



## Dean Mills

July 5, 1944 - December 10, 2013

Mr. Dean Mills

Mr. Dean Mills, 69, of Bartlesville, died at 6:10 P.M. on Tuesday, December 10, 2013 at the St. John Medical Center in Tulsa.

Memorial services will be held at 2 P.M. Sunday, December 15, 2013 at the Lyon Fine Arts Center on the Oklahoma Wesleyan University campus with Rev. Larry Johnson of Rock Springs, Wyoming officiating. Graveside services will be held at 10 A.M. Monday at the Memorial Park Cemetery directed by the Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory.

The Mills family will receive guests for visitation at the Stumpff Funeral Home on Saturday evening from 5 P.M. until 7 P.M.

A memorial has been established for the Joyful News Home, an orphanage/home for boys that have been rescued from the streets of Kathmandu, Nepal. Those who wish may send their contributions to: Global Partners, Joyful News Home-Nepal, WMO6-1448, P.O. Box 50434, Indianapolis, IN 46250.

Dean Mills was born July 5, 1944 in Rapid City, SD to Hugh and Mae Mills, the third of five children. His beloved Kansas City Street neighborhood included the Wesleyan Church on one side and Jefferson Elementary School on the other side, where he established many life long friendships. He graduated from Rapid City High School in 1962. On August 23, 1963 he married his high school sweet heart, Peggy Carr. He graduated from Miltonvale Wesleyan College with a degree in theology in 1966. Following college, they moved to

California where he served as youth pastor at the Whittier Wesleyan Church and became an ordained minister in The Wesleyan Church. Due to a teacher shortage in California at the time, he received a grant from USC to complete a degree in education. He taught in the Hacienda-LaPuente School District for the next 25 years, with most of those years spent as an Industrial Arts Woodshop Teacher. He was a master woodworker. He also officiated high school football, basketball, soccer and wrestling as well as owned a roofing business. He worked long and hard during the school year in order that he and his family could spend summers in South Dakota. Beginning with his first 47 Chevy hot rod, he had a life-long passion for cars and racing. He enjoyed several years as a co-driver on an off-road race team. He never missed the Pomona Winternationals while living in California, loved to watch sprint cars at Ascot, stock cars at Rapid Valley Raceway and attend a NASCAR race anywhere he had a chance.

Due to health conditions agitated by years of sawdust and smog, the family moved to Bartlesville, OK in 1990 beginning a twenty three year "ride" of driving bus for sports teams at Oklahoma Wesleyan University. His favorite part of the trip was doing a victory lap around the circle in front of the mansion, continuously honking the horn regardless of the late night hour. The highlight of his years of driving was transporting the 2009 men's basketball team to the NAIA National Tournament in Branson when they won the national championship. He was quick to flash his championship ring and proud to tell you he was the only bus driver he knew that had a national championship ring. He has also worked as score keeper for men's and women's basketball for twenty three years. He was honored with the President's Award at the 2011 OKWU Homecoming, recognizing his years of volunteer service to university athletics.

Dean is survived by his wife Peggy Mills of Bartlesville, two sons, Eric Dean Mills and wife Susan of Bettendorf, IA, Chad Mills and wife Vinessa of Wagoner, Ok; two sisters, Kay Hobbie and husband Roger of Flandreau, SD Vickie Kilmer and husband Rick of Goddard, KS; two brothers, Jack Mills and

wife Jeannine, of Sioux Falls, SD and Hugh Mills, Sioux Falls, SD; mother-in-law, Kathleen Boland, sister-in-law Judy Carr, brother-in-law Wes Carr, all of Rapid City, SD; sister-in-law Lorraine Schleuning and husband Dave of Warner Robins, GA and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews and the joy of his life, his six grandchildren, Reagan Dean, Katelyn and Hope Mills of Bettendorf, IA and Judson Dean, Adeline and Aubrey Mills of Wagoner, Ok. He was preceded in death by his parents.

As a young man, Dean committed his life to Jesus Christ. His servant heart and generosity towards people was driven by his early and ongoing commitment to Jesus. Because of his faith in Jesus Christ and the power of His resurrection, we rejoice that Dean is now in the presence of Jesus. The entire family was blessed to have spent the week of Thanksgiving together in celebration of Dean & Peggy's 50th wedding anniversary. We will treasure the memories of that time together as a family for the rest of our lives.

