



Neil Bartley

May 20, 1943 - May 5, 2020

We will be live streaming Neil's memorial service Friday May 15, at 10 a.m. on our Facebook page. You can click on this link and may need to scroll down. KBFFH Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Kevin-Brennan-Family-Funeral-Home-116876148342762/>)

Neil L. Bartley, 76, Topeka, Kansas, passed away peacefully at his home with his family, Tuesday, May 5, 2020,

Neil was born May 20, 1943, in Topeka, the son of Loren and Kuni-gunda Brenner Bartley. He graduated from Hayden High School in 1961 and Washburn University in 1966, playing basketball for both schools. He married Marsha Berberick and to that union four children were born.

A dedicated educator, Neil taught and coached various sports at Hayden, but basketball was his love. Following his 24-year career at Hayden, Neil owned and operated Bartley Construction until his retirement.

Fifteen years ago, Neil and Marlene Oppenlander were united in marriage at Christ the King Catholic Church. She survives.

Grateful to have shared his life are his wife, Marlene; children, Neil Bartley

(Stacy), Mendy Jump (Randall), Sean Bartley and Bret Bartley; two step-sons, Robert and Brian Oppenlander; grandchildren, Katie and Megan Jump and Ethan, Ava and Mia Bartley; brothers, Bernard Bartley (Suzanne) and Loren Bartley (Karen); and many nieces and nephews. Neil was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Roberta Peterson.

Neil brought out the best in people with his unconditional support. He will be remembered for his quick wit and shared jokes.

Family will greet friends from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Friday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Social distancing is required at both the visitation and Mass. Inurnment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to Topeka Rescue Mission and Ronald McDonald House, sent in care of the funeral home.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 14. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Mass of Christian Burial

MAY 15. 10:00 AM (CT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
312 NE Freeman Ave
Topeka, KS 66616

Tribute Wall



“ *Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Neil Bartley*



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - May 13, 2020 at 04:32 PM



“ *Neil Bartley*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Bernard and Susie, how sad to lose a brother, no matter age or circumstance. May a lifetime of memories bring joy and laughter in days to come.*

Steve and Sue Huston

Steve and Sue Huston - May 17, 2020 at 12:05 PM

SS

“ I played basketball for coach Bartley at Hayden in his first year as varsity coach in 1973-4, my senior year. I have three strongest memories of that year:

1) Neil's sense of humor, and how we traded quips in team sessions, until he found one of mine un-funny, and said 'Geez, 10,000 comedians out of work and we're listening to this?';

2) how our season turned around when he wrote this on the chalkboard at start of our second game of the Invitational: 'Go!' and said: 'that's your offense for tonight (and as it turned out, for the rest of the year);

3) what he wrote in my senior yearbook: 'I'll never forget what you and the Seniors did for me in my maiden year'.

A great time in our lives. Neil was a good man and a key figure in personal development for so many of us.

*Steve Schmidt
Hayden Class of 1974*



Steve Schmidt - May 14, 2020 at 12:32 AM

SS

from left to right, seated on the bench: Ed Delk, Larry Russell, Steve Schmidt, Dan Chavez, Kevin Lutz, Ron Faught. To left of Coach Bartley: Jim Casper. Behind bench: Joe Lieber, Larry Noller, and Bill Mainey.

Steve Schmidt - May 14, 2020 at 12:50 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Neil Bartley.*



May 13, 2020 at 09:13 PM



“ *With deep regrets we will be unable to attend Neil's visitation as well as the funeral. We would have loved seeing different ones and love sharing some of the fun-filled memories we have throughout his coaching time at Hayden. We had more laughs than heartaches when replaying each game and, of course, the parties afterwards! Our sincere condolences to the entire family as Neil was one super guy that we were proud to know. Our best to all of you. Ed & Sharon Delk*

ED DELK - May 12, 2020 at 04:29 PM

MC

“ Coach Bartley and I got to be friends through officiating. He had a quick wit.

As a Hayden player he coached me in hoops. Coach taped my ankle many times when I hurt it. He was always joking.

We used to call him coach lombartley. He would just laugh and say time for wind sprints.

One night we refereed a championship basketball game Atchison vs Shawnee Heights. The game went several overtime There were many tough calls. Shawnee Heights booed us over and over again. Atchison ended up winning.

