



Thomas Stringer

July 1, 1961 - November 28, 2025

Thomas B. Stringer, 64, Topeka, Kansas, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, coach and friend to so many, passed away Friday, November 28, 2025.

Tom was born July 1, 1961, in Topeka, the son of Joan Renner Stringer and Stanley G. Stringer. He attended Holy Name Grade School and graduated from Hayden Catholic High School in 1979. Tom earned a degree in education with a minor in psychology from Pittsburg State University where he also earned first team All-American honors as an offensive lineman.

On August 6, 1983, Tom and Jeanette Marie Zeller were united in marriage at Holy Name Church, enjoying more than 42 years together.

Tom began his coaching career at Baileyville before returning to Hayden where he served as head football coach, leading his Wildcats to their first 4A State Championship in 1998 with a 13-0 record and repeating that feat in 2004.

Tom has been enshrined in two Halls of Fame, Pittsburg State Athletics and Hayden Catholic High School. On December 7, he is scheduled to be inducted into the Kansas Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Tom's Hayden teams won the Centennial League championship seven times, and he

achieved a career record of 131-35 during his 15 seasons as the Wildcats' head coach.

Tom was bigger than life. Not only his physical stature but his enthusiasm for life in general. Tom's love of God and his faith, love of his family and his love of football and his players, set him apart. His passion and positive attitude drew people to him. He was well loved and will be long remembered.

Left to cherish Tom's memory are his wife, Jeanette Stringer; children, Nick Stringer (Kelsey), Dawnly Stringer and Tomas Stringer; grandchildren, Wyatt, Everett, Beau, Gannon and Hayes; siblings, Kathryn Hosfelt (Mike), Dr. John Stringer (Telisa), Joseph Stringer, Michael Stringer and Rosie Stringer (Sam).

Tom was preceded in death by his infant daughter, Nicole, infant son, Corey, brothers Patrick and Dr. Bob Stringer and his parents.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 10 a.m. Saturday, December 13, at Mater Dei Holy Name Catholic Church. The rosary will be prayed one half hour prior to Mass. Inurnment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Coach Tom Stringer Memorial Scholarship at Hayden Catholic High School, sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home. 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Previous Events

Rosary

DEC 13. 9:30 AM (CT)

Mater Dei Holy Name Church
1114 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 13. 10:00 AM (CT)

Mater Dei Holy Name Church
1114 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas Stringer



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - December 09, 2025 at 06:00 PM

SW

“ Coach Stringer - you left this Earth better than you found it. You followed God's calling as a LEADER of young men. You taught us how to be leaders of future young men. So many of the lessons I learned under just one fall football season with you helped me with coaching young men and raising our two boys. God bless you and your family. And thank you for everything you did for us. I would still run through a brick wall for you.

Shane Wright - Hayden class of 1995

Shane Wright - December 15, 2025 at 12:55 PM

WW

“ Tom may have left us physically, but his laugh, his love of life and family will always be with us. I will miss our conversations and mutual complaining about the insurance business. Tom was truly my brother.

Wally Wilson

Wally Wilson - December 13, 2025 at 06:38 AM

RL

“ Rest in Peace Coach... you are a legend. You will be missed. To the Stringer family, love you all very much.

-Ryan Leiker

Ryan Leiker - December 12, 2025 at 08:30 PM

JB

“ Tom was one of the nicest guys I ever met. I always enjoyed talking to him when we seen each other. To his Family and Friends, I am sorry for your loss. Tom will be missed by many.

John Belcher - December 12, 2025 at 02:43 PM

PP

“ To Jeanette and all the Stringer families-deepest condolences of the passing of Tom. Patrick Pfeiffer. (Pfeiffer, Linder, O'Gan families)

Pat Pfeiffer - December 12, 2025 at 01:44 PM

DH

“ Jeanette,

I am so sorry to hear of Tom's passing. My deepest condolences to you and your family, He was a good man and my friend sense you all were teenagers. He will be missed.

Dennis Harvey

Dennis Harvey - December 12, 2025 at 01:13 PM

NM

“ Tom was a terrific teammate, roommate and friend. His parents welcomed me and my parents into their home during our College days and I have always thought the world of the entire Stringer family. I was fortunate to play with Tom, Bob and John at Pitt State. Tom loved his wonderful wife Jeanette and his family. He was as solid of an individual as you will find anywhere. I am grateful to have seen him at football games the last few years and I feel blessed to have known him. He would bring a smile to my face every time I talked to him and he will be greatly missed. Love you Tom.

Nick Motosko - December 11, 2025 at 07:58 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Thomas Stringer.



