

## David L. Amstutz

September 23, 1937 - February 12, 2017

David Amstutz, 79 of Kearney died Sunday, February 12, 2017 at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Funeral services will be 10:30 am Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at the Kearney First United Methodist Church. The Rev. Melody Adams will officiate. Interment will follow at the Kearney Cemetery with Military Honors provided by the VFW Post #759 and the American Legion # 52 in conjunction with the Offutt Air Force Base Honor Guard. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church.

Memorials are suggested to the D.A.V. or the Kearney First United Methodist Church. Condolences may be shared online at [www.osrfh.com](http://www.osrfh.com). O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

David Leroy Amstutz was born September 23, 1937 in Ransom, Kansas to Fred and Helen (Hamit). He grew up in Ransom, KS and later attended Cozad High School in Cozad, NE. David served seven years in the United States Air Force. Following his honorable discharge, he moved to Kearney where he earned his bachelor's degree from Kearney State College. In 1965, David was united in marriage to Polly Banks in Grand Island, NE. David went on to receive his Master's Degree and PhD. From the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. He was employed at the University of Nebraska Kearney as a Professor of Physics for 40 years.

He enjoyed working on his classic cars (many thanks to the mechanics at Kearney Tire and Auto) and biking around town. David was a member of the Kearney First United Methodist Church and the VFW Post # 759.

Survivors include his wife of 51 years, Polly Amstutz of Kearney; son David Lee Amstutz of Lincoln; siblings Mike Amstutz and wife Elaine of Beatrice, Fritz Rauch of Scott City, KS, Paul Younger of Dighton, KS, Deborah Younger of Lincoln; several nieces and nephews and their children, as well as, many in-laws and their extended families.

David was preceded in death by his parents.

# Cemetery Details

## Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 233-3244

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 15. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church  
4500 Linden Drive  
Kearney, NE 68847

## Funeral Service

FEB 15. 10:30 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church  
4500 Linden Drive  
Kearney, NE 68847

# Tribute Wall



“ *David L. Amstutz*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *Just happened to remember today a moment in physics class and decided to look up Dr. Amstutz and was sad to learn of his passing. Dr Amstutz was my favorite professor at UNK. I graduated in the winter of 2007. He was the best at engaging students and keeping the curriculum fun. The chair tossing and chalk throwing and all the little things he did to keep us excited about physics made me wish I could have had him for all my classes. Rest In Peace Dr. Amstutz.*

**Toan Nguyen** - July 10, 2021 at 12:57 AM



“ *Just came across the passing of Dave and want to send my condolences to his wife and family. We were best of friends when we both joined the AF. We trained together in FI, spent a year in Taiwan as members of a missile launch team and took side trips to the Philippines and Hong Kong. I conversed with him a couple of times via email. I will miss him.*

**jerry stickney** - April 20, 2019 at 10:10 PM

DA

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What in the world was that programmer on!  
I was counting ceiling tiles in my office today...  
I hate to sound like a chemist...  
When I was your age I knew everything. Now that I'm my age I  
know nothing. But I do know a tiny bit about mathematical physics.  
Remember gentlemen, you left the easy stuff way back there.  
Another 3 years and we could really do some mathematical physics!  
This isn't worth writing down, gentlemen.  
In a burst of idiocy...  
The only way to solve that problem is to use some calculus, I'm  
sorry to say.  
I got excited one time and took a class in cryogenic engineering.  
Taking notes is just a complete waste of time.  
No one really cares too much about the theory except the theorists.  
If you're a civil libertarian you should probably worry.  
You'd have your problems too if somebody shot you.  
You can stand in six wet bathtubs with a volt and a half battery and  
you won't even notice. Unless the water's hot. Or cold. Or whatever.  
These are so hard even your instructor can't do them.  
At this level it's easy to make a test that no one can pass.  
This could have been your law, except Kirchoff wrote it down first.  
Well I hate to interrupt, but I think I will.  
I think I'll interrupt for about 50 minutes or so.  
Please don't tell me that makes sense, I can't handle that.  
If at first you don't succeed, keep flipping switches.  
I've already made six people mad today, so what's seven?  
You haven't lived until you've been through a monsoon.  
The astronomy class was extolling the virtues of craters.  
I wouldn't mind spending a year or so on fiber optics.  
Price thinks Maple does everything.  
If there's anything that's just stupid, it's solving simultaneous  
equations by hand.  
There are all sorts of fun things you can do with cryogenic fluids.  
Everybody knows that if you don't have an integral running around  
you haven't done anything right.

