



Marvin D. Stone

August 28, 1931 - December 23, 2025

Marvin D. Stone, 94 of Kearney passed away Tuesday, December 23, 2025 at Kinship Pointe Northridge in Kearney, NE. Memorial services will be 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 30, 2025 at Kearney E-Free Church with Pastor Adrian Boykin officiating. Burial will be held at a later date at Looking Glass Cemetery, 7 miles south of Newman Grove, NE.

Marvin Stone was born on August 28, 1931 to Maynard and Minnie (Miller) Stone of rural St. Edward, Nebraska. Growing up on a farm, he always had a love of learning and he excelled in his one-room schoolhouse and then at Newman Grove High school, where he graduated at 16. He enjoyed a cozy upbringing with 3 brothers and cousins who were close. He enjoyed playing the piano and singing at his country church, Looking Glass United Methodist. At age 6, he contracted polio but survived after 10 trips to a doctor for treatment. He never expected to do much beyond farming, but after a cousin shared her positive experience at college, he decided to give it a try. He endured hardships to complete his degree (English and math education) at Wayne State college, having to stop school once to earn enough money to continue. During that time, he taught one year in a one-room school himself, beloved by his students.

He graduated from college in 1953 and was drafted into the army where he served primarily in Heidelberg, Germany at the end of the Korean war as a secretary to the lieutenant colonel because of his abilities in short-hand and

typing 90 words per minute. He then returned to the United States and taught 2 years in Fenton, IA and then moved to David City, NE where he met his future wife, Lucille Happel.

He and Lucille were married on August 21, 1960 in Sterling, NE. He then pursued his masters in geography at UNL and eventually achieved his PhD in geography in 1978 from Kansas University. He also worked summers at Wind Cave National Park in South Dakota and Homestead National Monument in Beatrice and taught at Schuyler high school. During their time in Schuyler, Karen was born in 1961 and Lyndon in 1963. The couple moved to Kearney, where Marvin taught at then Kearney State College (later UNK) for 32 years. Christina was born in 1978.

Marvin had a humble servant heart and as well as other service organizations, he served as the Kearney State College philanthropy organization sponsor, worked with adult literacy and was the Evangelical Free church secretary and financial secretary for many years. Dr. Stone was loved by his students, and many called him their favorite professor. He retired in 1997. Karen, Lyndon and Christina cherish their father, who told them magnificent bedtime stories that he made up, played with them, took them fishing, taught them to work with cattle through 4-H and overall was the most caring, loving father that children could hope to have. He was an example of and instilled a deep Christian faith in his children. He loved his family and cared for them well. He and Lucille celebrated 65 years of marriage this August.

Marvin was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Merlin, Leon and Leland, sister-in-law Pat Stone (Merlin), parents-in-law Louis and Amelia Happel, brother-in-law Donald Happel, and his grandson Connor Stone.

He is survived by his wife, Lucille, children, Karen Fong (Scott) of Altoona IA, Lyndon Stone (Tina) of Ottawa, KS, Christina Nelms (Tim) of Kearney, grandchildren Meagan Hock (Adam) of Ankeny IA, Bailey Stone (special

friend Kamron) of Highlands Ranch, CO, Matthew, Lucas and Ezekiel Nelms of Kearney and great-grandchildren Madison, George, Alexandra and Benedict Hock and Brantley Stone, sister's in-law Ruth and Patsy Stone, Donna Happel, as well as numerous cousins, nieces and nephews and friends.

Memorials may be designated for Down syndrome research, Looking Glass church, Kearney Evangelical Free church or donor's choice. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC 30. 2:00 PM (CT)

Kearney E-Free Church
4010 7th Ave
Kearney, NE 68845
<http://www.kearneyefree.com>

Tribute Wall

DB

“ I was a student at Schuyler high school of both “Mr and Mrs Stone” and they. We’re both favorites of mine! Much later one of my kids was blessed to have Mr Stone at UNK and he recognized the name and relationship after all those years. Lucille you have been blessed with all those years and memories. My sincere condolences to you and your whole family. I hold fond memories of you both. Diane (Hoppe) Birkel. SHS class of 65

