



Dr. David A. Bauer

September 15, 1945 - February 7, 2025

David Arlan Bauer, 79, of Kearney, NE, died during a medical procedure at Kearney Regional Hospital in Kearney, on Friday, February 7, 2025, after bravely battling multiple myeloma for the past 5 years.

David was born September 15, 1945, in Concordia, KS, to Wade and Connie (Demaray) Bauer. He graduated from Clay Center High School (Clay Center, KS) in 1963. David married Ann Yust on September 19, 1967, in Clay Center, KS. Five children blessed this union: Paul, Marc, Andrew, Rebecca, and Joshua.

Raised on a farm near Broughton, KS, David excelled in youth baseball, and made lifelong friendships with Bill Frost, Rex Carlson and Harvey Frigon.

David was in the Peace Corps in India, summer of 1967. He graduated from Fort Hays State College in 1968 with a degree in Music Education. Later, he earned a Master of Music Education degree from the University of Missouri Conservatory of Music, in Kansas City, and a Doctor of Education degree from Arizona State University.

He taught secondary choral music in Bonner Springs, Colby, and Manhattan, KS, and then moved to collegiate-level teaching at Northern State University, in Aberdeen, SD. David taught at the University of Nebraska-Kearney for 35

years before retiring in 2019. He remained active as an adjudicator of music contests in Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska. He was a frequent conductor of festival choirs in the USA during his collegiate tenure.

David created the Platte River Singers, a Kearney area community choir, in 2013, and he served as the artistic director. Last year, David and Ann received the “Friends of Kearney” award from the Kearney Chamber of Commerce for contributions and leadership within the community. David received the Fort Hays State University Distinguished Alumni Award in 2024. The David Bauer family was inducted into the Kearney High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2023.

David was a high school wrestler and he officiated high school and collegiate wrestling for over 40 years. He passed his love of the sport onto his family. He continued to be a supporter of Kearney wrestling. During the late 1980s and early '90s, David could be found umpiring junior league baseball many summer evenings.

David was a life member of the American Choral Directors Association. He was a member of Nebraska Music Educators Association, the National Association for Music Education, Dobytown Kiwanis, Arbor Day and Defenders of Wildlife. He directed the Kearney First United Methodist Church choir for 35 years. In 2006, David founded the University of NE Kearney Honor Choir to provide cultural and musical opportunities for high school students in Nebraska.

David enjoyed fishing and camping near Marble, CO, with his friends, Jeff and Jean Harris, of Mesa, AZ, for over 30 years. He traveled with his choirs throughout Europe, and also in Mexico, South America and Canada. His choirs have sung at Carnegie Hall and the Mormon Tabernacle, and performed for President Bill Clinton when he visited Kearney in 2000. David

was also a close friend of choral director/ composer Z. Randall Stroope, who wrote and dedicated songs to David and Ann. He was also passionate about birds—at one time raising 15 different species of pheasant, as well as quail, francolin and partridge, in an aviary on his property northwest of Kearney.

Survivors include his wife Ann of Kearney; 5 children Paul (Michelle), of Carrollton, TX; Marc (Elizabeth), of Kearney; Andrew, of Arlington, TX; Rebecca (Daniel) Busenbark, of Hutchinson, KS; Joshua (Heidi), of Haymarket, VA; 16 grandchildren: Ryan (Ashlee); Matthew (Cassandra); Scott (McKenna); Sarah (Griffin) Edwards; Allison (fiancé Cameron Riecke); Julia (Eli) Wolfe; Sophia; Meghan (Caleb) Phipps; Hannah, Henry, Madilynne, Benjamin, Lydia, Nora, Andrew, and William; 10 great-grandchildren: Eloise, Caleb, Isla, Adaline Elizabeth, Adaline Katelee, Eliza, Coda, Ethan, Charlie, and Selah; brother Ernest (Frances), of Davisburg, MI; sister Nancie (Thomas) Stelle of Lenexa, KS; brothers-in-law Steve (Patti) Yust of Sylvia, KS; Philip (Sally) Yust of St. Joseph, MO; David (Sharon) Yust of Del Norte, CO; many nieces and nephews; and a host of friends and former students dear to his heart. He will also be missed by his loyal white Labrador, Jesse.

Here is a link to David's commencement address at UNK in the summer of 2019: [https:// m.youtube.com/watch?v=u9EA8tQhWUE](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=u9EA8tQhWUE)

David donated his body to the University of Nebraska Medical Center for research. His ashes will be interred in the Broughton, Kansas Cemetery at a later date.

A Celebration of Life in memory of Dr. David Bauer will be held Sunday, March 9, 2025 at 3:30 Merryman Performing Arts Center in Kearney, NE, 225 West 22nd Street.

