



## Dean Nicholson

October 3, 1934 - August 24, 2021

Dean Nicholson, age 86, of Storm Lake, Iowa died August 24, 2021 at Methodist Manor in Storm Lake.

A Celebration of Life Service will be Friday, August 27, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. at the St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Storm Lake, Iowa. Visitation will be Friday, August 27, 2021 from 11-1:00 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Storm Lake. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Storm Lake School Foundation at 419 Lake Ave Storm Lake, Iowa. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of arrangements.

Dean was born October 3, 1934 in Des Moines, Iowa the son of Clifford and Ella (Dreeszen) Nicholson. As an infant, he was baptized at the Methodist Church in Lake City, Iowa.

Growing up, Dean attended school in Lake City where he graduated in 1952. Following high school graduation, Dean attended Buena Vista College and graduated in 1957 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He later received a Master's Degree from The University of South Dakota in 1970. Dean taught 8th grade science for 39 years and coached numerous sports including track for 45 years, all in the Storm Lake School District.

On June 4, 1961, Dean was married to Donadee Strombeck in Mt. Vernon,

South Dakota. Together, they were blessed with two children, Barb and Todd. They enjoyed 54 years of wedded bliss.

Dean loved Jesus and was a very active member of St. Mark Lutheran Church where he ushered in the old-fashioned way (and still the best way!) and served on many boards.

His coaching career in track yielded numerous individual State Champions as well as 3 team Championships. He was voted State Coach of the Year in 1987, 1988 and 2002. He was inducted into the Iowa Track Coach Hall of Fame in 2002. His success was recognized by having the Storm Lake track named after him.

In his spare time and in retirement, Dean loved to travel with Donadee and they enjoyed many cruises and other vacations. He also cherished his family and helped create numerous very fond memories by organizing family trips with the kids and grandkids. Dean also enjoyed woodworking, walking, playing games and watching his beloved Tornadoes, Hawkeyes and Vikings. He was very active with Via de Cristo for many years and he also started an FCA chapter at the school. He attended concerts, games and events of all of his grandchildren as he could. He was affectionately known to them as PopPop. He will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend. He also mentored countless students, athletes and fellow coaches.

Those left to cherish his memory include his children: Barb (Brian) Muench of Emporia, Kansas; Todd (Rachel) Nicholson of Storm Lake; grandchildren: Jordan, Jon, Jaron and Jonah Muench; Mikayla, Marlee and Lucas Nicholson; sister, Darlene Nicholson of Lake City; nieces; nephews; extended family and many friends.

Dean was preceded in death by his wife Donadee, his parents Clifford and

Ella Nicholson, a brother Don and a sister Delores.

# Cemetery Details

## Storm Lake Cemetery

Storm Lake, IA 50588

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**AUG 27.** 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

St. Mark's Lutheran Church -- Storm Lake  
1614 West 5th Street  
Storm Lake, IA 50588  
<http://www.stmarkstormlake.com/>

## Celebration of Life Service

**AUG 27.** 4:00 PM (CT)

St. Mark's Lutheran Church -- Storm Lake  
1614 West 5th Street  
Storm Lake, IA 50588  
<http://www.stmarkstormlake.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Dean Nicholson*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - August 26, 2021 at 05:32 PM

FM

“ *Dean touched thousands of lives through his distinguished career in teaching and coaching. Susan and I are sorry to learn of his passing and express our sincere condolences to his family, and his former students and athletes.*

Fred Moore - September 26, 2021 at 07:41 AM

ST

“ *My condolences to the family. He was a great teacher and contributed to my interest in science.*

Sheila Thomas - September 06, 2021 at 04:54 PM

DF

“ *Coach, Thank you so much for being such a lasting influence. You taught me it didn't matter who you were, as long as I was willing to do the work, I could earn the spot. I am certain I can speak for all the members of the 86, 87, 88 and 89 track teams (as well as countless others) you have a special place in our hearts. - Dave Freese, Class of 1989.*

Dave Freese - August 30, 2021 at 10:30 AM

BS

“ I just heard of the passing of my coach and 7th grade science teacher, Mr. Nicholson. He coached many of us in football, basketball and track but will be remembered mostly as the track coach and was so successful the track stadium is named after him. He always appreciated an effort in all the students and athletes and was quick to encourage effort. He will be remembered by me for all the preparation time he put into everything whether it be daily science classes, scouting the upcoming games in football for the varsity, or practices after school. He set a very high mark for all of us to follow. I saw him at SL a couple times when I visited and it was nice being remembered as he had hundreds of us he taught and coached over many decades. Thanks Coach for the great foundation you gave all of us while growing up in SL. I will forever remember only the best about you!