Dean never met a stranger. He will always be remembered for his warm smile, hugs, his generosity and kind spirit.

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# Tribute Wall



“ *Dean Mills*

October 23, 2023 at 04:40 AM



“ *Dean Mills*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *Love you Uncle Dean!  
I know I'll see you someday in Heaven, but we still miss you here on earth.  
xoxo  
Marci Rienstra  
(Mousie)*

Marci Ruenstra - January 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *I am sorry to hear about Dean. My prayers are with you.*

Bob Falcone - December 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Peggy, Dennis just noticed in the Rapid City Journal the death of your dear husband. We are sending you our sincerest condolences. God Bless you and your family during this difficult time.*

Dennis and Janet Fernau - December 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *Peggy and family,  
Our prayers and thoughts are with all of you during this time of grief.  
May you find all that you need through the ministry and peace of the  
Holy Spirit.  
Love,  
Bob and Rita*

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**Bob and Rita Hauck** - December 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

VL

“ *Joann and I have years of special memories with Dean and Peggy  
in California. Church events, singing together in a musical group,  
putting our young children on planes to Grandma's house for a  
month, while we traveled to Sweden and did church concerts  
through out that beautiful country. Dean often visited me in the  
hospital, and no matter what Dean's day had been, he always met  
you with a big smile and encouragement. Love Dean and Peggy  
dearly and look forward to the four of us joining together in that  
great choir in Heaven someday soon. What a day that will be. Our  
prayers are with you Peggy and family and we celebrate with you in  
Dean's Coronation with his Lord and Savior.*

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**Von and Joann Letherer** - December 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *I am a friend of Dean's from the South Dakota Wesleyan Youth  
Camp. I interacted with him on numerous occasions throughout the  
past 50+ years at various places in the US including California and  
here in the Midwest. The last phrase is very appropriate. Although  
we may not have visited for a few years, whenever we did meet  
again, the conversation continued as if there had been no gap. I  
valued the friendship highly.*

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**Barry McKeown** - December 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

EH

“ Peggy and family,  
I'm so sorry to hear of Dean's passing. He was always so nice and kind to everyone. He will be missed. You're in my prayers.  
Elaine

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**Elaine Heitman** - December 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

WA

“ May family and friends bring you comfort, along with knowing that God is near and ready to help during this sad time. I am sorry for your loss. Psalm 147:3

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**Wanda** - December 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ Wishing we were not so far away ... want to hug the family and Peggy so bad!  
Dean was very special to our family ...  
As long as there are people like Dean who care with all their hearts, the world can be a place of possibility and hope.  
He reached out to others in warmth honesty and understanding. We are so lucky to have known him

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**Jerry & Sheryl Lindsay** - December 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ I am so sorry to hear of Dean's passing. Dean and I grew up together on Kansas City Street in Rapid City. We attended the same grade school, Junior High and High School. Peggy was also a High School classmate. I could write a large book on the adventures we had as kids. All cherished memories! I will miss you my friend, and I am sure there is a Special place in Heaven where you are now.  
Rich

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**Richard Marsh** - December 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AJ

“ *Wish we could be there with you. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Love to you all.*

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**Aunt Gerri, Karen and Jim** - December 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

ME

“ *We are so sorry. I will try to get by to see you. I had shoulder surgery and I am not doing much. I will find you later also. We will miss him at so many of the places that he should be at. Love you all and we are praying for you.*

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**Marvin & Barbara Eck** - December 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ *As I glanced at Dean's obit in the RC Journal, I recognized some names and wanted to send my condolences. I knew Mae through Christian Women's Club--she had such a sweet spirit and love for the Lord. I was not aware of the Carr connection before, but Leonard was a good friend of my dads and did lots of carpentry work for him-- and Kathleen Boland and I were in BSF together. Small world, isn't it? -- Sorry about your loss--sounds like he was a great guy.*

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**Judy Barber Oldert** - December 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Deans texts always brought a smile to my face. I continue to use him as an example of how a father should be. I am very blessed to have had his wise words when i was growing up*

