

Lanny Grigsby

January 13, 1938 - August 3, 2017

Lanny E. Grigsby, age 79, of Storm Lake, Iowa died August 3, 2017 in Pipestone, Minnesota.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. at St. John Lutheran Church in Storm Lake. Burial will follow in the Storm Lake Cemetery. Visitation will take place Monday, August 7, 2017 from 5-8:00 p.m. at the Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Lanny Erton Grigsby was born January 13, 1938 in Sioux Rapids, Iowa, the son of John Raphael and Clara (Fairchild) Grigsby.

He attended school in Aurelia, graduating from Aurelia High School in 1956. He continued his education at Buena Vista College where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in 1960. Lanny earned his Master of Science degree from the University of Illinois, and a Master of Arts degree in mathematics from Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

On December 22, 1963, Lanny was united in marriage to LaVerne Lichtenberg at St John Lutheran Church in Hanover. Together they were blessed with 3 children: Lance, Angela, and Amy.

For 53 years, Lanny worked as a professor at Buena Vista University. He

enjoyed sharing his wisdom of math with many students throughout the years, including his children and grandson. Lanny was fortunate enough to take many trips with college students overseas as a part of interim classes. Outside of the classroom, he served as a coach of baseball (30 yrs), football (29 yrs), and basketball (8 yrs) at Buena Vista. He also coached baseball at Storm Lake High School for 20 years. He influenced the lives of many students and athletes during his life.

Lanny is recognized in the Iowa High School Officials' Hall of Fame, the Buena Vista Athletic Hall of Fame and received the Order of Cumberland and Tollefson at Buena Vista University for exceptional service to the University as a faculty member.

Lanny enjoyed golfing, bowling, and bike riding. He loved attending his grandchildren's events and avidly kept statistics during their games. Most of all, Lanny was a loving and devoted husband to his wife LaVerne for 53 years and was a faithful member of St. John Lutheran Church in Storm Lake. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife, LaVerne Grigsby of Storm Lake, Iowa; son, Lance (Letha) Grigsby of Omaha, Nebraska; daughters: Angela (Brian) Bos of Edgerton, Minnesota; Amy (Jerry) Thompson of Pipestone, Minnesota; grandchildren: Elizabeth, Ian, and Jennifer Grigsby; Ashley and Brady Bos; Cody and Braxton Thompson; brothers: Charles (Lois) Grigsby of Aurelia, Iowa; Marlan (Judy) Grigsby of Golden, Colorado; brothers and sisters-in-law: Myrna (Lawrence) Turnquist of Alta, Iowa; Harvey (Claudia) Lichtenberg of Storm Lake, Iowa; Jerry Willems of Marshalltown, Iowa; extended family and friends.

Lanny was preceded in death by his parents; and sisters-in-law, Delores Nikoley and Norma Willems.

Cemetery Details

Storm Lake Cemetery

Storm Lake, IA 50588

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 7. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Storm Lake
1615 W Milwaukee Ave,
Storm Lake, IA 50588
(712) 732-1911
jensenfuneralhomes@gmail.com
<https://www.fratzkejensen.com>

Service

AUG 8. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. John Lutheran Church -- Storm Lake
402 Lake Ave.
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Lanny Grigsby*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - August 07, 2017 at 03:48 PM

GD

It was an honor to have had Lanny as a coach and professor at Buena Vista College. We always enjoyed our visits with him when we returned to Storm Lake. He was proof that a person can be a gentleman, athlete and scholar. Our thoughts and prayers go to his friends and family.
Gary and JD Debner

Gary and JD Debner - August 07, 2017 at 08:00 PM

BS

“ I was very surprised to hear of the recent passing of Prof/Coach Grigsby as it seems I had just sent him a congratulation letter on his 50 year retirement from BVU. I got such a nice note back and was very happy that he remembered me as he had guided the learning of so many of us in his math classes as well as on the football field. He loved BVU and loved teaching math. My two memories of him are ---- when teaching and solving math problems at the board he would always take his hand and circle his face repeatedly as apparently this would help him to think better and how he was able to step in at football practice as quarterback to show how the play should be run and was still very good. We all knew what an exceptional three sport athlete he was.

Goodbye, Grigs! I will always have fond memories of you. I wish his family to take great comfort in knowing he was a good leader and helped guide so many of us.

Bari Strader (BVC -- now BVU -- class of 1970)

Bari Strader - August 08, 2017 at 12:46 PM

DN

“ Lanny was an inspiration to all of us at BV. We shared many exciting adventures with him in the many athletic events while we were team mates and classmates. I am deeply saddened by his passing. I often bragged about how he stayed on at BV and taught for years. We would run into one another occasionally in the later years and it was always good to catch up.

