



## Roland "Rocky" Kent

October 22, 1945 - August 18, 2017

Coach Rocky Kent went to be with his Heavenly Father on August 18, 2017. A man of miracles when it came to overcoming physical illness, including a liver transplant in 2014. God finally called him to his eternal reward in glory.

October 22, 1945, Roland William Kent was born to Argus and Ruth Kent in Alpena, Michigan. He was the second child, and only son, in the family of four children. The two things that became most important to Roland as he grew up were his relationship with the Lord and sports. Being the son of two ordained ministers, he had a strong foundation for his faith which carried him through his life. As for sports, that love grew and became the enjoyment and work through which God worked in his life.

In high school the nickname of "Rocky" was given by his teammates and that name stuck. Rocky was proud of his time at both Robichaud and Bentley High Schools, in the Detroit area, where he was the quarterback, played baseball and of course basketball. His athletic career continued at Spring Arbor College where he played both baseball and basketball. He scored 2050 points in his 4 years of basketball, which also led him to be the MVP for three of those years, as well as an NAIA all district player and the Senior athlete of the year. If that was not enough, he also was an NAIA all district player in baseball for two years. In 2002 Spring Arbor inducted Rocky into their sports Hall of Fame for all of his accomplishments.

In his freshman year at Spring Arbor, Rocky met Marva Jean Jopling, the love of his life. Four years later they were married on June 17, 1967. With his

degree in Business and Economics and hers in Elementary Education, they began their teaching, and his coaching, careers at Hanover-Horton schools. Coaching all of his favorite high school sports for five years lead him to land a position as an assistant basketball coach back at his alma mater, Spring Arbor College. After four years there, Rocky was offered to coach for Marion College (now Indiana Wesleyan University), so they moved their three sons, to Marion, Indiana where he once again coached baseball and basketball for several years.

Rocky took a hiatus from coaching and had a successful career selling cars in the late 80's, however, you can never take the desire to coach out of a true sportsman, so when Bartlesville Wesleyan College needed a basketball coach in 1990, Rocky Kent was the man for the job. Rocky remained at BWC, later OKWU, until he retired in 2003. Over the years as the head men's basketball coach, he also served in roles including Athletic Director, the Director of the Management of Human Resources, and eventually as the Vice President for Finance.

Even after retirement Rocky could not stay out of the sports business. He was requested to come back to Marion and be the high school athletic director. He enjoyed that role until his second retirement in 2009 when he and Marva wanted to return to Oklahoma to be with their sons and grandchildren.

Rocky loved numbers. This could be seen as he recalled details and scores of every game he played or coached over the years. He also knew how many stairs and or bleachers were in the various venues he would visit.

He also loved his players. He wanted them to be successful men both on and off the court. He cared for them, guided them, and kept tabs on them. His legacy, through them, is a strong one.

He loved his family. In June, he was happy to celebrate he and Marva's 50th wedding anniversary with what he called "Mom's party". He was Rocky, but she was his rock as she supported him until the end. He loved his sons and daughter's-in-law and being with them as much as possible. And he really loved his grandchildren – whether watching them play an organized sport or

just having them play around him as he sat in his chair, they were all important to him.

The family will miss him dearly – his singing of the birthday song, his call for Marva, and his gruff exterior that really did not hide his soft spot for each of us. We will also miss his love, his strength, his support and his guidance. But he knew and so do we, with no doubts, he was headed to heaven and that gives us peace, comfort, and joy to know that his battles with his earthly body are through.

Mr. Kent is survived by his wife Marva Jean (Jopling) Kent, three sons; Thad Walker Kent and wife Sandra, Ty William Kent and wife Amanda, and Todd Jopling Kent. Three sisters Naomi Ruyle (late husband David), Corinne Glanzman and husband Art, and Miriam Moses and husband Leo, and five grandchildren; Madison Elaine, Morgan Elizabeth, Sadie Jae, Michael Stephan, and Mitchell Roland.

Rocky was preceded in death by parents Argus Lynn Kent and Ruth Elizabeth (Walker) Kent.

The most appreciated gift for the family and way to honor Rocky would be for you to become an organ donor.