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**Dave & Penny Richmond** - December 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ *Peggy, Eric, Chad, and Family.*  
*God provides strength for you each and every day. Praise Him for the legacy you have been left. I remember the summers when the boys would come to church camp in Rapid City. Those were some great times. Dean always made the Blains feel special. You are an awesome family. There are precious days ahead. You are in our prayers. May God bless each one of you!*

*Tom Blain*  
*Hermosa, SD*

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**Tom Blain** - December 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LK

“ *Saddened for the loss of Dean. My heart is with Peggy, Eric and family and Chad and family, and Dean's other family and friends.*

*I am richer for knowing Dean, traveling with Dean and enjoying every time I was with him. I am a better man after God because of Dean.*

*Will definitely be looking for you again in Heaven when we meet again. You are worshipping at the Throne of God today buddy!*

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**Lee Kanakis** - December 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

WH

“ *Alice and I join your brothers and sisters in Christ is thanking God for Dean's well lived life and for the wonderful care He has for you in these days ahead.*

*Wayne and Alice Huff*

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**Wayne Huff** - December 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ I knew Mae Mills, Dean's mom, more than I ever knew Dean, Peggy and family. But, a proud mother shares her family stories and pictures with her friends, and I felt I knew them well. The first thing I think of when I ever heard about Dean Mills was that he saved mine and 2+ dozen other young teens lives as we were coming back to town from a weekend ski trip in South Dakota. As memory serves, the brakes on the bus went out as we were going downhill in a left curve. He chose to "crash land" us into the snowbanked hill on the opposite side of the road (through oncoming lane of traffic). We were all very thankful for this angel who drove for us that one trip (at least I dont remember him driving other times) ..... as we were told it would have been VERY bad had he chosen to continue down the road. Off to the right was a "death drop". He was always very cheery around BWC campus, seemed interested in our lives and often asked about my folks. Prayers to the family.

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**Sara Gowan Diassana** - December 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ We have fond memories of Dean when he drove the bus for our daughter, Jennifer , while playing basketball for Bartlesville Wesleyan University. Our condolences to your family!

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**Roger & Isla Hada** - December 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Dean always had a smile and a greeting -- even at Walmart! :-)

*We will miss him.*

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**Marilyn Culver** - December 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ Praise the Lord there is a Heavenly home already prepared for us.

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**Bob & Sally Hanson** - December 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Dean was not only a great man, but great friend to so many people. Dean loved sports and loved the teams at OWU. He faithfully drove the buses and vans for teams for the years I was at OWU and I am thankful I had the opportunity to spend time with him on many of those trips.

Dean, you will be remembered by countless people for your sacrificial service over many many years. Peggy, Eric, and Chad and families, we will continue to pray for you during your time of sorrow and loss. I do know that Dean will have a great friend in heaven who can show him around...Luke will be happy to see Dean again

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**Jere Johnson and Family** - December 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ The entire Mills family is a treasured, noble and godly family. We grieve with you all, but rejoice in our blessed hope of Heaven.

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**Bill & Donna Kinnan** - December 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ Peggy and family- Dean was a wonderful man of God. He will be missed. Love and prayers to you- Myra Pacheco Colorado

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**Myra Pacheco** - December 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ Dean was a gentle soul whom I enjoyed being around. His heart was with his family and the kids around OKWU. Enjoyed being with his Dad and Mom and the entire Mills family. Our connections go far and deep. My prayer is that the family will rest in the knowledge that Dean was a giant among men. David and Linda Gowan

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**David Gowan** - December 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RN

“ Peggy, So sorry to hear about Dean's passing. It was always fun to talk to Dean, he was so nice and funny. You all will be in my prayers.

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**Rosy Nikkel** - December 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GL

“ Aunt Peggy and Family  
We are so sadden to hear of Uncle Dean's passing. He was so dear to our family. Can't tell you of all the fond memories of our times together while you were in California. All the funny laughs, great stories of your times in College. Uncle Dean was always so fun to be around. Just know that you and the kids and grandkids are all in our prayers. We love you, miss you  
Greg, Joy, Mark, Kaylen, Jarret Lindsay

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**Greg Lindsay** - December 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ Miltonvale Wesleyan College classmate, 1962-66. Dean was a kind and gentle man. Proud to call him friend.

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**Tom Bedient** - December 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM