



Kenneth Lee Bruno

December 12, 1937 - December 3, 2017

Mr. Kenneth Lee (Ken) (Coach) Bruno, 79, of Bartlesville, and former local high school basketball and golf coach, died at 8:05 P.M. on Sunday, December 3, 2017 in Bartlesville.

The Bruno family will meet friends at a reception in the Stumpff Funeral Home Chapel from 6 P.M. until 8 P.M. on Friday, December 15th.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at 2 P.M. on Saturday, December 16th at the Bartlesville High School Fine Arts Center directed by the Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory.

In lieu of flowers, the Bruno family suggests that memorial donations be made and memorial funds have been established to Bartlesville Public Schools, Ken Bruno Memorial for Bartlesville High School Athletics, P.O. Box 1357, Bartlesville, Oklahoma, 74005 , or ElderCare, 1223 Swan Drive, Bartlesville, Oklahoma, 74006, or to the Parkinson's Foundation of Oklahoma, 720 West Wilshire Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73116.

Coach Kenneth Lee (Ken) Bruno was born at Hominy, Oklahoma on December 12, 1937 the son of Johnny A. and Irene Rose (Smith) Bruno. He was a proud American Indian member of the Citizen Nation Potawatomi tribe. He began his education and participation in athletics in Hominy until moving to Tulsa with his family in the 9th grade, where he attended Bell Junior High and Rogers High School and he graduated in 1956. During junior high and high school he was active in playing basketball, baseball and golf and was a member of the 1956 State Basketball Championship team coached by Woody

West. He also set the record low amateur round with a score of 66 at Tulsa's Mohawk Golf Course where he also won the National Indian Tournament at Mohawk Park in 1970. In 1956 attended Oklahoma State University at Stillwater where he played golf and basketball until 1957 when he joined the United States Army and was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. Following his release from the Army he returned to OSU and then transferred to Northeastern State University where he played basketball for Jack Dobbins and to play golf. He lettered in both sports and the 1963 golf team qualified for the NAIA championship in which he finished 19th of 136. While at Northeastern he earned a Bachelor of Science in Education and in 1969 he earned his Masters in Education. He was married to Marilyn Purviance in 1964 and in 2017 they celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary. In 1964, Coach Bruno began his coaching career at Avant High School where he coached all boy's and girl's sports, taught in the high school business department and was the high school principal. He and Marilyn took the six members of the 1966 graduating class to Six Flags for their senior trip in a nine passenger van. From 1966 to 1968 he was the Dewey High School's head boy's basketball coach and also the assistant high school and junior high school football coach and head junior high track coach, all while teaching in the business department and driving to Tulsa on Wednesday evenings to work toward his Masters degree. He was also surprised by the birth of his first son, Barry on his first day of school in Dewey at 6 A.M. on August 29, 1966, causing him to be a little late on his first day. Ken and Marilyn's second son, Brad was born in 1969. In 1968 he began his career at College High School/Bartlesville High School where he began as the assistant boy's basketball coach to Cecil Epperley for 2 years and then became the head boy's basketball coach for 14 years. He was also the head golf coach for 16 years and served several years as the head girl's golf coach and also taught physical education. In 1984 he became a coach and administrator at Metro Christian for 3 years, taught and coached at Hominy and Copan for 5 years. Following his retirement from public education he taught physical education at

St. John's Catholic School, was a lay coach with Bartlesville High School girls basketball coach, Gerald Thompson and a lay coach with Bartlesville High School's golf coach, Jeff Rude, which he continued until his Parkinson's Disease took its toll. He continued to share his wisdom with his two grandsons, family and friends. He was honored to be requested for many speaking engagements, coached the Faith Seven Basketball All-Star Team in 1984, the All Star Basketball team at Northern Junior College in 1979, was the State Golf Coach of the Year in 1979, the District Golf Coach of the Year in 1979, and was also one of eight finalists for the National Golf Coach of the Year in Orlando Florida the same year. He was a speaker at Basketball clinics at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah and also at Coffeyville, Kansas during a Tri-State Tournament, was an Exchange speaker from Oklahoma to the Louisiana Basketball coaches clinic in 1978 and coached the Oklahoma All-Star Basketball team (North) in 1980. He was the Oklahoma representative in golf to the National Coaches Association for 5 years, the 3A State Representative to OSAA for golf for 4 years and the 4A State Representative to OSAA for Golf for 2 years. He was inducted into the Bartlesville Sports Commission's Hall of Fame on October 23, 2010 and the Oklahoma Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame on June 4, 2016. His coaching records included 6 state golf titles (1972, 74, 76, 77, 79 & 84), one runner-up for the girl's state title in 1981 and 8 trips to the state basketball tournaments. As a proud coach, 11 of his former basketball players have attended college on basketball scholarships, 21 of his former golfers on golf scholarships at 6 major colleges, 11 junior colleges and 4 small colleges. He also coached in the infamous 1979 seven overtime Sooner/College High basketball game which was a loss to Sooner, 93-94.

Coach Bruno is survived by his wife, Marilyn Kay Bruno of Bartlesville, two sons, Barry Allen Bruno and wife JoLynne of Jenks and Bradley Neil Bruno of Bartlesville, three grandchildren, Nathan Allen Bruno, Niculus Ray Tessier and Analeah Love Bruno, a brother, John Anthony Bruno and wife Twila of

Catoosa, a sister, Judith Gail Bruno Collins of Hominy, nieces, nephews, cousins, coaches and players too numerous to mention. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Bobby James Bruno and a sister, Mary Lorene Bruno Bearden.

Previous Events

Family To Receive Friends

DEC **15.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Stumpff Funeral Home Chapel
1600 SE Washington Blvd
Bartlesville, OK 74006
(918) 333-4300
<http://www.Stumpff.org>

Celebration of Life

DEC **16.** 2:00 PM (CT)

Bartlesville High School Fine Arts Center
East 18th Street
Bartlesville, OK 74003

Tribute Wall



“ *Kenneth Lee Bruno*

October 23, 2023 at 04:40 AM



“ *Kenneth Lee Bruno*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *What a dick.*

Richard Sandoval - March 09, 2021 at 12:04 AM



“ *Marilyn, I was so sorry to hear about the passing of Coach Bruno. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

*Warren and Betty Alfred
Georgetown, Texas*

Betty Alfred - December 16, 2017 at 11:16 AM



“ *We are sad to lose our long time friend Ken Bruno. We cherish the memories of our college days at Northeastern with Ken and Marilyn and all the years of basketball, NSU homecomings, and deer hunting with Brad and Barry at the farm. Ken poured his life into the young people he coached and taught. He has had a profound influence on many young lives during his career. We are proud to have known him as a good friend.
Sincerely, Bob and Deanne Rice*

Bob and Deanne Rice - December 15, 2017 at 11:56 PM

GR

“ Marilyn, Barry, and Brad, I always appreciated Ken's Wildcat basketball teams--they were disciplined and in shape and gave 110%. Some of his teams were less talented than their opponents, but they were always competitive because of Ken's coaching and attention to detail. He always looked dapper in his dark suit and handled himself with class, a great role model for this players. His golf coaching speaks for itself as he worked with each player to optimize their skills and he had a game plan for each hole. He had them practicing before and after school and they performed with excellence. He passed his skills and love of the game to Barry and Brad and he loved to watch them play even as adults. I loved to play golf with Ken and listen to his many stories; he was so giving with his time and his well-appreciated advice and tips. We were all better off for knowing him; we will miss him, but we will never forget him. I am so sorry for your loss.

Love you guys, Gary (the Wichita kid as Ken called me) Reheis



Gary Reheis - December 13, 2017 at 08:58 PM

MI

“ Our thoughts and prayers to your family. I was visiting with a friend today and discovered he was a former Col High athlete and started discussing coaches and I asked if he had Ken for a coach. It was then he shared of Ken's passing. Ken's touch was far reaching and left many fond memories.

Mike and Kathy Irvine.

Mike Irvine - December 11, 2017 at 09:15 PM



“ I grew up down the street from Kenneth in Hominy, OK, and enjoyed the company of both Kenneth and Bobby. Both were nice men and great athletes. They taught me how to hit a golf ball. Interestingly enough I remember Kenneth best as an outstanding baseball pitcher who had a lively fast ball that few could hit. Bobby was his catcher and then I caught him a few times. That was a pleasure because when he pitched we won. His brother John was to have played pro baseball but was sidelined when his leg was injured in an auto accident. A fun fact, Kenneth and Bobby taught me a trick called "black magic". My wife and I would use the trick to entertain our girls. One Christmas in their letters to Santa they asked how we did it. So glad that Kenneth achieved so much and was appreciated. Condolences to his family. Ray Smith, Oklahoma City

Ray Smith - December 08, 2017 at 09:51 PM

ML

“ Such a sweet sweet man. He will be missed!
Condolences to the family!
Ted & Mary lou Long

mary lou long - December 07, 2017 at 02:24 PM

SS

Coach was a mentor to me as a young boy in what we called summer Recreation and later my golf coach. He was tough but fair and got us to one of his 6 state titles he won in golf. The thing I have always remembered was how he always said, behave like young gentlemen out there! Then he was the same guy who would tell you if you find yourself having to much fun and need a ride home call me and I will come get you. I learned so much from him, he will greatly be missed. Scott Stuart class of 77

Scott Stuart - December 07, 2017 at 03:50 PM

BY

“*Bill and Carla Yocum consider their Pineville Crew friend one of the nicest men in the world. He exhibited a kind heart and compassion for others. He gave so much to everybody . What a gentleman! We love Ken, Marilyn, and the entire family. We look forward to attending his celebration. “Kenny, make all your putts, and thanks for the ride.”*

Bill and Carla Yocum - December 06, 2017 at 09:42 AM