# Cemetery Details

## Memorial Park Cemetery

4200 Nowata Rd  
Bartlesville, OK 74006

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**AUG 23.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

## Funeral Service

**AUG 24.** 2:00 PM (CT)

Oklahoma Wesleyan University Lyon Fine Arts Center and Chapel  
2201 Silver Lake Road  
Bartlesville, OK 74006

# Tribute Wall



“ *Roland "Rocky" Kent*

October 23, 2023 at 04:40 AM



“ *Roland "Rocky" Kent*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *Rocky was the Coach of the first NAIA Championship Team in any Sport in the history of Marion College. That sport was Baseball of which I was proud to be a member of. He never got the credit he deserved from Marion College and was accused of recruiting to many "Non-Christian Athlete's!" I'm here to tell you that is an outright lie! He knew the heart's of each player he recruited and stood beside each of us. And as a Farmer Athlete and 3 time graduate of both Marion College and IWU I never met a finer example of a Christian Man in my 8.5 year's there! It hurts me to know how this Wonderful Man was treated by the Administration of IWU. And not 1 Coach ever dedicated himself in bringing winning programs to the campus. But most of all Coach taught us all how to stand fourth right as Christian Athlete's. To this day our 1983 NAIA District 21 State Championship Team has not been Inducted into the IWU Sports Hall of Fame. And I'm sure it never will be. But each member of that Great Baseball Team will always remember our Accomplishments. But most of all we shall Never Forget our Great "Christian" Leader: Roland "Rocky"Kent!" I'm sure no-one will read this Memorial for I've waited so long to include it. But if indeed it is read by any 1 Member of the Kent Family I say, Thank You all so much for sharing Coach with us all. And He will live on As long as each of us do in our Hearts and Mind's!*

Robert Ferrell - August 20, 2021 at 10:45 PM

HF

*Rocky Kent was a dick period ....new all his players lmao he was a asshole with no compassion his coaching was little league at best..rip*

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**Hootie flick** - December 01, 2022 at 08:23 PM

GM

“ Dear Kent family,

*Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers at this most difficult time. Rocky was one swell fellow. My first encounter with Rocky was as principal of Center School. when Thad and Ty enrolled. We shared many positive memories together with mom keeping us all under control. I cherish these times we had in our early years. Once again later I crossed paths with Rocky as the athletic director of MCS. He met this challenge with vim and vigor as it was not an easy time. He will be remembered as a fine human being with God and family as his top priorities. God has another angel at His service awaiting our time in heaven. Thinking of you!*

*Gary McClure*

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**Gary McClure** - August 31, 2017 at 09:38 AM

HF

*Yep great man Christian told me i was nothing but a white piece of shit i wasn't black and couldn't play ball these are my memories of this great man ..ya thats what he said*

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**Hootie flick** - December 01, 2022 at 08:34 PM

DS

“ *With deepest sympathy and thankfulness for Rocky's life, President Ellis and the Spring Arbor University community. Praying for this wonderful family as they miss and celebrate Rocky.*

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**damon seacott** - August 25, 2017 at 07:33 AM

MD

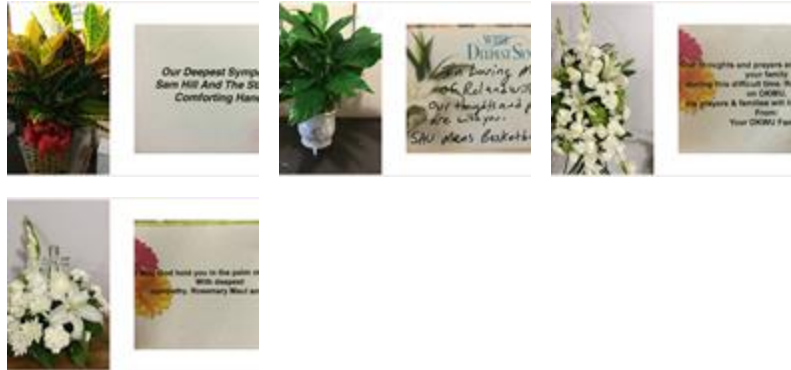
“ Marion High School Athletic Department purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Roland "Rocky" Kent .