Don Nettleton - BV class of 1960

Don Nettleton - August 08, 2017 at 09:58 AM

VB

“ I have many fond memories of working and golfing with Lanny. It is hard to believe that in June of 2016, I caddied for Lanny, when he won our golf tournament in North Carolina. He was an outstanding professor, coach, mentor, and friend. He will be missed by all who knew him. May he R.I.P.

Our prayers and thoughts are with Lanny's family.

Al and Vicki Baxter

Vicki Baxter - August 08, 2017 at 08:19 AM

SA

“ My sincere condolences to the family of Coach Grigsby. He was my backfield coach for the Beaver football team in 71-74. I so admire his career and what he has done for the University. RIP Coach you will be missed. God Bless the Grigsby family.

Steve Armstrong

Steve Armstrong - August 07, 2017 at 09:34 PM

JK

“ I was sorry to hear of Coach Grigs passing. I feel fortunate to have played 3 years of football for him at BV. He had a unique coaching personality and a sharp mind for the game. His background was amazing; multi-sport athlete, multi-sport coach and outstanding classroom teacher. He will be greatly missed. My thoughts go out to the family. Jim Kafer

Jim Kafer - August 07, 2017 at 09:06 PM

TW

“ Coach Grigs served as my baseball and football coach for my four years at BV, 1964 - 1968. During those years he was more than a coach, he was a friend and respected educator. He was tough on exercises, but he loved to share his skills and make everybody perform a little better. He helped make my experience at BV just that much better. RIP Coach.

Tom Wilkes

Tom Wilkes - August 07, 2017 at 05:54 PM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Lanny Grigsby.



August 07, 2017 at 03:10 PM



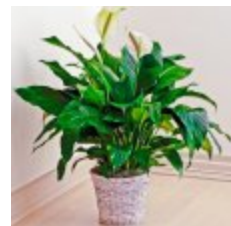
“ Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Lanny Grigsby.



August 07, 2017 at 02:17 PM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Lanny Grigsby.



August 07, 2017 at 12:52 PM

BK

“ *Mr. Grigsby was one of my teachers at Buena Vista College back in the early 1980's - His were some of my most challenging classes! My sympathy to all of his family and friends.*

Becky (Young) Keen

Becky Keen - August 07, 2017 at 12:16 PM

PG

“ *A CANDLE HAS BEEN LIT IN MEMORY OF LANNY. VERY WELL KNOWN AS LOVING HUSBAND, FATHER, TEACHER & COACH. PRAYERS FOR HIS WIFE & FAMILY. RIP.*



*LARRY & PATTY GUNVILLE
STORM LAKE, IOWA*

PATTY GUNVILLE - August 07, 2017 at 11:53 AM



“ *White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Lanny Grigsby.*



August 07, 2017 at 11:28 AM

FH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Funeral Home - August 07, 2017 at 11:04 AM



“ Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of Lanny Grigsby.



August 07, 2017 at 11:01 AM

FL

“ Fern Sonksen Langbein lit a candle in memory of Lanny Grigsby



Fern Sonksen Langbein - August 07, 2017 at 10:07 AM

FL

Lanny was my math professor at BVU from 1960-1993. He was well liked by all students...he was always willing to meet with you to help you understand something you had difficulty with from class...he was energetic, compassionate, and believed deeply in 'our' university! He will be missed by many! Of all the many professors I had, Lanny Grigsby is the one who stood out to me...he encouraged me to get my teaching degree in math..either as a minor or a major...which I did. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family 🙏🙏🙏
Fern Sonksen...BVU Class of 1963

Fern Sonksen Langbein - August 07, 2017 at 10:15 AM

“ Lanny played in the annual NWARDKIGC golf outing with Storm Lake, Buena Vista University, and other friends of his for over 20 years during 1992-2016. Below is an email Mark Gries sent last Friday to those who competed in the event with Lanny over the years.

Subject: thinking about my college baseball coach

I talked by phone with Lanny for the last time shortly after he entered the hospice care facility in Pipestone a couple weeks ago. His voice was weaker and more hoarse than I had even expected. But the life came back into that voice when I brought up the last hole of golf we ever played together.

Some of you were there in Myrtle Beach for NWARDKIGC XXIX and remember it well. Lanny was leading going into the ninth and last hole in the Final Four there at Sandpiper Country Club. He hit his drive just off the fairway to the left on that long uphill par 4 closing hole, while the rest of us were to the right (some much further right than others!).

Lanny analyzed the situation carefully, as was his custom. Knowing that there was no way to reach the green in two, he determined he would play it safe by laying up to a comfortable distance from the green with his 2nd shot and then relying on his short game for victory. Well, according to Lanny, his caddie for the Final Four, Al "Bogey" Baxter, would have none of that. "You're gonna blast a three-wood up there!" Al demanded. (I cleaned the wording up a bit.)

I wasn't paying attention when Lanny struck that next shot, getting ready for my own shot. But I recall being startled by the sound of what seemed like something shot out of a cannon as the resonation of Lanny's three-wood effort echoed among the trees. As I told Lanny on his bedside phone: "That's the hardest I can ever recall you hitting a golf ball – a mere five yards short of the green!" And

the college math teacher of fifty years politely corrected me: "No, it was eight yards."

At that point in the phone conversation, Jim "Doc" Nurse's and my college baseball coach from the 70's ran out of energy, and I heard him say: "LaVerne, here's Mark." Those were our last words together.

With the touch of a jeweler, Lanny chipped to within a foot of the hole and tapped in for a smooth par and his 2nd NWARDKIGC crown. That was vintage "Gritty" Grigsby. Indeed, he ended with a BANG!

"And now," as Edwin Stanton said after Abe Lincoln breathed his last, "he belongs to the ages." Some contend that Stanton really said "angels" instead of "ages." And so that's how I'd like to think of it for our dear friend Lanny. He belongs to the angels. I assured him on the phone that the golf courses in heaven are ripe and luscious and that we will be playing together again before we know it. As the Bible puts it so well: "In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed."

*Grace and peace,
Mark "Games" Gries*

Mark Gries - August 07, 2017 at 10:06 AM



“ *Simply Lily was purchased for the family of Lanny Grigsby.*



August 07, 2017 at 09:59 AM

TW

“ Sorry to hear this. Coach Grigs was an all around good guy. All the best to his family.

Todd "Edgar" Wilson

Todd Wilson - August 07, 2017 at 09:24 AM



“ Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of Lanny Grigsby.



August 06, 2017 at 03:42 PM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Lanny Grigsby.



August 06, 2017 at 02:57 PM

HB

“ Our hearts and thoughts are with you all during this time of grieving. Please know that you are not alone in remembering such a truly wonderful person!! Lanny meant so much to so many in all kinds of ways. He will be sorely missed but thought of often.

Herb & Jane Besaw - August 06, 2017 at 02:30 PM



“ *Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Lanny Grigsby.*



August 06, 2017 at 12:52 PM



“ *Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Lanny Grigsby.*



August 06, 2017 at 12:07 PM



“ *Sean, Lisa, Erin And Shane O'Brien lit a candle in memory of Lanny Grigsby*



Sean, Lisa, Erin and Shane O'Brien - August 06, 2017 at 09:50 AM



Many fond family memories.

Lisa O'Brien - August 06, 2017 at 09:59 AM

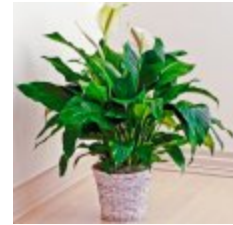
JS

“ Coach Grigsby was a true man of integrity who gave everything to those around him. His teachings and life lessons will live on through his family, students, and players. BVU and Storm Lake lost an icon, but gained a legend. Rest in peace coach.

Jason Stoltzfus - August 05, 2017 at 09:23 PM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Lanny Grigsby.



August 05, 2017 at 04:22 PM

JD

“ John And Connie (Swenson) Demers lit a candle in memory of Lanny Grigsby



John and Connie (Swenson) Demers - August 05, 2017 at 02:20 PM

KM

“ Prayers lifted up for you and your family in Lanny's passing. A very dedicated man to his family, community, students and to the Buena Vista University community. I pray that the outreach of family, friends and even strangers offers a glimpse of God's love through Christ reaching out to you as you grieve and celebrate Lanny's life.

*Ken Meissner,
Buena Vista University Chaplain*

Ken Meissner - August 04, 2017 at 02:48 PM

DT

“ *Dave & Laura Turnquist lit a candle in memory of Lanny Grigsby*



Dave & Laura Turnquist - August 04, 2017 at 12:49 PM

DT

Many great family and bowling memories!

Dave and Laura Turnquist - August 04, 2017 at 12:50 PM

DK

Sad day for such a BV icon, athlete, teammate and instructor. May god bless his family at this time of sorrow.

Don Kramer - August 05, 2017 at 11:22 AM

FM

Coach and Professor Grigsby was an icon at BVU. I felt priveleged to serve the institution with him and extend my sincere sympathies to his family and many friends.

*Fred Moore
President Emeritus
BVU*

Frederick V. Moore - August 07, 2017 at 09:13 AM

DJ

“ *Deb And Kevin Jesse lit a candle in memory of Lanny Grigsby*



Deb and Kevin Jesse - August 04, 2017 at 07:26 AM