December 11, 2025 at 08:36 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Stringer.



December 10, 2025 at 02:48 PM

FC

“ From your friends at Ash Grove Cement planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Stringer.

From your friends at Ash Grove Cement - December 10, 2025 at 02:48 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Thomas Stringer.*



December 10, 2025 at 02:42 PM



“ *Tom was one of my roommates in college and we stayed in touch ever since. I'm so thankful he called me the week before he passed and we talked for a long time catching up and telling old stories. I always felt better after talking to him. He loved his family and was so thankful he married Jeanette and they created this incredible life together so many years ago. I could tell a hundred Tom stories. Just such a unique and loyal person and friend. We all will miss him so much. God Bless all of you. Willie Fritz*

Willie Fritz - December 10, 2025 at 01:04 PM



“ *Cory and Jessica Francis (Fitzgerald) purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Thomas Stringer.*



Cory and Jessica Francis (Fitzgerald) - December 10, 2025 at 10:14 AM



“ *Cory and Jessica Francis (Fitzgerald) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Stringer.*

Cory and Jessica Francis (Fitzgerald) - December 10, 2025 at 10:14 AM

JS

“ In 1967, my husband and I were newly married and benefited greatly by knowing the Stan and Joan Stringer family and the beloved Stringer children. We moved out of state in 1984, and lost contact with the Stringer family. All the wonderful things I have read about Tom in his passing, as well as newspaper clippings about his teaching and coaching trajectory are exactly the way I remember Tom as a child, and the entire Stringer family. As it is said about Tom, the family was "bigger than life" also and they shared their joy for life with everyone. With no training, I cut their hair about every 6 weeks when the Stringers were little, and they kept coming back for another haircut, even Kathryn. They were respectful and delightful and I loved every one of them. To those who love and cared for Tom, I am sorry you have lost him. I know he will continue to positively influence your lives.

Jennifer J. Smirl - December 09, 2025 at 10:54 PM

AG

“ Jeanette,

I am so sorry to hear of Tom's passing. My deepest condolences to you and your family.

Anne Geier

Anne Geier - December 09, 2025 at 01:00 PM

JC

“ *Deepest Sympathy to the Stringer family -
Jim and Debbie Cromwell*

Jim and Debbie Cromwell - December 07, 2025 at 08:26 PM

JF

“ *Stringer family, my deepest of sympathies.*
John Finucane



John B Finucane - December 07, 2025 at 07:57 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Thomas Stringer.*



December 05, 2025 at 05:34 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Stringer.*



December 05, 2025 at 05:04 PM

PB

“ *The first time I met Coach Stringer. was when I went to a football parents meeting. One of the first things he said was there are three important things in life! God, family and Hayden football and not always in that order. He was one of a kind, he had such a kind heart, unless you were on the opposing team. My son admired him so much, both as a player and student. Rest in Peace Coach!*
Pamala Bonjour-Glotzbach

Pamala Bonjour-Glotzbach - December 04, 2025 at 07:23 PM

JJ

“ Coach Stringer meant a lot to a lot of us. He wasn't just a coach— he was the kind of man who showed you how to carry yourself, how to work, how to respect the people around you. He pushed us to be better and had our backs while he did it.

I'm grateful I got to learn from him and call him a friend. Rest easy, Coach. You earned that peace. Joey Hoytal Jr Topeka KS Hayden Class of 1995

Joey Hoytal Jr - December 04, 2025 at 02:56 PM

JH

“ Joseph H. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Stringer.

Joseph H. - December 04, 2025 at 02:53 PM

FP

“ Tom Stringer was my football coach at Hayden. He was a great man and an awesome coach. Much respect.
Francisco Perez

Francisco Perez - December 04, 2025 at 02:49 PM

TS

“ I was fortunate to get to officiate some high school football games when Coach Stringer was coach @HAYDEN. What a professional and class act he was.
I also got to officiate some games in which Nick played. Chip off the old block.
I was fortunate to have Dawnly as a student in class @Indian Creek Grade School. What a sweetheart. I was able to watch Tomas participate in Topeka Parochial League activities. He was a hard worker. Coach and Jeanette were/are wonderful parents and have a terrific family that they can be extremely proud of.
May the love and memories you shared with COACH bring you comfort and peace in the days ahead.

"SWO"

Tegan Swoboda

Tegan Swoboda - December 03, 2025 at 04:29 PM

DG

“ Tom just recently sold an Insurance policy to me . What a great person . So sad to here of his passing . He will be coaching somewhere in Heaven .

Daniel L Grace - December 03, 2025 at 04:13 PM

TM

“ Jeanette, Nick and family,
So sorry to hear of Tom's passing. He was a great family man, coach and role model for so many. Our heartfelt condolences.
The McManus Family

Tim McManus - December 03, 2025 at 11:00 AM

KS

“ Jeanette and family,
May you find the peace and comfort from family and friends as you navigate this season of grief and loss. May you find hope and love as you remember your time together with Tom. Sending condolences for your loss.
Kim Scott

Kim Scott - December 03, 2025 at 10:02 AM

MD

“ Tom always encouraged my grandson Jordyn even though he didn't coach him. Meant a great deal to me and to Jordyn. He was always so friendly and fun to interact with. My deepest sympathy to the entire family. This man made a difference to many. His memory will always be cherished. Very sad today! Mike Van Dyke.

Mike Van Dyke - December 02, 2025 at 08:59 PM

RO

“ Will never forget, “C'mon fellas!”
Great coach, better man!!!
Will be missed!!
Prayers and condolences to the Stringer family!

Rob Oliver - December 02, 2025 at 06:27 PM

BM

“ Brett and Kelli Marshall planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Stringer.

Brett and Kelli Marshall - December 02, 2025 at 06:06 PM

BM

“ *Brett and Kelli Marshall purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Thomas Stringer.*



Brett and Kelli Marshall - December 02, 2025 at 06:06 PM

EG

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. Coach was something special to me in high school. While not one of his star players he had a way of making me feel I could be better. I never got the chance to thank him for being the person I needed in High School. Heaven definitely got a whole lot better with him being there. I hope I make him proud down here.*
- Edward Gonzales

Edward Gonzales - December 02, 2025 at 04:29 PM

KH

“ *Dear Jeanette and Family,
We always appreciated time spent with all of you. Please accept our sincere condolences and sympathy.*
John & Kyle Hicks

Kyle Hicks - December 02, 2025 at 01:48 PM

TH

Tom student taught in elementary physical education at Lafayette elementary school. He met challenges head on. That's why I know that's one of the reasons he became a great coach and mentor.

Tim Hughes - December 03, 2025 at 07:10 AM



“ *Healing Thoughts Gift Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Stringer.*



December 02, 2025 at 12:31 PM



“ *Words cannot do justice to what Coach did for me and all of my teammates. He is a real-world example of what everyone should aspire to be. I love you, Coach!*

Tyler Darnall - December 02, 2025 at 12:26 PM



“ *Tab Yager planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Stringer.*

Tab Yager - December 02, 2025 at 11:02 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas Stringer.*



December 02, 2025 at 11:02 AM

MG

“ My heartfelt condolences to the Stringer family. I remember going through marriage prep classes with Tom & Jeanette. We all even shared our wedding date of August 6, 1983. I remember Tom and Jerome always seemed to help keep those classes fun and enjoyed their talks of Hayden and Washburn football. I bet they both are doing that now in heaven. May Tom rest in peace.



MARCIA GUTIERREZ - December 02, 2025 at 10:59 AM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Thomas Stringer.



December 02, 2025 at 10:55 AM

LC

“ Jeanette and family,
I'm so sorry to hear of Tom's passing. May all your wonderful memories help ease your pain. God bless you and your family.

Lesya Cyr - December 02, 2025 at 10:40 AM



“ I am so deeply sorry for your loss. My heart and prayers are with you. I will remember his kindness, humor, and the light he shared so generously. I loved talking football with him — he had such passion and a coach’s gift for lifting people up.

May God give you strength and surround you with comfort.

Alyson Oliver - December 02, 2025 at 10:09 AM

MM

“ *Stringer Families I don’t know where to start. Tom was my most favorite coach to interview during my 50 years of broadcasting sports. You never knew what Tom was going to say. To this day I have never met one of his former players who did not like and respect him . It just so happens that I was about to Broadcast the Hayden vs Andale I was resdy for the open when a Hayden dad came up to the press box and told me Tom had passed .All of a sudden a game had prepared for for weeks did not mean as much . How many young me did Tom influence with his positive attitude and love of God Although I Did not see him on a regular basis when we met it was like old times May God keep him and bless him with everything he earned here on earth Heaven has a BIG Angel*
Mike Manns

Mike Manns - December 02, 2025 at 08:57 AM

TG

“ *Tom was a wonderful person i didn't know tom im sending my symphaty to the stringer family may tom rest in peace terry I*

Terry Glenn - December 02, 2025 at 07:25 AM

JA

“ Prayers and condolences to the Stringer Family. Enjoyed being Football teammates at Hayden and watching his success as their Coach.
"Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and all the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace."