Marion High School Athletic Department - August 24, 2017 at 02:03 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Flowers



Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory - August 24, 2017 at 11:06 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Flowers



Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory - August 24, 2017 at 09:54 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Flowers



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**Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory** - August 24, 2017 at 08:10 AM

BS

“ Mrs. Kent and family,

*I am sad to hear of Coach Kent's passing. For four years (eight seasons) he was Coach, mentor, friend and, since 1979, a Christ like example to me. For his impact on my life I will be forever grateful. Through tough games, trying circumstances, disappointments, and great wins I never witnessed Coach respond in a way detrimental to Christ.*

*I believe a worthy legacy is achieved by the faithful step-by-step resolve to honor God and love His people. I observed and experienced the impact of Coach living in a way which fulfilled both. I am thankful God provided me the opportunity to work with and know Coach.*

*I pray God will care for you and your family during this time and the days ahead.*

*"Trainer Bill" Snyder*

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**Bill Snyder** - August 23, 2017 at 10:26 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Roland "Rocky" Kent .*



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August 23, 2017 at 09:57 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Roland "Rocky" Kent .*



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August 23, 2017 at 07:27 PM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of Roland "Rocky" Kent .*

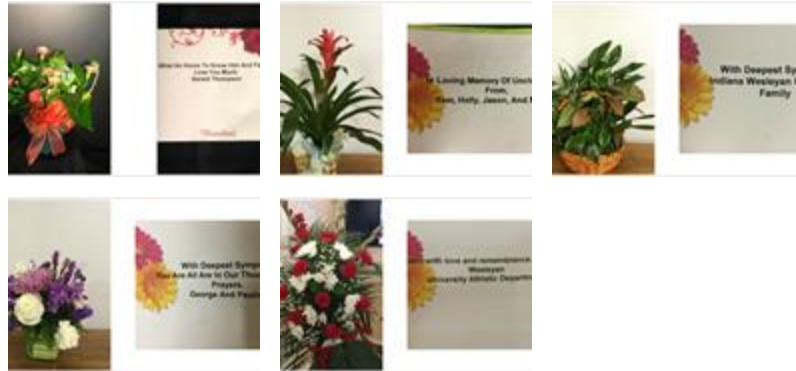


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August 23, 2017 at 03:46 PM



“ 11 files added to the album Flowers



Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory - August 23, 2017 at 02:57 PM

KC

“ I am so sorry to hear of Rocky's passing. He was an encouraging, courteous and appreciative boss when I went back to work after many years of being at home with children. He helped me begin a twenty year career at OKWU. I am blessed to have known him.  
Karen Carlson

Karen Carlson - August 23, 2017 at 01:30 PM

MM

“ Rocky gave me my start in athletic administration at Marion High School. Since then I have went on to work for Purdue University, Syracuse University, and IUPUI. I will be forever greatfull for his guidance at Marion.  
~Max R. Miller

Max R Miller - August 23, 2017 at 11:18 AM



“ My condolences to the Kent family. May God's peace be upon you during this time.  
Thank You Coach for being a friend and mentor during my time at Marion. RIP Coach, and "Remember the Titans"

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**Jeff Roach** - August 23, 2017 at 10:17 AM



“ 3 files added to the album Flowers



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**Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory** - August 23, 2017 at 08:15 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Roland "Rocky" Kent .



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August 23, 2017 at 06:39 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Flowers



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**Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory** - August 22, 2017 at 04:31 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Roland "Rocky" Kent .*



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August 22, 2017 at 11:41 AM



“ *To Marva, Thad, Ty & Todd,*

*Our condolences for the loss of your husband and father, Rocky. We will always have good memories of MC days and his coaching the Titans in the new gym! May you feel God's loving arms around you and your families as you mourn the loss of a great husband & dad! God bless you and may God's joy return to you soon!*

*Ed & Marilee Velazquez*

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**Ed Velazquez** - August 22, 2017 at 11:35 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Flowers*



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**Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory** - August 21, 2017 at 04:31 PM