



Melvin G. Munsinger

December 7, 1948 - November 23, 2017

Melvin Munsinger, 68
Kearney resident

Melvin G. Munsinger, 68, of Kearney died Thursday, November 23, 2017 at CHI Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney. Funeral services will be 3:00 pm Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. The Rev. Mother Stephanie Swinnea will officiate. Burial will take place at a later date. Visitation will be 5-7:00 PM Tuesday followed by an Anglican Rosary beginning at 7:00 pm at the O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home.

Memorials are suggested to the family for future designation. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. Services are entrusted to the O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home.

Melvin Gene Munsinger was born in Albion on December 7, 1948, to Kenneth Carl and Zeta Eloise (Scarlett) Munsinger during the 1948 blizzard which prevented his Dad from seeing him until he was already two days old. He grew up in the communities of Petersburg, Albion, and St. Edward, Nebraska. He attended Bogus District 11 Boone County rural country school and St. Edward Public Schools, graduating from high school in 1967. He then attended Kearney State College, Kearney, Nebraska, graduating in December, 1971, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education and holding a K-12 General Teaching Certificate which allowed him to teach all grade levels. He also

completed EFM School of Ministry at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Grand Island, Nebraska.

He was introduced to the love of his life with red hair (his dream), Cheryl Tripp of Albion, Nebraska, by his second cousin, Gloria Moody, in the summer of 1968. They were married at St. Michael's Catholic Church, in Albion, Nebraska, on Saturday, November 21, 1970. To this union, four children were born, Anne, Elizabeth, Rachel, and John.

Melvin was a multi-talented, gentle spirited man. He was kind, loving, and thoughtful to his wife, children, family and friends. He was always employed, providing for his family. To pay for college, he worked summers and weekends for the Clarence Choat family around St. Edward/Albion area in Boone County, at their BV82 Anhydrous Ammonia Plant, babysitting the Choat children and grandchildren, moving irrigation pipe, stacking hay bales, and driving the tractor, as well as anything else the family needed done on the farm.

Upon graduation from college and awaiting a teaching position, as well as during the summer, he worked for ASC Irrigation in Grand Island, Nebraska, making aluminum irrigation pipe; then later for Diamond Plastics in Grand Island making PVC pipe. His first teaching position where he taught for three years was at Rural School District 84, Platte County, between Platte Center and Columbus, Nebraska, teaching all subjects for 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, and PE. To increase his salary, the School Board added custodian of the school to his contract. So he and Cheryl would drive every Saturday from Grand Island, where she worked as a nurse, to the school to clean the classrooms, hall, and the gymnasium. His annual teaching contract was less than \$7,000.00.

The next country school was Hall County School District 4, south of Grand

Island, Nebraska, where for six years he taught 4th through 8th grades, PE and music, until the School Board contracted with PE and Music teachers, who also went to other country schools in the county. He then worked with the other schools and the teachers to start a track meet every year. During summers he worked as a groundskeeper for St. Francis Hospital in Grand Island, where he maintained the lawn, flower beds, trees, and the underground sprinkler system.

His next country school where he taught for three years was Bunker Hill, Howard County, just south of St. Paul, Nebraska, teaching 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.

At each of his country schools, he taught Nebraska history, covering the pioneers, the Native American Indian tribes, the foods they grew, the preparation of meals, including "Rattlesnake" Stew made with beef back bones, decorating the Christmas tree the old fashioned way with popcorn and cranberries. He purchased the story books for the kids as Christmas gifts for the next literature classes including "The Lion, the Witch, and Wardrobe", by C.S. Lewis, and other such classics.

While teaching he was active in the Nebraska State Teachers Association and the Reading Rainbow Program.

Other positions he held included teaching with Head Start, helping with the summer reading program and was the Bookmobile driver for Edith Abbott Memorial Library. He made stops at rural Hall County schools, small towns, and nursing homes, as well as a few rural mail boxes. He also tutored children and adults in his spare time. He was always sharing some knowledge he had learned in private conversations with friends, families, and acquaintances.

In 1997, the family moved to Sterling, Colorado, where Cheryl had taken a job. There, Melvin worked in many capacities in education. The Sterling Public Library, as a substitute teacher for Northeastern Junior College (NJC), and the

Sterling Public Schools, in the High School's Behavior Classroom, Spanish, Math, Science, History, and English classrooms, and even Home Economics. He later worked with the developmentally delayed adults in the group home setting at Sprocka, in Sterling, as well as, in Sidney, Nebraska, transitioning to the Sidney workshop.

In 1997 the family returned to Nebraska, moving back to Kearney, Nebraska, and began teaching in the Behavioral classrooms at Kearney High School and Sunrise Middle School. Eventually returning to work with the developmentally delayed adults in the group home setting, driving their bus, and finally the workshop. He loved working with these clients who he called God's special children.

