



## W. Jack Unruh

June 3, 1928 - December 22, 2015

W. Jack Unruh, 87, Topeka, passed away at his home on Tuesday, December 22, 2015.

Jack was born June 3, 1928, in Ringwood OK to Albert and Nina Becker Unruh. He graduated from high school, Oklahoma Bible Academy, in 1945. Jack graduated from Bethel College in North Newton KS in 1951 with a degree in Industrial Arts Education. Jack received his Masters' degree in Education from Emporia State.

He married Elizabeth Regier on August 18, 1950, at Hebron Mennonite Church in Buhler KS. They moved to Topeka KS where Jack spent from 1954 to 1988 teaching Industrial Arts, primarily in USD 450.

Some of Jack's many interests included fishing, camping, traveling, woodworking, watching the Royals and KU basketball, and all the many activities with children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. His Southern Hills Mennonite Church family meant a great deal to him through his life.

Jack is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, Topeka KS; daughters, Carol Ingenthron (Mike), Grantville KS, Judy Goertzen (Tim), Goessel KS; granddaughters, Nicole Hein (Josh), Newton KS, Tia Goertzen, Goessel KS; great-grandchildren, Jaxson and Becca Hein, Newton KS. Jack was preceded

in death by his parents, and brothers, Allen Unruh and Norman “Shorty” Unruh.

Memorial service will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday, January 2, 2016, at Southern Hills Mennonite Church, 511 SE 37th Street, Topeka KS 66605.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Southern Hills Memorial Fund, PO Box 5067, Topeka KS 66605, or the Mennonite Central Committee, PO Box 235, North Newton KS 67117.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN 2. 10:30 AM (CT)

Southern Hills Mennonite Church  
511 SE 37th Street  
Topeka, KS 66605

# Tribute Wall



“ *W. Jack Unruh*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *George was privileged to have Mr. Unruh in his HP Jr. High class....When he and I and our family were preparing to build on his road...He told the neighbors...."Well, there goes the neighborhood!" I think he left Mr Unruh "fond memories". But while building, he was around checking out all the "wrong things they were doing to our home and George would go to the builder and complain....and the contractor kept asking him how he knew all these things.....he never told, but Mr. Unruh helped build us a wonderful constructed home!!! And I think he did get over "the fond memories" that George had left him back many years ago as Mr. Unruh and his family were always the kindest and friendliest family our neighborhood had. Thirty-Nine years of this man was priceless!!! We will all miss him and thankful we had that time knowing him. Your family in our prayers.*

**George & Ellen Irwin & Family** - January 07, 2016 at 09:01 AM



“ *Elizabeth and family: It was always a pleasure to work with Jack at Shawnee Heights Junior High School. His pleasant greeting, smile and professionalism meant a lot. I am sure you have wonderful memories sharing so many years together. Please know I am thinking of you, keeping you in my prayers, and sending sincere sympathy. Olive Ubel*

**Olive Ubel** - January 05, 2016 at 01:10 PM

AB

“ *Judy and Family,*

*I am sorry to hear of your dad's passing. Please keep your memories of him close to comfort you. I left a condolence for you on cjonline.com with my contact information. I live in Michigan now but my memories of Kansas, competing in hurdles with you and seeing your dad are my favorites. HUGE hugs!*

*Pamela M. Arzel Blackwell-Nwonye, Highland Park High School, 1979*

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**Arzel Blackwell** - January 04, 2016 at 11:07 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of W. Jack Unruh.*



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January 01, 2016 at 11:30 PM

DL

“ *Elizabeth, you and Jack were so special in our neighborhood. Jack was such a great guy. Our son, Mike, enjoyed him a lot in class at SHHS - a class act. Our love to you and the family. Dean & Sharon L*

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**Dean & Sharon L** - January 01, 2016 at 04:50 PM

DT

“ *Carol, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Donna Tann*

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**Donna Tann** - December 29, 2015 at 09:31 PM

BB

“ Judy and family: I am so sorry for your loss. I have fond memories of him while at SH but mostly while running track with you. He was so kind and gentle but, always got his point across in a wonderful way. Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers. Becky Hilbert-Burghart

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**Becky Burghart** - December 28, 2015 at 08:50 PM

AA

“ Judy and family,  
I am so very sorry for your loss. I never took one of his classes but I have memories of Mr. Unruh be a very nice man.  
You are in my thoughts

*Ann Parrett Anderson*

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**Ann Parrett Anderson** - December 28, 2015 at 04:03 PM

GN

“ Enjoyed being in his class and learned a lot from him. He was a great man and will be missed by all.

*Gary Naylor  
SHHS Class of 84*

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**Gary Naylor** - December 28, 2015 at 09:35 AM

SH

“ We treasure all the happy memories from the days we were neighbors. The camping trips and making homemade ice cream were such fun. We have written countless grocery lists on our wooden paper holder that Jack made long ago for your church bazaar. He was a talented and good man and we are glad to have known him. Our thoughts and sympathy are with you at this time.