*Use a gamma function!*

*I was biking around the noon hour...*

*You know, I know, even the termites in the wall know...*

*Heckfire!*

*This is a kadunken (thought) experiment.*

*I can't even add 2 and 2 and get 5 like your supposed to.*

*Please help me, I'm not good with numbers.*

*Please make sure I know what I am doing.*

*Well I can see your not interested in my little algorithm here.*

*C'mon, I'm not wearing hip boots.*

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**Dave** - February 16, 2018 at 10:12 AM

DA

“ As a UNK class of 2007 graduate, there wasn't another professor that had as much impact on my life as Dr. Amstutz. I was unaware of his passing and just happened to look him up on a whim to find this news a year too late. He always had a way of making class fun with his word play. In fact, I recalled a word document that another student put together of all the best quotes from Dr. Amstutz years ago. I still keep that document with me and would like to share them with you.

*My opinion and 53 cents will get me a cup of tea at the Union, but they don't care too much about my opinion - they just want my 53 cents.*

*The lazy eight, the giant number, or what some people loosely call infinity.*

*According to our story anyway, ...*

*The fact of the matter is...*

*I just wanna be nosy...*

*If, please notice,..*

*Let's suppose, just for the heck of it,...*

*Kindly observe..*

*Let's just do it to it.*

*In point of fact...*

*As they say at the phone company, Wunderbar!*

*I wouldn't wish that on my worst enemy.*

*...having run into it somewhere along the highway.*

*You've done this so many times you're probably bored.*

*When we get done with this happiness,...*

*...,barring math error, and I don't hear screams of anguish,...*

*This is going swimmingly.*

*With the risk of sounding like a mathematician,...*

*In a burst of stupidity, I wrote this up.*

*You can't get there from here because there's no there there.*

*The thinking person would recognize...*

*Please observe, pretty please with sugar on it.*

*...which is pretty nifty. If you're a professional assassin.*

*Weird integral, but heck it's Monday, you can't have everything.*

*Let's take all this garbage away.*

*You've got to take all these answers with a ton of salt.  
...all over the fabby-poo three...  
Kind of gets you all choked up, doesn't it?  
It would be the first time this year that I got something right.  
Heavenly days!  
...and, of course, the garbage...  
A giraffe/camel is a horse put together by experts.  
Does it make a nickel's worth of sense...?  
Is that a definite maybe?  
Are we trying to confuse you? Probably.  
Now that I've underwhelmed you here...  
You can shoot me at sunrise.  
But hey, it's Monday. You just can't be too sarcastic.  
Show problems are the greatest thing since Post Toasties.  
In the words of my favorite math professor: How 'bout them apples,  
Bobo.  
So how are you enjoying the rain? (Pause) That was a rhetorical  
question.  
Isomorphic transforms!  
You should be asking: What the heck are you talking about  
Amstutz?  
When you see the word 'silly' in the dictionary, you see my picture.  
I was thinking -- I know that's difficult to believe -- ...  
I hear students in the halls say that the teachers at this school are  
as dumb as posts! And that's insulting to the posts!  
So why should you fall apart if...  
You have the right to a fair and reasonable test.  
So how is everybody today? (Pause) That good.  
So tonight you can all go home and stick pins in your Amstutz doll. I  
don't know, maybe you'd rather use the real person.  
The natural log operator is our friend.  
Et cetera, ad nauseum, ad infinitum.  
Can't write, can't talk -- I'm in a mell of a hess.  
I'm not an experimentalist. I don't care how many vacuum pumps  
you have coming out of your ears.  
Someone threatened to take away my colored chalk. I didn't know  
how to handle that.*

