



Dennis Duane Gray

September 4, 1948 - January 20, 2017

Dennis D. Gray, 68, of Polk, died on Friday, January 20, 2017, at Litzenberg Memorial County Hospital in Central City. Memorial services will be on Thursday, January 26, 2017, at 10:30 a.m. at the Hordville Event Center in Hordville with Sister Mary Arie officiating. Visitation will be on Wednesday, January 25, from 5-7 p.m. at Solt-Wagner Funeral Home in Central City. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.soltwagnerfuneral.com.

Dennis Duane Gray was born on September 4, 1948, in York, Nebraska, to Jason E. and Audrey (Hansen) Gray. Dennis grew up in Cordova, NE, until the 7th grade, when his family moved to Silver Creek. He graduated from Silver Creek High School in 1966. Following graduation he went to Wayne State College, where he graduated in 1970 with his Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry and a minor in Mathematics. Following his college graduation, he moved to Ashland-Greenwood, where he spent two years teaching. He then moved to Silver Creek where he worked for Gerhold Concrete for a year. In 1973 he went back to the classroom as a science teacher at Hordville. While at Hordville High School he attained his Master's Degree in Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1978. He remained in Hordville, became a teacher-principal in 1983, and received his 6-year Specialist Certificate from UNL in 1984. In 1985 Dennis became the superintendent of Hordville Schools, and when they consolidated in 1987 with Polk to become Polk-Hordville Schools, he then became superintendent there as well. He would again be

involved in a second consolidation of the school system in 2000 when they became High Plains Community. Dennis remained superintendent until his retirement in 2008.

During his career within the school systems, he was a golf coach at Ashland-Greenwood, football and basketball coach at Hordville, and a volleyball coach at Polk-Hordville. Some of his highlights during his coaching career were going to multiple state tournaments and getting to hand out the state championship medals to the 1981 and 1982 state champion boys basketball teams from Hordville High School.

On August 8, 1981, Dennis D. and Jeri M. (Varva) Gray were united in marriage in Hordville. They recently celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary.

Dennis was a member of Fridhem Lutheran Church in Hordville, The Lion's Club, and Valley View Golf Course. During his professional career, he was a member of the NSEA, NEA, NCA, NRCSA, NCSA, AASA, NSAA, and served as the President and Secretary of the Crossroads Conference on different occasions. He also helped at the Polk Senior Center, helping to deliver meals to their members.

Dennis enjoyed golfing, traveling, Husker sports, and gardening. His greatest love was for his family, especially spending time with his four grandchildren.

Those left to cherish his memory are, his mother – Audrey Gray of Silver Creek, his wife – Jeri of Polk, his son – Aaron (Crystal) Gray of Central City, his daughter – Stephanie (David) Carlson of Clarks, his siblings – Phillip (Kathy) Gray of Omaha, Darrol (Fran) Gray of Shelby, Carol Richards of Silver Creek, Donna (Scott) Alexander of Silver Creek, and Terry (Tammy) Gray of Silver Creek, and his grandchildren – Jeremiah and Noah Carlson, and Jack

and Ashley Gray.

He was preceded in death by his father – Jason Gray.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **25**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Solt-Wagner Funeral Home
1507 17th St.
Central City, NE 68826
(308) 946-3303
soltwagnerfuneral@gmail.com
<https://www.wagnerfuneral.com/>

Memorial Service

JAN **26**. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Hordville Event Center
Hordville, NE

Tribute Wall

NB

“ *Our Deepest Sympathy goes out to all the Gray Family, may God be with you and guide you thru the difficult days ahead.*

From the entire Lil Graham Family in Silver Creek.

Narka Graham Braun - January 27, 2017 at 11:44 AM

KW

“ *Jeri and family,*

So sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Kathy and Ron Walton

Kathy Walton - January 26, 2017 at 09:52 AM



“ *Dennis was a great mentor who taught me a lot about being an educator. But more than that, Dennis was a great person, a kind person, and one who cared for others. Our sympathies to all of his family and friends.*

Keith Leckron - January 25, 2017 at 09:12 PM

LR

“ *Love Doug, Linda, Cassie and Rachel purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dennis Duane Gray.*



Love Doug, Linda, Cassie and Rachel - January 25, 2017 at 01:13 PM

LR

“ Love, Katee, Luke, Spencer, Cassie, and Rachel purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Dennis Duane Gray.



Love, Katee, Luke, Spencer, Cassie, and Rachel - January 25, 2017 at 01:13 PM

SC

“ Dennis will be greatly missed. I respected Dennis as an administrator and know that he always tried to do what was best for kids. My thoughts and prayers are with Jeri, Aaron, Stephanie and the rest of their family.

Sally Carlson - January 24, 2017 at 06:07 PM



“ I really liked Dennis and was always glad to see him. He was easy to talk with and be around--truly a gentle man!

*Stan Kravig,
Former superintendent at Benedict, Geneva, Fairmont (then
Fillmore Central)*

Stan Kravig - January 23, 2017 at 10:37 AM

LM

“ My prayers are with your family

Larry M.Lindquist

Larry M.Lindquist - January 23, 2017 at 08:18 AM

KK

“ *My deepest sympathies to the Gray family.*

Kim Kava - January 23, 2017 at 08:14 AM

DB

“ *My deepest sympathy to Dennis' family. I enjoyed Dennis greatly and he was a true professional and good friend when we worked together in the CRC conference. Dennis always had a smile and good word for everyone and it was a pleasure to work with him. My thoughts are with Dennis and each of you during this time. May our Heavenly Father's strength be with you during this time and help you find the strength for support and healing.*

Dick Berthold....(Bradshaw public Schools)

Dick Berthold - January 23, 2017 at 06:46 AM

JW

“ *My deepest sympathy to Dennis's family. I got to know Dennis in 1999 as I assumed the superintendent position at McCool Junction. Denny was a very good person and I have had a great respect for him as a school administrator. I always enjoyed conversation with Denny. This past fall during the NCSA Tailgate Dennis and I had our last conversation. - Jeff Walburn*

Jeff Walburn - January 23, 2017 at 06:29 AM

BH

“ *Mr Gray. Was always "Mr" has he was one who You gave respect to without a though, even after his retirement. He will be missed as a neighbor, a man who's enveloping with my children and my grandchildrens lives carry forward his leadership skills and the way he truly cared for those lives he touched, by way of educational involvement and his community. I was forever gratefully to umpire summer ball games, has it was the hardest part of keeping the summer rec program flowing smoothly each night of games.*

You have left this life behind with a job well done in many aspects. Rest now in the peace you so deserve.

barb hoffman - January 22, 2017 at 09:20 PM

CB

“ *My Deepest Sympathy to the Gray Family. I remember him as Coach Gray from the 70's.*

Curt Burney - January 22, 2017 at 11:11 AM

DC

“ *Jeri & Family*
So sorry for your loss. May you find peace and consolation in the days ahead.
Sincerely,
Don E. Cieloha
Columbus,Ne.
Silver Creek
Class of 1966



Don E. Cieloha - January 22, 2017 at 01:34 AM

FH

“ I'm sorry I won't be in Nebraska to attend the funeral. I first met Dennis in 1991 when I started teaching at Polk-Hordville. During the next 17 years until his retirement as my "boss", I always found him to be fair and consistent. His love for the school was always evident and his support of the music program was first rate. I enjoyed him as an administrator as well as a friend and I was proud to be a part of his staff. We shared countless conversations discussing everything from school issues to funding issues to student issues to retirement issues to life issues, as well as sports, especially football and horse racing. I always appreciated knowing that I would get a straight answer from him whether we agreed or not. He provided a great workplace environment and always had the time to listen. When he retired, the place just wasn't the same for me. At that time I missed him as an administrator and colleague, now I will miss him as a friend. My inbox won't know what to do without his almost daily e-mails.

My condolences to Jeri and Aaron and Stephanie as well as the rest of the family. You will be in my thoughts during this time. I know you will miss him (as we all will), but always remember that he was a great man, a true professional and one of the few who really made a lasting difference in others' lives. He made my life better just by knowing him. That is a great legacy and the greatest compliment I can give.

Rest In Peace, my friend.

Fred Hess - January 21, 2017 at 03:10 PM

OF

“ Our Deepest Sympathy to you and your family. purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Dennis Duane Gray.



Our Deepest Sympathy to you and your family. - January 21, 2017 at 12:15 PM

KE

“ I had the privilege of working with Dennis for one year at High Plains middle school in Clarks. Dennis was a wonderful man to work for / with. His love of education and the children was reflected in all that he did. He will be missed. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Karen Edmison

Karen Edmison - January 21, 2017 at 09:42 AM