



Joseph Bennett Brown

July 5, 1942 - July 1, 2014

Joseph Bennett Brown, 71, of Mission, KS, passed away Tuesday, July 1, 2014 at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Funeral services will be at 11:00am Wednesday, July 2, at The Louis Memorial Chapel, 6830 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO with burial to follow at Sheffield Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to Myasthenia Gravis, Ohev Sholom Synagogue or Wayside Waifs.

Joseph was born in Jefferson City, MO, the son of Alvin and Anne (Tonkin) Brown, moving to the Kansas City area as a young child.

He attended Kansas City Schools, graduating from Paseo High School. Joseph received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Central Missouri and the University of Missouri – Kansas City.

He taught for 35 years in the Kansas City, KS public school district, served 8 years as a student teacher supervisor and also as an adjunct instructor at the UMKC School of Education.

To Joseph, family and his grandchildren were the focus of his life. He loved to have family cookouts on Sundays and Thursday night Sushi. Joseph also looked forward to regular dinners with his long time circle of friends.

He was an avid sports fan, especially for the Kansas City Royals and the Chicago Cubs. Joseph loved his animals, his beloved “Dixie” and feeding his wildlife in the approximately 40 feeders that are in the backyard.

He will be greatly missed by all his loving family and his many lifelong friends.

Joseph was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Rita Brown, of the home; son and daughter-in-law: Heath and Gina Brown, Overland Park, KS; daughter: Ericka Cooper, Lenexa, KS; sister: Sharon Klugman, Lake of the Ozarks, MO; his grandchildren: Haille Cooper and Adrian Brown and his beloved 4 legged friend, “Dixie”. He is also survived by many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Cemetery

Sheffield Cemetery

6200 Wilson Road

Kansas City, MO,

Comments



“ He was my 8th grade history teacher at Central Junior High School, and I would say - without hesitation - that he was the finest teacher I was ever fortunate enough to come across. Tossing aside the prescribed textbook, he taught us as if we were college-level students, fashioning lectures that were filled with fascinating and important detail. And no end of wit! He inspired me to study history in depth as an adult. He was, as many of the tributes which preceded mine made clear, a wonderful and unique person. I only wish I had contacted him later to tell him how much he meant to me. Bless his memory, and those who were fortunate enough to have known him for a much longer time than I did.

Alan Kent - September 08, 2020 at 08:07 PM



“ Rita, I was so shocked and saddened to hear of Joe's passing. I so enjoyed the two of you at UMKC School of Education events. You were always there for the students and were so genuinely caring about each one of them. I especially remember the last conversation we had prior to my retirement and enjoyed sharing memories of St. Joe. May his memory be for a blessing. Annette Haynes

Annette Haynes - July 12, 2014 at 09:52 PM



“ Rita, Dennis and I , will miss Joe so very much. Watching him in the back yard with Dixie and filling the bird feeders, is a sweet memory we will always cherish ! What a wonderful friend and neighbor he always was to us. We are so blessed ,that we had you both so close by these seven years. What a kind and loving family you and joe have created together. Thank you for always letting us be part of it . Carol & Dennis Marshall

Carol Marshall - July 07, 2014 at 12:04 AM



“ Rita, I was so sorry to recently learn of your loss. Please take comfort in the wonderful legacy he left for so many. His life touched not only family but also friends, students, colleagues, animals, and birds. Being deeply missed reflects a life well lived. Lives go separate ways but memories linger. My deepest sympathy to you and your entire family. Love, Harriet Barrish

Dr. Harriet Barrish - July 06, 2014 at 02:00 PM



“ Rita,
I think my favorite memory of Joe is when he saved Mooch. Wasn't that the name of that little black dog? He will be so missed. It's so hard to lose someone especially Joe, who was so full of life, hang in there. Surround yourself with family and friends.....
Tammy

Tammy Carter - July 03, 2014 at 08:38 AM



“ I love teaching with both you and Joe. I will NEVER forget the group of kids we shared. Joe was an amazing husband, father (grandpa) and friend. He was also an outstanding teacher and touched so many kids with his stories.

