



Nelson Lee Hartman

February 15, 2018

Nelson Hartman, 90 of Fort Collins, Colorado was welcomed into the Kingdom of Heaven on February 15, 2018 after a long battle with Dementia. He is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Nila Mae Jones Hartman; two children, Cynthia Hartman of Fort Collins, CO and Clark & Karen Hartman of Delaware, OH; by three grandchildren, Drs. Elizabeth & Robby Kuo of Cincinnati OH, Sarah Hartman of Columbus, OH, and Andrew & Kelly Hartman, the parents of one great grandchild, Grant of Columbus, OH; two sisters-in law, Kathryn Jones Miller and Julia (Maureen) Jones together with many nephews, nieces and a large extended family.

Nelson was born on November 3, 1927 to Henry & Elizabeth Scheuerman Hartman in Bison, Kansas and graduated from Bison High School in 1945. He attended Fort Hays Kansas State College where he received both Bachelors ('49) and Masters ('57) Degrees in Education. Hartman taught mathematics and coached in Claflin, Cunningham and WaKeeney, Kansas and was Principal and Superintendent of Schools in Goddard, Kansas before joining the Kansas State High School Activities Association in Topeka in 1963 where he later became Executive Director and remained through his retirement in 1993.

Hartman received numerous local and national awards and was a member of the Executive Committee of the National Federation of State High School

Associations, as well as the USA Olympic Basketball Committee. He is most known for the development of the overtime rules used in interscholastic football and for his good citizenship-sportsmanship policies. He dedicated his life to promoting positive values in the youth of Kansas through education and sports.

Nelson most enjoyed visiting with family and friends, who will miss him greatly. He will be remembered as a principal with principle who would take time to help and encourage students and generously gave his time and resources to those he loved. Services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, February 23, 2018 at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 7755 Greenstone Trail, Fort Collins, CO 80525. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Nelson's name to the Redeemer Lutheran Church Youth Ministry.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB **23**. 10:30 AM (MT)

Redeemer Lutheran Church
7755 Greenstone Trail
Fort Collins, CO 80525

Tribute Wall



“ *Nelson Lee Hartman*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Austin Boyd - March 01, 2018 at 11:21 PM



“ *Uncle Nelson became my adopted uncle, by marriage, for 22 years, and he was a definite favorite. We could talk about anything. I especially liked the stories about young adulthood in Rush County, Fort Hays College, going to work, and courting Nila Jones. We liked to quiz each other about our different experiences, and he had some great ones. I never could beat him at gin rummy. His Christian morals were evident, and he had a way of making people feel special. He loved to hear his family members laugh. Everyone misses him greatly and longs to visit with him in eternity. See one of my favorite pictures: of the young Hartman family in the Jones' wheat field.*

Austin Boyd - March 01, 2018 at 11:19 PM

VF

“ I was saddened to read of Nelson's passing --- I was just thinking of him the other day when a news article was mentioning the (Kansas) State High School Association. I will always have fond memories of Nelson and Nila when they lived in Pepper Tree Park in Topeka, Ks. They were fun to be around and were great neighbors. Nila made the best fresh peach pie! My deepest sympathy goes out to Nila and the family. Vicki Francis (Mrs. Ron Francis), Topeka, KS.

Vicki L. Francis - February 27, 2018 at 06:54 PM

GM

“ We send our thoughts and prayers to the family.

Emmett and Gerri (Schaffer) McGinn
LaCrosse, KS

Gerri McGinn - February 23, 2018 at 10:15 AM

JT

“ I started officiating in 1973, and as a young official, I had several questions. nelson always was firm but fair with his answers. after 40 years of officiating basketball, (retired in 2013) I still remember his advice. position yourself to make that call. I will sleep better that night.

jon tilson--norwich,ks - February 21, 2018 at 05:37 PM

CH

“ Chad and Emily Hartman purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Nelson Lee Hartman.



Chad and Emily Hartman - February 20, 2018 at 07:44 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Nelson Lee Hartman.*



February 20, 2018 at 07:29 PM



“ *The Rolfs family Harland, Dennis, Janet and Jolene purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Nelson Lee Hartman.*



The Rolfs family Harland, Dennis, Janet and Jolene -
February 20, 2018 at 04:47 PM



“ *Sis Stum lit a candle in memory of Nelson Lee Hartman*



Sis Stum - February 20, 2018 at 03:35 PM



I met & worked with Nelson when he was with the KSHSAA & I was a Secretary for Doug Ruedlinger School Sports Insurance. He was a very intelligent, sweet & kind man. I am honored & privileged to have had the opportunity to work with him & know him. May He Rest In Peace & God Speed.....