After we showered we went to the hospitality room. All of the Shawnee Heights people including the hostess got up and left. We were left alone in the room.

Coach looked at me and said this could be the first time two Hayden Alums were able to get Heights fans to leave and be quiet.

I nearly choked on my sandwich from laughing.

Rip coach. You were one of a kind.

Mike Custenborder former player and referee partner.

Mike Custenborder - May 12, 2020 at 11:16 AM

MB

*I love this story. Thank you for sharing.
Mendy Bartley-Jump*

Mendy Bartley-Jump - May 13, 2020 at 07:53 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Neil Bartley.*



May 12, 2020 at 09:44 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Neil Bartley.*



May 11, 2020 at 11:36 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Neil Bartley.*



May 10, 2020 at 07:34 PM

JP

“ May 10, 2020

*To The Family of Neil Bartley,
I was sorry to read of Neil's passing. Words say very little at a time like this but knowing people are thinking of you maybe helps. I hope so.*

Don and I enjoyed having Neil build our home, and getting acquainted with Marlene.

Time passes so quickly and I know you all have some wonderful memories.

Please accept my deepest sympathy on the loss of Neil.

*Sincerely,
Jackie Campbell Petersen*

Jackie C Petersen - May 10, 2020 at 01:30 PM

BR

“ *God bless your family.*

Barb and Greg Reser - May 10, 2020 at 08:56 AM

MF

“ *Bernard and Sue, I am so sorry for your loss.*

Marty Fletcher - May 10, 2020 at 08:33 AM

NK

“ *Our deepest heartfelt sympathy to your entire family. Neil was always so happy, smiling, and joking and we remember him so fondly. Thinking of you all. Cecil & Nancy Kohake*

Nancy Kohake - May 09, 2020 at 05:47 PM

RS

“ To Neal, Mendy, Sean, Bret, Bernard, Loren, and families,
I am sorry for your loss. The titles of “Wildcat” and “Coach” never fit
anyone more aptly than your DD and brother. Our thoughts and
prayers are with you.

Rick Strecker - May 08, 2020 at 09:53 AM

TM

“ Rest in peace Coach. Job well done!

Tim Morrissey - May 08, 2020 at 07:12 AM

MK

“ Dear Neal Paul, Mendy, Sean and Bret,
I am sorry for your loss.
Your Father was a sweet and happy man. A great organizer of our
family baseball games, such fun.
Your father was always so kind and caring to me.
Love to you all,
Marice

Marice Kane - May 08, 2020 at 12:32 AM

LH

“ Hey Coach Bartley, I know you fought valiantly against old man cancer just like you did in your athletic career growing up. We had some wonderful times together coaching freshmen football and varsity basketball with coach Bueltel at Hayden in addition to your scouting for the varsity football team. Man, you did it all!

Your students had great respect for you as a person as well as a teacher. Many thought you were too tough but they respected you. You had the knack for fixing and building things like you did for our home and whenever someone at school needed something fixed, call coach Bartley.

Now you are with the Lord and your suffering is over. God bless your soul--may you rest in peace until we see you again.
Larry & Jane Hesse

larry hesse - May 07, 2020 at 01:25 PM

ML

“ Barney and family. Sorry to hear of the loss of Neil, my condolences and prayers to you all.

Michael T LaFontaine - May 07, 2020 at 11:21 AM

LW

“ Mr. Bartley was the best history teacher I've ever had. After entering the classroom, we students would hear about five minutes of basketball highlights and then Mr. B was off and excitedly pacing across the front of the classroom as he enthusiastically discussed the battles of the Civil War. He made history come alive and his enthusiasm was contagious. My sympathy to his family and may he rest in peace. Lynn Weaver, Hayden High School class of 1972.

Lynn Weaver - May 07, 2020 at 10:06 AM

MD

“ *To the Bartley Family,*

I was saddened to read of Neil's passing. I have fond memories of Coach from when I was a student at Hayden. He used to drop off his kids at his parents house down the street from where I grew up on Bowman Ct. I knew it was time to get going when he'd drive down the street and beep his horn. Almost always, we'd meet up somewhere on Gage and then we would race to see who got to school first! He was always so happy and quick with a joke. Hold the memories close to your heart!

Mary T Schnellacher-Decker

Mary T Decker - May 07, 2020 at 08:15 AM