Memorials are suggested to the University of Nebraska Kearney Athletic Department, Kearney First United Methodist Church and Platte River Singers. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 9. 3:30 PM (CT)

Merryman Performing Arts Center
225 W. 22nd Street
Kearney, NE 68845

Tribute Wall

GS

“ *Dr Bauer (before he was Dr Bauer) changed my life or, at least, the trajectory of my life by giving me an absolute love of choirs and choir singing.*
Fall 1980, 3 weeks in to my sophomore year of high school in Manhattan KS. The moment, to me, is frozen in time. I hadn't really sung in choirs much before that, but decided to give choir a try anyway. Didn't think much of it, but he changed that when, in sectionals, he had all of us tenors sing a few lines... solo! I did it, nervously, and.... He loved and raved about my voice! That gave me all sorts of confidence and began my LOVE of choral singing. There have been very few years, since 1980, that I have not sung in a choir. I am a proud tenor now in Marquette (Michigan) Choral Society and I don't think there has been a rehearsal where I have not thought about Dr. Bauer. I know he had an impact on many lives and I'm glad mine is one of them.

Gary Stark - July 07, 2025 at 05:43 PM

MH

“ *Marla Hartmann lit a candle in memory of Dr. David A. Bauer*



Marla Hartmann - June 26, 2025 at 09:50 PM



“ *Ann and family,*
I am so sorry for your loss. Let God's hope comfort you at this time.
Blessings to you as you remember the great times shared.

Kimberly Rebman - March 10, 2025 at 01:05 AM

KR

“ *Kimberly Rebman lit a candle in memory of Dr. David A. Bauer*



Kimberly Rebman - March 10, 2025 at 01:02 AM

LW

“ *Dr. Bauer was a wonderful teacher and mentor in my music education. I will always treasure the memories. Prayers for peace and comfort. Lori Halterman Wikoff MHS Class 1980.*

Lori Wikoff - March 09, 2025 at 06:04 PM

MW

“ We received the blessing of David and Ann's heartfelt warm friendship when they were touring Germany - Leipzig with their Choir. It took only moments for our little son Heinrich and David to become friends through their shared interest in birds. David even mailed bird feathers to Heinrich across the Atlantic and more visits and frequent Christmas cards kept our friendship alive. I remember visiting Ann and David in Kearney and helping David with the birds and the yard work. He introduced me to the Archway in Kearney which I never miss visiting, when I come through or by Kearney since. The conversations with David were inspiring, his thoughts were always full of optimism and great fullness. I remember taking Ann and David to the tiny city of Quedlinburg, in the Harz mountains here in Germany to search for ancestors. There was almost no topic David was not interested in. Every Christmas, when we hang up our Christmas stockings here in our home in Leipzig Germany we are reminded on David and Ann's love and friendship, because those beautiful knitted and embroidered stockings were once a Christmas gift by Ann and David over fifteen years ago. Since then every new member to our family gets his own remake of one of this original Ann and David Bauer Christmas stockings. David will always stay in our hearts. He did so throughout the last years despite the distance of many thousands miles between Kearney and Leipzig. And he will remain so, even he is now just a little further away. May God bless him and his wonderful family. Love, Markus and Cathleen Wiese, and children Heinrich, Leonie and Ferdinand.

Markus Ruben Wiese - March 08, 2025 at 10:07 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. David A. Bauer.



March 05, 2025 at 10:39 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. David A. Bauer.

March 05, 2025 at 10:39 PM



“ Rebecca S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. David A. Bauer.

Rebecca S. - March 05, 2025 at 04:51 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Dr. David A. Bauer.



March 04, 2025 at 12:55 PM

RG

“ Imagine coach Vince Lombardi teaching acapella choir to high school students.
"Intense" is one word that comes to mind. "Excellence" is one more. What a teacher! Poor Leslie... poor baritones. He had no problem getting all in your business if you weren't singing up to par. Sometimes he'd stop the rest of the choir and make you sing your part all by yourself, and it had better be right!
But his coaching consistently earned his Bonner High choirs perfect 10 gold medal ratings at Kansas State music contests each year he was there. I earned four of them, myself. Nope, I can't wrestle anymore, but I can still sing my butt off, thanks to his fundamentals. And whenever I'm in the recording studio with singers and musicians, no matter how great they may be, I always scream at em' from the top of my lungs! Because, that's the way Mr. Bauer would do things.
If you make it to heaven, listen for the best singing you've ever heard, and look for the choir director. It'll be him! He'll either be grinning ear to ear, or stomping and eating someone's lunch. What a great teacher! God bless you Bauer family. We all loved him so and he's still a major part of our lives. In love, Roger Garner class of 72'.. .