*Bari Strader, SL class of 1966*

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**Bari Strader** - August 29, 2021 at 08:21 PM

LB

“ When I started junior high in 1957, Mr. Nicholson was my homeroom teacher. He made a lot of nervous kids feel comfortable right away. He was just the right mixture of funny and No-funny-business! He made science understandable, and he started a Science Club that a lot of kids joined because he made it interesting and somehow also made it not a dorky thing to do. He was a classy role model and a great teacher, and he will be missed.

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**Liz Block** - August 29, 2021 at 12:12 AM

MV

“ Mike Sr and Lana VunCannon send our deepest sympathy to the family. We loved Dean and Donna Dee. We are so sorry for your loss.



Mike Sr/Lana VunCannon - August 28, 2021 at 10:13 PM

MH

“ DonaDee was my piano teacher and Mr Nicholson was my science teacher and my track coach. I love him and his family!!!! Rest In Peace coach!!!

Michelle VunCannon Heacock - August 28, 2021 at 09:21 PM

SL

“ I attended the beautiful service today for Mr. Nicholson. I never called him by his first name. I remember him as a junior high school teacher and as a football and track coach. He wasn't always the easiest guy, but he really worked to get the best out of everyone, and people responded to him. He was a very successful coach, and over many years, a respected member of the community. My condolences to the whole Nicholson family.



Steve Larsen - August 27, 2021 at 10:45 PM

SH

“ Dean and Donnadee were such wonderful people. I know my sisters loved having them for school and piano lessons. They were a big part of St. Marks church.

Susan Neve Hettinger - August 27, 2021 at 10:15 PM

PG

“ A CANDLE HAS BEEN LIT IN MEMORY OF DEAN NICHOLSON. OUR SYMPATHY & PRAYERS FOR HIS DAUGHTER, TODD & THEIR FAMILIES. MAY DEAN RIP.



PEACE, LARY & PATTY GUNVILLE  
STORM LAKE, IOWA

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**PATTY GUNVILLE** - August 27, 2021 at 04:45 PM

JP

“ He was a great teacher. He made science fun.

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**Jason Potter** - August 27, 2021 at 03:11 PM

TW

“ Mr. Nicholson clearly loved teaching and coaching and it was an honor to know him. He is a big part of my memories of my adolsecent years. I believe there is a special place in heaven for junior high/middle school teachers. May memories serve to heal the loss of this good man, father, grandfather, mentor and friend.  
Tim Wilson, SLHS 1977

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**Tim Wilson** - August 27, 2021 at 02:47 PM

LZ

“ Larry And Sue Zwemke lit a candle in memory of Dean Nicholson



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**Larry and Sue Zwemke** - August 27, 2021 at 01:17 PM



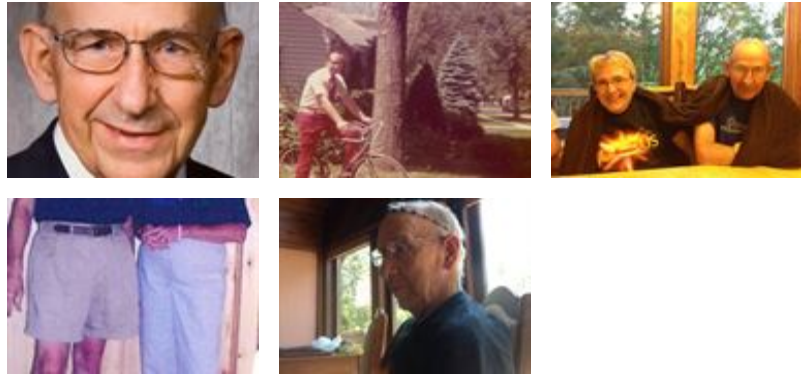
“ He was the best youth coach ever! Greg Gerlach

It was the best all around family! Chelle Gerlach Clark

Gwynn Gerlach - August 27, 2021 at 11:47 AM



“ 94 files added to the album Life Tributes



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - August 26, 2021 at 04:55 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen - August 26, 2021 at 04:08 PM

TM

“ *Tammy Miller lit a candle in memory of Dean Nicholson*



Tammy Miller - August 26, 2021 at 12:15 PM

BS

“ *Coach Nicholson... May you rest In Peace 🙏*

Brad Strader - August 26, 2021 at 10:31 AM

WT

“ *Wilbur/Karen Triplett lit a candle in memory of Dean Nicholson*



Wilbur/Karen Triplett - August 26, 2021 at 09:46 AM

CG

“ *Christine, Jeff, and the Potter girls purchased the Fields of Europe for the family of Dean Nicholson.*



Christine, Jeff, and the Potter girls - August 26, 2021 at 08:21 AM

TT

“ *The Titans purchased the Lavender & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Dean Nicholson.*



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**The Titans** - August 25, 2021 at 10:55 PM