John Anguiano - December 01, 2025 at 11:52 PM

NW

“ There are not enough ways or things to say about Tom Stringer. He was a gift from God to any one he met or came in contact with. He's in heaven watching over us now and definitely taking care of all he loved.

nancy white - December 01, 2025 at 10:27 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Stringer.



December 01, 2025 at 10:10 PM

SR

“ Jeanette, Nick, Dawnly and Tomas, and all the Stringer family, I am so deeply sorry for your loss. Please know that you're in my thoughts during this incredibly difficult time. Tom will be remembered with much love and deep respect and I hope you feel surrounded by comfort, strength, and support in the days ahead.

Susan Renner - December 01, 2025 at 10:05 PM

BG

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with all of the Stringer family.*

Bob Grace - December 01, 2025 at 09:47 PM

MP

“ *Jeanette and family,*

I was deeply saddened to hear of Tom's passing. I worked for Tom at BPM for just under two years from 2016-2018. During that time, I learned how well-known and deeply loved Tom was by so many people. We'd go visit insured's all over town and I swear he couldn't turn a corner without knowing somebody.

For as tough as nails he could be, he was also very kind, thoughtful, and caring. He talked so often about you, Jeanette, as well as your kids, and then the grandkids when they came along. He loved all of you with everything he had. May God's grace grant you peace during this extremely difficult time.

Meredith Preisner - December 01, 2025 at 09:45 PM

AR

“ *Jeanette and family,*

We were sorry to learn of your loss. Tom made a positive difference in the world, especially in the lives of so many young people. He will be missed by many but not forgotten.

May you find peace and strength in many fond memories. You will be in our thoughts and prayers now and in the days ahead.

*Warmly,
Mark and Alice Reinert*

Alice Reinert - December 01, 2025 at 09:33 PM

DB

“ Coach Stringer was the best coach I had in my football career. He was the first coach to ever tell me how good I could be. Now that I am able to coach my kids and their teammates, I try to model his approach of tough love, accountability and encouragement. Prayers to the Stringer family from the Bueltel family!

Dr. Blake Bueltel - December 01, 2025 at 08:42 PM

MM

“ Jeanette and family, I am sorry for your loss. I know how important his family and faith were to him. Tom was a great motivator. His players and coaching staff knew that he cared about them and wanted the best for them. I learned so much from Tom as a young coach and feel blessed to have worked with him. Many blessings to you and your family, Mike Monaghan

Mike Monaghan - December 01, 2025 at 08:41 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Thomas Stringer.



December 01, 2025 at 08:27 PM

MS

“ Jeanette, Nick, Dawnly and Tomas,

Nickolas and I are heartbroken for you!

Tom was the best of the best! Never met a stranger and was a truly giving person. He was always so happy on the trips to our beloved Alexandria Mn and was so lucky to share in many of those trips Tom will be missed by all and I will cherish all our memories. You have another Angel watching over you! We are here with f you ever need anything.

We love you all very much.

Mary T and Nickolas

Mary T Schnellbacher-Decker - December 01, 2025 at 08:25 PM

JS

“ *Stringer family members: All of you are in my thoughts and prayers. Tom was so strong & kind to Patrick when Patrick was going through his cancer treatment, he didn't want anyone to tease him. He always looked out for the little ones. The summer in the "little red cabin" was crazy the year The School bus pulled up in the yard and Otto II threaten to dunk screaming kids in the square bucket by the pump.....the Stringer boys loved it! Katherine, not so much! The Stringer children have gone their own way and still managed to stay connected over the years. Tom followed Aunt Joan's calling as a teacher. Spending many years at Hayden High as the football coach. At every game you could hear Aunt Joan cheer-coaching from the track in case Tom needed a special play drawn up! I'm sure they welcomed him at those Pearly Gates!*

Jeannie Schnellbacher - December 01, 2025 at 08:18 PM

RF

“ *Jeannette, Nick and family, I'm sorry for your loss.*


Robert Freeman - December 01, 2025 at 08:05 PM

SS

“ Jeanette & family, sending my condolences and keeping you all in my prayers. Always enjoyed Tom cheering on our boys during basketball & football season.

Shelly Shaw - December 01, 2025 at 07:09 PM

Jl

“ Tom was an excellent example to all who knew him of service to his family, friends, students and players. He was always so kind to all four  of our children during their time at Hayden. He was a great coach and a better man. The world will miss you Tom Stringer. God's speed! Prayers for comfort for the family.

Janis Ice - December 01, 2025 at 07:05 PM