Diane Birkel - January 09 at 03:09 PM

TM

“ Our deepest condolences to Lucille, Karen, Lyndon, Christina, and their families. Marvin was such a wonderful man, and he will be missed. Tom and Regina McCann and family



Tom McCann - December 31, 2025 at 10:55 AM

TM

“ Our condolences Lucille, Karen, Lyndon and Christina and families. The McCann family



Tom McCann - December 30, 2025 at 05:09 PM

ML

“ *Lucille and family,
Our hearts are with you as you celebrate Marvin's life.
With sympathy and love,
Mary Ellen Lantis & family*

Mary Ellen Lantis - December 29, 2025 at 06:54 PM

JK

“ *I'm remembering a young English teacher in David city high school.
I shared those memories with you one time Lucille. Now they make
me smile.
You were blessed to have 65 years together. May your memories
make you smile at this time.*

Jo Ann Sack K0ertner - December 29, 2025 at 06:18 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the
family of Marvin D. Stone.*



December 29, 2025 at 11:22 AM



“ *Roger Davis lit a candle in memory of Marvin
D. Stone*



Roger Davis - December 28, 2025 at 09:34 PM



“ *Marv was a wonderful colleague and an inspirational teacher and a true gentleman. May he rest in peace.*
Roger Davis

Roger Davis - December 28, 2025 at 09:33 PM

DK

“ *I am very sorry to hear of Marv's passing. I was a geography major and worked as a student assistant in the Geography Department. I helped type (yes, on an electric typewriter) Marv's dissertation - still remember - it was about pivot irrigation systems - something fairly new back then. My sincere sympathy to your family - Marv was a good, kind man and a good teacher I'll always remember.*
Diana (McVittie) Keith
Kearney

Diana Keith - December 27, 2025 at 04:35 PM

SB

“ *I have fond memories of Marvin from the many times I spent with Karen at their home. He was a very kind man who was a wonderful pianist. I also recall that he was a bit of an amateur meteorologist and that his weather predictions were often more accurate than the professional's on the evening news. I also had the good fortune of being in one of his classes in college. He was very passionate about his subject, and passed that passion on to his students. Marvin touched many lives in a positive way and will be sorely missed.*

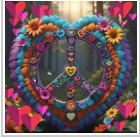
Susan Beans - December 27, 2025 at 03:18 PM

MF

“ *Marcia, Charles, Paula & Families purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Marvin D. Stone.*



Marcia, Charles, Paula & Families - December 27, 2025 at 11:12 AM



“ *Our deepest sympathies to your family Christine. I always enjoyed our visits. Hold fast to those memories. He was one of the good ones.*

Jera Hinkle - December 26, 2025 at 10:09 PM

MH

“ *One of my favorite professors at Kearney State College! I will always remember his wonderful lectures and his smiling face.*

Melodee Hauserman - December 25, 2025 at 06:22 PM

DF

“ *Donna Happel, Kay Poppe & girl's & famil purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Marvin D. Stone.*



Donna Happel, Kay Poppe & girl's & famil - December 25, 2025 at 01:43 PM

DF

“ Donna Happel, Kay Poppe & girl's & famil planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marvin D. Stone.

Donna Happel, Kay Poppe & girl's & famil - December 25, 2025 at 01:43 PM

JW

“ John And Lee Ward lit a candle in memory of Marvin D. Stone



john and Lee Ward - December 25, 2025 at 11:49 AM

LJ

“ Mrs Stone, Karen, Lyndon, & Christina, I'm so sorry to hear about Mr Stone's passing. He was such a nice man and will be missed by many. I'm sure your hearts are aching right now. Please know you aren't alone. We are thinking of you and keeping you in our prayers.



Linda & Mel Joy - December 24, 2025 at 08:21 PM

SD

I had the pleasure of knowing Marv as a colleague, a mentor, and a friend over some 35 years of sharing offices, students and colleagues. First and foremost he was a Teacher! Travels with Marv were always special as he exercised his Geographic talents through all the window of the car! We will miss him but we still have our memories share.

Stan Dart - December 29, 2025 at 05:26 PM