Having grown up with his mother's sisters in the kitchen when he was smaller, while the men worked outside, he learned to cook, can fruits and vegetables, and make bread. He became quite a cook, making soups and stews, main meals, and homemade bread, making the best French bread ever! He canned fruits, vegetables, pickles, spaghetti and chili sauces, salsa, mostly all that he had grown, for his family and friends as gifts.

Throughout his time in each community in which he lived he was active in the Episcopal Church there, teaching Sunday school, Confirmation classes, and was a Chalice bearer, lector, and usher during Sunday Holy Eucharist.

Due to failing health, he semi-retired in 2008, but in November of that year he suffered a mild transient stroke which led to him needing to have carotid surgery. From this he suffered a more major stroke while in the Recovery Room, but being a fighter he was able to walk his third daughter down the aisle for her wedding the following August. Subsequent to this, he had intermittent episodes which left him weaker and unable to remain home. So in the fall of 2014 he entered Good Samaritan Society Ravenna Home, Ravenna, Nebraska, where he resided until his death. He was able to come home for visits, holidays, and other special occasions, one of which was this

Thanksgiving Day, enjoying good home cooked food, company and conversation with his children, grandchildren, his Dad and Sally. He had been blessed to attend his 50th Class Reunion at St. Edward High School, St. Edward, Nebraska, and celebrated his 47th wedding anniversary on Tuesday, November 21st with Cheryl.

He loved his Dad and Sally, his wife, kids, and grandkids, siblings, cousins, nieces, and nephews, as well as God and Jesus Christ, his many students and clients.

He was dearly loved and will be greatly missed by his wife, Cheryl. Daughters Anne Jones, Beth Munsinger, Rachel O'Connor (Sonny), and son John Munsinger all of Kearney. His Dad, K.C. and Sally (Ford) Munsinger, of Cairo; twins—his brother Dave (Shirley) Munsinger of Lincoln, Nebraska, and Donna (Marvin) Ruskamp of Bertrand, Nebraska. Grandchildren: Daniel Shaeffer, Lincoln, Nebraska; Hannah, Josiah (Joey), and Bennett Jones, Jadon, Liam, Nora, and Eamon O'Connor, Allia and Riley Munsinger all of Kearney. Many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **28**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations
4115 Ave N
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 234-3500
info@osrfh.com
<https://www.osrfh.com>

Vigil / Prayer Service

NOV **28**. 7:00 PM (CT)

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Funeral Service

NOV **29**. 3:00 PM (CT)

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
2304 N. 2nd Ave
Kearney, NE 68845

Tribute Wall



“ *Melvin G. Munsinger*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *I remember Mr Munsinger very well. He was my teacher at Hall County Rural School Dist 4 Sunny Slope. He was always kind, tremendous patience, and was a good teacher. He signed my autograph book that “Santa” had brought for me and I occasionally get it out and read it. I am happy that he was in my life. PS: I grew up to be a teacher. Thank you Mr Munsinger for being you, a truly lovely person.*



Jill Camargo - December 01, 2017 at 11:01 PM



“ *Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts. Today and always, may loving memories bring you and your family PEACE, COMFORT AND STRENGTH. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Cheryl and the family.
Dave, Shirley and Emily Munsinger*



SHIRLEY MUNSINGER - November 28, 2017 at 07:55 PM

MR

“ Cheryl and family so sorry for your loss,
Thoughts and Prayers.

Kerry & Marlene Rodysill



Marlene Rodysill - November 27, 2017 at 07:44 PM

JH

“ Cheryl and family. So enjoyed reading Melvin's obit. Wish I knew that he worked for Choats. I babysat for Gary and Shirley Choat's kids in real St. Edward. Melvin will be missed by many. Prayers for you and your family. Dan and Janice Harrington

Janice Harrington - November 27, 2017 at 05:46 PM

TF

“ The Tom Scarlett Family purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Melvin G. Munsinger.



The Tom Scarlett Family - November 27, 2017 at 03:11 PM

TJ

“ Cheryl and family

So sorry to hear of your loss. Melvin was a good friend and I always enjoyed the time we spent together while our kids were growing up. We wish your family the best in this time of great sorrow. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers.

Tim And Marcy Jacobsen

Tim Jacobsen - November 27, 2017 at 09:23 AM



Malinda
McClure

So sorry to to hear of his passing. He was my mom Carrol Otto cousin. We have always have had great memories shared of him. My mom and I send our condolences. Prayers

Malinda McClure - November 28, 2017 at 02:21 PM



LH

Cheryl and family

I'm very sorry to learn of your loss, please know all of you are in my prayers and thoughts. Melvin certainly had a wonderful life, helping others in many ways. I remember you and Gloria stopping at the office after school to check in with your mom. I also remember attending your nurses' graduation (first time I'd been in the Cathedral) I felt quite honored to attend your wedding. Your mother was a nice co-worker. Do take care!

*Sincerely,
Liz Hunt*

Liz Hunt - November 28, 2017 at 06:10 PM