Sis Stum - February 20, 2018 at 03:40 PM

MK

“ I doubt whether anyone can match this story about Nelson (and Nila). In 1967 I was a Student Council Advisor at Immaculata High School in Leavenworth, Kansas. After hearing about the KSHSAA Student Council Workshop to be held at the University of Kansas that year, I arranged for myself and my StuCo officers to attend. Nelson was in charge. I was a Catholic sister in full habit and Nelson welcomed me with open arms. After that workshop he invited me to become one of the fun-loving workshop staff of which I was a member for the next 6 years. The story does not end there. In 1971 I left my religious order. Nelson and Nila were my mainstay during that summer....giving of their time and helping me to find an apartment and a job with USD 501 in Topeka. Nelson and Nila accepted me as I was all those 6-7 years and helped me beyond telling.

To his children: you are so blessed to have Nelson and Nila as your parents and as grandparents to your children. I wish I knew you personally, but since I don't, this tearful tribute to your father will have to do. Nelson was such an open, accepting gentleman and a model for all of us today. God grant him deserved rest.

*Marilyn Trudelle Krueger
Emporia, Kansas*

Marilyn Krueger - February 20, 2018 at 03:29 PM

JS

“ *My prayers to Nelson's family.*

Joyce Schaffer - February 20, 2018 at 02:48 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Nelson Lee Hartman.



February 20, 2018 at 11:53 AM

“ Nila, Cynthia and Clark;

I was blessed to join the KSHSAA staff in 1988 having been hired by Nelson and the Executive Board. I was privileged to join an outstanding team of educators and people who dedicated their lives to serving Kansas children and schools. Without question, Nelson established high standards that shaped not only the KSHSAA but those of us who worked their under his leadership. Nelson was a pillar of virtue, professionally and personally. He was a mentor and friend and had the most profound influence on my professional life of anyone i have ever worked with or for. Without question, the standards he set were why the KSHSAA was and still is regarded as one of the outstanding state high school associations in the nation. His influence continues to this day, some 30 - 40 years later as we continue to benefit from his original and innovative thinking. Under his leadership the KSHSAA's governing structure became the most diverse and inclusive in the nation decades before others followed suit.

My family still remembers the many kindnesses Nelson and Nila extended to my wife and I and our two pre-school aged sons when we joined the KSHSAA staff and moved to the Topeka area. Working for Nelson was a privilege and an opportunity for which i will be ever grateful. With the passing of Nelson and his former assistants Keith Akins and Dick Brown in recent months, I feel as though i have lost my heroes in this profession. If heaven has a Mount Rushmore of outstanding state high school association leaders, Nelson joins Keith and Dick in that place of honor. I will miss all of them greatly but feel blessed and fortunate to have known, worked and learned from them all. They were the best of the best and gentlemen of character and integrity.

Nila, i hope you and your family find comfort in your loss knowing that Nelson had a profound influence on thousands of educators, athletic officials and students throughout Kansas and across the nation. As a respected leader in our state and through the NFHS on

a national level, Nelson lived a life of great influence.

With heartfelt sympathy and profound thanks,

*Gary Musselman
KSHSAA Executive Director
Silver Lake, KS*

Gary Musselman - February 20, 2018 at 11:45 AM

KH

“*Nelson was the best Father in Law and Grandpa that anyone could ask for and I'm sure that the reasons are the same that made him a good teacher, administrator and friend. He was a truly kind and genuine Grandpa who would take time to make our kids feel important and give them reason to believe in themselves. He was interested in anything that the kids were interested in and helped them to focus on what really mattered in any situation. Above all, they knew they were always loved and accepted by him and that he would give them his time generously. He had a very strong faith and it brings my heart much happiness to think that he is now overflowing with love and joy once again.*”

Karen Hartman - February 19, 2018 at 10:12 PM

GS

“*Nelson was special. He was an outstanding administrator who was respected throughout the region. I am sorry to hear of his passing.*”

Gary Schultz

Gary Schultz - February 19, 2018 at 06:19 PM

DH

“ Nelson was a true friend and leader. I learned more from him than all of my college courses about leadership during my time on the executive board of the KSHSAA. I was very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with him. He will be missed but if there was a man who impacted the lives and future of a organization it was him. Through his ability to reach people and consummate professionalism he guided the KSHSAA to a level respected across this country. Nila our thoughts and prayers are with you and the family. Nelson’s story is one of a life well lived. I was privileged to call him a colleague and friend. Don Hague

Don Hague - February 18, 2018 at 09:13 PM