*Too early to tell, to late to start over.  
The road to the hot spot is paved with good intentions.  
A dull pencil is better than a sharp memory.  
I'm so sorry I'll probably lose a second's worth of sleep tonight.  
Let's review. Just for me, because obviously you don't need to.  
I guess the walls didn't cave in since Amstutz was actually thinking  
a moment.  
Think of your instructor's checking account: zero!  
If you don't like this you can go dig Gauss up and complain.  
That's just infinity -- whatever that is.  
Two negatives make a positive. Too bad that doesn't work in  
relationships; two negatives just get you one heck of a negative.*

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Dave - February 16, 2018 at 09:35 AM

KM

“ *Just found out about Dr. Amstutz's passing from my college roommate and best friend. She and I took physics from Dr. Amstutz at KSC around 1984. She was a natural at all things physics during high school, but I was a first-timer to the subject. Along with his sense of humor, his helpful methods helped me overcome my dread of story problems and understand the principles underlying them, which has served me well ever since, as a medical technologist and a homeschool mom. My dad died suddenly when I was taking his physics class, and I remember how kind he was when I told him why I had to miss class a few days. May his family feel the love and peace of the Lord Jesus at this difficult time.*

*Kay (Bockerman) Milbrath  
Mounds View, MN*

Kay Milbrath - March 27, 2017 at 10:15 AM

MM

“ David was one of my favorite professors at UNK. I had one class with him and it was one of the best. Thanks David!

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**Matt Miller** - February 16, 2017 at 08:31 PM

MM

“ Polly, you've been in my prayers since I heard the news, along with your son. I always thought we shared a special bond with having a son as an only child. I will miss the service due to my teaching schedule, but my heart will be with you today and the coming days. Lean on the Lord and He will give you strength.  
*Margaret Michener*

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**Margaret Michener** - February 15, 2017 at 08:52 AM

JS

“ J. Smith lit a candle in memory of David L. Amstutz



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**J. Smith** - February 14, 2017 at 08:20 PM

JR

“ Dear Polly,

*I was so very saddened to read about David. He was a great colleague for many years and a good friend. I will remember him fondly.*

*Jim Roark*

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**Jim Roark** - February 14, 2017 at 05:39 PM

AS

“ Dave you were very good friend and person, I learn a lot working on your cars at kta for over thirty years. even when I made mistake, we worked around that. when I was down you where there, you had way to make me do thing so easy. you will be in life forever, good friend are hard to come by.

*your truly friend,  
Andy*

*ps I am real sorry for lost of very kind man that has touch so many life's of so many person in this world !!!!!*

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**Andy Snodgrass** - February 14, 2017 at 02:25 PM

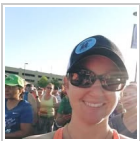


“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of David L. Amstutz.



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February 14, 2017 at 12:08 PM



“ Dr. Amstutz was so full of life. I first met him when I was a student in 1996. As a freshman that loved math and physics, it was great to have a teach that was so fun and knowledgeable. I remember him wanting to throw a chair to demonstrate a law of physics but then opted to toss the chalk at the wall instead. After I returned to teach at UNK I appreciated all his and Polly's support as I tried to find my place. I loved catching up with him at the store or when he was out riding his bike. My thoughts and prayers are with Polly and the family.

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**Pari Daire Ford** - February 14, 2017 at 11:51 AM

DR

“ I still cannot believe that the photo here would be associated with Uncle Dave's obituary. I can't think of a specific memory to share at the moment, but one thing I always loved about Uncle Dave was his wit. Anytime the family was together, he had me laughing--even when he wasn't trying! He had a generous heart and he will be missed. Much love to Aunt Polly and David Lee.

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**Donna Rauch** - February 13, 2017 at 09:02 PM

LK

“ I can not believe this.  
So many great memories are left with me.  
I was truly blessed to know Dr. Amstutz for 10 years. I wish I had 20 more.  
Luba Kreminska

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**LKrem** - February 13, 2017 at 02:42 PM