*Sue and Ed Houghton*

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**Sue and Ed Houghton** - December 27, 2015 at 04:55 PM

CJ

“ Really enjoyed him as a shop teacher. He gave a great deal to so many that has made us all better people.

*Clark Jones*  
*SHHS class of '82*

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**Clark Jones** - December 25, 2015 at 10:42 PM

SE

“ Mr. Unruh was my shop teacher at Tecumseh North in the late 60's. I still to this day have every shop project we ever made. I was not the best of student by any means, but the Man sure to how to teach...even a smart ass kid like me! Such a great Man and he will be missed dearly!

*Steve Ewing*

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**steve ewing** - December 25, 2015 at 09:30 PM

CL

“ I will always remember this kind man and teacher, many fond memories of shop class. my thoughts and prayers to the Unruh family CurtisLiggett class of 1978

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**curtis liggett** - December 25, 2015 at 09:10 AM

DM

“ I was one of the blessed ones that got to have Mr. Unruh twice. He was a great teacher and a kind man. He will be missed.

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**Dennis McPhail** - December 25, 2015 at 08:41 AM

CR

“ One of the good ones, I still have my first woodworking project a well lamp. I still think of him every time I use it. Cleo Roehrman class of 1977

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**cleo roehrman** - December 24, 2015 at 11:49 PM

KK

“ Mr. Unruh really knew how to relate to awkward and goofy junior high boys at SHJHS in the early 1970s (has it really been that long ago?). He and Mr. Morris deserved "combat pay" from USD 450. In all seriousness, Mr. Unruh commanded respect just by being respectful. Of everyone. What a kind soul. And he had such a sweet, clean sense of humor, too. For example, I remember him telling our drafting class one day (in a very somber and serious way) that he was suffering from "Dunlap disease" ... because his belly had "Done Lapped" over his belt! I had no contact with Mr. Unruh for more than 40 years, but I have very wonderful memories of him to this day.



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**Kyle Krull** - December 24, 2015 at 11:35 PM

JH

“ A very kind man! He will be missed.

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**Janet Zeiner Werly Hambleton** - December 24, 2015 at 10:12 PM

AZ

“ I was a new kid to the district in 1977. Coming from a private Catholic school I do not know what to expect coming to a public school. One of my very first classes was a woodworking class with Mr. Unruh. Everyday started with a joke or a smile and the ability to listen to the local rock station over the PA system. Mr. Unruh was a great educator but an even better man who was able to reach kids in a way they could respect and appreciate. I often think back to many of the things he taught me every time I start a project at home. He will be greatly missed.

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**Arlen Zentner** - December 24, 2015 at 06:57 PM

RB

“ *Mr. Unruh was one of the kindest teachers I had at Tecumseh Grade. Also one of the funniest. He managed to keep a balance between the two. How he managed that in 7th-8th grade shop without losing his cool or any of losing digits is a tribute to him. Wonderful man. We mourn for your loss.*  
*Rick Budden*

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**Rick Budden** - December 24, 2015 at 06:25 PM

PS

“ *Mr. Unruh was one of the most caring teachers I had ever had! He would answer any question and provide help until I got the assignment just right! He called her his welding cheerleader, Shelly, sends her prayers as well. We wish the family the best during this Christmas season.*

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**Paul Sivesind** - December 24, 2015 at 04:45 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of W. Jack Unruh.*



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December 24, 2015 at 04:41 PM

AZ

“ *Jack was one of my favorite teachers. He taught well, was funny and a great person. I use many of the skills he taught in drafting class in the home improvement business I own. The world lost a very classy guy but one thing for sure is anyone that knew him will always remember what a great person he truly was.*

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**Alex Zerbe** - December 24, 2015 at 04:28 PM

GC

“ *Such a great neighbor and fellow teacher. Blessings to this wonderful family.*

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**Ginny and Jerry Claunch** - December 24, 2015 at 03:50 PM

EG

“ *Carol and Family, Would like to let you know we're thinking of you. You're in our thoughts and prayers. Sheila and Rick Gardner*

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**eila Gardner** - December 24, 2015 at 08:32 AM

JM

“ *He was a great teacher I had him at Tecumseh North Grade School*

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**JOHN P. MORGAN** - December 24, 2015 at 08:19 AM

RT

*Jack was great man, husband, father, and teacher. Prayers to all of you. Roger Toelkes*

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**Roger Toelkes** - January 04, 2016 at 12:37 PM

RH

*I will always remember Mr. Unruh, who taught woodworking class at HP junior high in the late 50's. Our entire family knew and respected him as a fine teacher. The Hays Family*

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**Richard Hays** - January 04, 2016 at 04:26 PM

LM

*Judy, Liz and Carol. What great memories we all shared during Bethel athletic events. The parents all had so much fun together and Jack was our biggest fan (and critic!) Thinking of you all during this time. Lori DeGarmo Mallory*

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**Lori DeGarmo Mallory** - January 09, 2016 at 11:55 PM