, Topeka, Kansas, passed away Wednesday, May 29, 2019.

Always the devoted son, Marvin was born February 24, 1931 to Will and Rosa Massie Darrah, raised in Lyons and Sterling, Kansas, and graduated from Lyons High School. He served in the U.S. Army as Sgt. 1st Class Artillery in the Korean War. Marvin continued his education at Sterling College (BA), Pittsburg State (Masters), and Kansas State University (Doctorate).

A dedicated educator, Marvin served as a principal, mentor, and teacher in Greensburg, Kansas, Junction City Jr. High, and Fort Riley Junior High as well as a co-principal for Junction City High School. He helped mentor foreign exchange students and young people even when he retired.

Marvin brought out the best in people with his positive outlook on life and unconditional support. He shared his wisdom, generously and advocated for those in need. Marvin will be remembered for his quick wit, passion for history, engaging intellect, and shared jokes.

Survivors include Beryl Wilson, Beryl Darrah, Glenda Swander, Barb Bryant, Donna Lardner, Paul Skinner, several nieces and nephews.

Graveside service will be 10 a.m. Monday, June 3, 2019, at Rochester Cemetery, NW Menninger Road, Topeka KS 66618.

Previous Events

Committal Service

JUN 3. 10:00 AM (CT)

Rochester Cemetery
1200 NW Menninger Rd
Topeka, KS 66618

Tribute Wall



“ *Marvin Eugene Darrah, Ph.D.*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Marvin and I started work at JCKHS the same year; he was a new hire for assistant principal and I was a first year English teacher, just out of K State. He was a complex man, and it took some time to really know him---but it was worth the effort to so so. It is noteworthy that, until I read the details of his professional journey, I thought he and I had served together for more years than it was; he made a strong impression on me, as a person and as a teacher, and he is missed.*

As others have noted, he was always fair minded, and the longer I knew him, the more appreciation I had not only for his fairness but also for his sense of humor, which was sharp, and often unexpected.

Over the years, I have worked with something in the neighborhood of thirty building level administrators and quite a lot of central office administrators; I would give Marvin Darrah a spot in my top ten.

Kate Moore

Kate Moore - July 30, 2019 at 12:31 PM



“ *Beryl, I was sorry to read of the loss of your brother. You have my sympathy. I know how important brothers can be to our own growth and maturity as well as someone to share memories with. May those memories comfort you. Mary Jane*

Mary Jane Burns - June 03, 2019 at 05:13 PM

“ I came to Fort Riley Junior High School in the fall of 1973 to teach 7th grade social studies. Mr. Darrah was the new principal taking over from Herschal Olmstead who was retiring. Mr. Darrah was a "tough but fair" man. During my first year at FRJHS, I was the assistant 9th grade football coach. While conducting a football drill during practice after school my school keys fell out of my pocket and dropped into the thick grass unbeknownst to me. The next day when I couldn't find my keys, I went to Mr. Darrah and informed him that I had lost them. I fully expected him to say "that's all right, Brad" and give me another set of keys. He looked me in the eye with that Mr. Darrah look and sternly said "You better find those keys Brad" I went home and got my lawnmower and brought it to school. I took it to the area where I had been conducting the drill and started mowing the grass as low as I could. I had only mowed two or three rows of grass when lo and behold I saw the keys. I was so happy! I went in to tell Mr. Darrah and he gave me an "atta boy" comment and told me he knew I could find the keys. I was so relieved! On another occasion, I was accused by a female student of inappropriate conduct and language. She had told her father and the father went to see Mr. Darrah demanding that I be fired. Mr. Darrah called me into his office, described the accusation, and asked me if I had done the things the student accused me of doing. I denied all of the things I was accused of doing. Mr. Darrah asked me if I had any objection if he called in a few of the students in the class that the female student was in of mine. I said "no". A day later, Mr. Darrah called me back into his office and said "Brad, I didn't just call in a few students of the class involved, I called all 25 of them in. All 25 students testified that you had not done any of the things that the female student had accused you of doing. Mr. Darrah informed me that after he conducted his investigation, he called the father of the female student and told him that he better get his daughter under control or there would be further action taken against her for her false accusations. Mr. Darrah saved my a**!!! I will forever be indebted to him for what he did for me. I continued to teach at FRJHS/FRMS for 29 years. Mr. Darrah was the best principal I had in my teaching career and I am extremely thankful to have known

him. May he rest in peace.

Bradley Hall - May 31, 2019 at 06:35 PM

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That is exactly what Marvin did on many occasions. A very wise man kind but not one to expect less from someone than what they are capable of.

Ann Aponte - June 04, 2019 at 03:15 AM