Roger Garner - February 27, 2025 at 11:03 PM

JH

“ Mr. Bauer changed my life along with so many others. Our choir had an unforgettable trip to Mexico and many other wonderful experiences. My condolences to Ann and the family. Jill Stehley Harrison, MHK Class of 1978

Jill Harrison - February 26, 2025 at 05:39 PM

EN

“ Ernie and Nancie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. David A. Bauer.

Ernie and Nancie - February 20, 2025 at 02:27 PM

EN

“ Ernie and Nancie purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Dr. David A. Bauer.



Ernie and Nancie - February 20, 2025 at 02:27 PM

W'

“ Wendy Sistrunk (MHS '79) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. David A. Bauer.

Wendy Sistrunk (MHS '79) - February 19, 2025 at 04:52 PM

W'

“ Wendy Sistrunk (MHS '79) purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. David A. Bauer.



Wendy Sistrunk (MHS '79) - February 19, 2025 at 04:52 PM

AR

“ Dr. Bauer had such a spark for life and music. I'm forever thankful for the joy he shared with the world. He will be dearly missed.

Anne Reinhiller - February 18, 2025 at 07:39 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. David A. Bauer.

February 18, 2025 at 07:34 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Dr. David A. Bauer.



February 18, 2025 at 07:34 PM



“ I was on the verge of changing careers. Dr. Bauer came to work with my vocal groups when I was a mere fledgling vocal instructor in Sutton, NE. His encouragement and support changed my mind. I am so sad to hear of his passing. He will be missed by so many.

Mark Butler - February 17, 2025 at 08:18 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Dr. David A. Bauer.



February 17, 2025 at 02:03 PM

T1

“ The Harmonettes CCCHS 1959-1962 planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. David A. Bauer.

The Harmonettes CCCHS 1959-1962 - February 17, 2025 at 08:28 AM

JS

“ Dr. Bauer's encouragement gave me confidence that I didn't know I had. Thank you.

Jacob Sykes - February 16, 2025 at 06:41 PM

MH

“ Thank you Dr. Bauer for giving me the opportunity to sing with the UNK women's choir, and all of the experiences that came with that experience. Your kindness will never be forgotten. Thank you.

Melane Hall - February 12, 2025 at 11:29 PM

BL

“ I enjoyed the pleasure of David's choir instruction at Manhattan High School. He and Ann were remarkable in the way they led and mentored students. Even now, some 50 years later, I remember David signing my yearbook saying "keep on singing!". I suspect he would say that even now. Bryan LaGree, MHS '1976.

Bryan LaGree - February 12, 2025 at 08:05 PM

FE

“ Fran Eckley purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Dr. David A. Bauer.



Fran Eckley - February 12, 2025 at 06:10 PM

JA

“ I became a better musician by participating in his choral ensembles. Thanks Dr. Bauer. Rest in Peace.

Jim Arrowood - February 12, 2025 at 04:33 PM

BW

“ Dr. Bauer was such an energetic force as a choir leader. His enthusiasm and passion for choral music couldn't be matched, and his method for how to elicit a singer's best voice with his "Bauerisms" not only worked but brought smiles to everyone's faces. Thank you Dr. Bauer for being such a light in the world.

Betsy Warren - February 12, 2025 at 03:07 PM

WS

“ I remember our Manhattan High School choir took a trip to Mexico, visiting attractions and singing everywhere we could. One such place was on top of one of the pyramids. Bauer led an impromptu performance of "All My Trials Lord.. Soon Be Over". It was the closest I ever felt to God. May God hold David in his palm now.

Wendy Sistrunk - February 12, 2025 at 02:45 PM

YF

“ Your STATE FARM Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. David A. Bauer.



Your STATE FARM Family - February 11, 2025 at 03:34 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. David A. Bauer.

February 10, 2025 at 06:06 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Dr. David A. Bauer.



February 10, 2025 at 06:06 PM



“ *Bob & I will remember Dr. Bauer as a man who dedicated many years to students and adults alike to further their education and appreciation for music in all forms, and its compacity to instill in them a lifelong love of its existence, without which this planet would be a desolate place indeed.*

Bob & Sue Wallace - February 10, 2025 at 05:57 PM



Thank you Bob and Sue. And yes, his love for music was truly a passion and blessing for all of us.

Ann Bauer - February 12, 2025 at 07:31 PM



“ The Samuelson Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. David A. Bauer.

The Samuelson Family - February 10, 2025 at 05:38 PM

TF

“ *The Samuelson Family purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Dr. David A. Bauer.*



The Samuelson Family - February 10, 2025 at 05:38 PM

MK

“ *Margaret Klimek lit a candle in memory of Dr. David A. Bauer*



Margaret Klimek - February 10, 2025 at 04:28 PM



“ *Thank you Dr. Bauer...thank you.*

Casey Halbgewachs - February 10, 2025 at 10:33 AM