Meredith - July 02, 2014 at 10:14 PM



“ Mr. Joe Brown taught nearly each one of the five T.E. Newbold kids at Central Junior High in the late '60s and early '70s. I had the good fortune to have Mr. Brown as our instructor for American Civics. Joe (later years we connected online and shared emails he asked me to call him, "Joe") had a theatrical style about him when conducting his class... he really was able to engage the students and bring to life the meaning, workings, the dilemmas of forging a dynamic Republic in a diverse and modern world. Joe had... and everyone who knew him must agree... a sharp wit and tremendous sense of humor -- he was funny and could make people laugh... not many of us can do that genuinely like Mr. Brown...uh, Joe. I also know that he and his wife were close friends throughout the years with another man and woman I respect and love dearly... Aunt Vera and Uncle Rex Newbold. I'm sure he will be missed but not forgotten.
Respectfully.... Gary Newbold & family

Gary Newbold - July 02, 2014 at 06:14 PM



“ Joe was so loved because he was so kind and loving to everyone-students, parents, staff, and administrators at Central Middle School. He just loved teaching, people, animals, and most of all, loved and was so proud of his family. He had a wonderful ability to connect with everyone, make them feel appreciated, and most of all- laugh and feel better about the world. He was the heart of our school and made all our lives so much better! He will be so missed!

Beverly Baxter - July 02, 2014 at 03:11 PM



“ Rita,
I'm so sorry for your loss. You and Joe made my time at UMKC so wonderful. I never shared with you that observing the love and care you demonstrated toward each other was an inspiration. I was also moved by your dedication to the profession and the teacher candidates. I know this is a difficult time but find comfort in knowing how deeply Joe has impacted my life and all those he came in contact with. God Bless you and your family.

Monika - July 02, 2014 at 09:35 AM



“ The news of Joe's passing saddens us more that we can say. Joe was a great guy, good friend and we will miss him. We had some fun times together and we are glad we have those memories. Call us or let us know if there is anything we can do to help lessen your burden. You have our deepest sympathy. Vera and Rex

Vera Newbold - July 02, 2014 at 09:13 AM



“ Rita, I am so very sorry to learn of Joe's passing. He was a wonderful man, a great example to our education students and to our faculty. His caring and enthusiastic presence (and his frequent jokes) will be missed by all. Godspeed to all of his family and especially to you.

Gail Metcalf Schartel

Gail Metcalf Schartel - July 02, 2014 at 08:12 AM



“ I'll never forget Joe's love of teaching, and his belief that each youngster could learn and become a better person. I'll never forget his kindness, his firm support of teachers and of the school itself. He will be missed very, very much.



J. Rucker - July 01, 2014 at 08:27 PM



“ He was the first teacher I met at Central Middle. I think that he was probably the first person that every new teacher met who came to Central. He immediately made you feel welcome and told you without reservation that you would love the school. This was absolutely true because Joe made it so. He was the Ring Master, The Sage, The Perpetrator of Silliness and everyone loved him. He will always be missed , never forgotten, and forever loved. Prayers and love to Rita and a Family. Janis Dow and Family. Denny, Morgan and Brendan



Janis Dow - July 01, 2014 at 06:54 PM



“ Joe was the unofficial greeter of the neighborhood. He never knew a stranger and was a great example to all of us in his love and care for all animals, particularly wild birds, with which he communed. I remember seeing him out in the yard with his binoculars getting a closer look at a bird. I will miss his cheery greeting and jovial conversation....he was always so interested in everyone and all our pets. He remembered their names and greeted them accordingly.

He was a neighborhood watch guy. We all knew that if anything funny was going on, he would report it.

I can't imagine the sorrow you and all of his family are feeling. I certainly am sad and will miss him greatly.

Ann Martin

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Ann - July 02, 2014 at 05:07 PM