



## Mel Douglas "Doug" Spillman

December 12, 1948 - August 31, 2014

Mel Douglas "Doug" Spillman passed away Sunday, August 31, 2014 in Walsenburg, Colorado at age sixty-five. Mr. Spillman was born in Stafford, Kansas on December 12, 1948 to Melvin Luther and Lorna Dean (Weise) Spillman. Doug graduated from Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas with a B.S. in Education in 1970. He began his teaching career in Ransom, Kansas. In 1975, he earned a M.S. degree from Fort Hays in Educational Leadership which allowed him the opportunity to become a principal and superintendent. Doug's duties as an educational leader led him to many school districts in Kansas, Colorado and Oklahoma. He loved working with students from Kindergarten through High School. Often he could be seen interacting with students at recess, playing football or other sports and mentoring older students through conversation. Doug loved his career as an educator and spent forty plus years devoting his life to the youth of public schools. When Doug was outside of the school he also loved to go hunting, fishing and spending time with his grandchildren. Mr. Spillman was preceded in passing by his parents Melvin and Lorna Dean Spillman and one brother Jim Spillman.

Survivors include his wife Janet (Harris) Spillman of the home, his children, Mandy Spillman-Hixon of Miami, Matt Spillman and his wife Stephanie of Ozark, Missouri, Tara Gragg and her husband DJ of Fairland and Aaron Walker and his wife Andra of Miami, his grandchildren Kyleigh Hixon, Hannah Gragg, Addyson Hixon, Joshua Gragg, Kinson Spillman and Clara Walker along with his sister Connie Carroll and her husband Richard of Fairland.

Services will be 2:00 PM, Friday, September 5, 2014 at First United Methodist Church, Miami with Reverend Mark Rickman officiating. Services have been placed in the care of Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Miami.

The family has asked that memorial contributions be made to the River Bottom Sportsmen for Disable Veterans or the Doug Spillman Scholarship Fund. Please make both of these in care of the funeral home at 5 B NW, Miami, OK 74354

Friends and family may send the family notes of encouragement by viewing Mr. Spillman's Tribute Page at [www.brown-winters.com](http://www.brown-winters.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Wyandotte Cemetery

Highway 60  
Wyandotte, OK

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 4. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service  
5 B Street NW  
Miami, OK 74354  
(918) 542-3311  
info@brown-winters.com  
<https://www.brown-winters.com>

## Funeral

SEP 5. 2:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church - Miami  
200 B NW  
Miami, OK 74354  
<http://www.fumcmiami.org>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service created a Tribute Video in memory of Mel Douglas "Doug" Spillman*



**Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service** - September 07, 2014 at 04:37 PM

GM

“ *Today was a very sad day for me as I learned of the death of Mr. Spillman. I was a student at Ransom, his first teaching job, and I had him for class and played football and ran track for him. Even though he was just starting in education, he taught all of us many valuable life lessons that have served me very well for many years. I have tried to continue the humanity he modeled for us in my own teaching career. We will miss you coach.*

**Glenn McFall** - September 18, 2014 at 08:36 PM

DE

“ *Diana & Dennis Echard: We both grew up with Doug in the town of Garfield. Also, we were very close friends with Doug and his family. So sorry for your loss and may God give you comfort and peace.*



**Dennis Echard** - September 05, 2014 at 04:32 PM

PH

“ *I am so sorry for your loss but remember this is only a temporary parting. You; his beloved family will be reunited with Doug when we put our trust in Jesus Christ. He left behind a wonderful heritage in the lives he changed. I went to school with Mandy and she is a living example of her father's kindness and sincerity. Peace be with you.*

**Paul Haynes** - September 05, 2014 at 01:08 PM



Connie England

“ Doug Spillman , He was our boss and he was our friend. Just the mention of his name made people smile. He made everyone feel they mattered. His family should be very proud. His passing will be a loss to many. He had a way of lifting you up and made our town a better place while he was here. He mattered. Our sympathy to all his family.

Odis and Connie England

Connie England - September 05, 2014 at 10:04 AM

MS

“ So sorry for your loss. Words can only help ease the pain of loss that your family feels. I worked with Mr. Spillman when he was superintendent at Jay. He came to Jay School and fit in with all staff. He will be missed.

Marvin Stockton - September 05, 2014 at 07:42 AM

KL

“ Mr. Spillman was my principal and I can't remember him not smiling. Such a great person to have the opportunity to know. My sympathy to the Spillman family for your loss.

Kristen Lucas - September 04, 2014 at 10:03 PM

PF

“ My prayers and thoughts are with the family. Doug and I grew up together in Garfield, Ks. Phyllis Meckfessel Foster

Phyllis Foster - September 04, 2014 at 06:11 PM

DG

“ I will miss my friend and hunting buddy.  
Dick Goforth

Dick Goforth - September 04, 2014 at 06:03 PM

SS

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I will be praying for the family. Mr. Spillman was a great man and a friend to everyone. He will be missed. Mr. Spillman gave me my first and only teaching position in Miami. He has touched many people of the years. Bless the family.



Sheri Scobee - September 04, 2014 at 04:22 PM

LS

“ I grew up with Doug in the small town of Garfield,Ks. Our parents were good friends and Doug and I went through all 12 years of school together. We lived together our first two years at Ft Hays. I won't tell you what all we did, suffice it to say that we laughed a lot. Our lives seemed to go their separate ways and I hadn't seen Doug much in many years. I am glad to see in the previous posts that he touched many of your lives in such a positive manner. Even though we had grown apart I thought of him often. I will miss him. Our sympathies to his family and those who loved him.

Larry & Betty Seba

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Larry Seba - September 04, 2014 at 03:11 PM

LS

“ I didn't know Doug after high school at Garfield KS, but He was certainly my best supporter in Speech Class, when my voice was cracking and my knees were shaking. He was a true friend! I was scared outta my mind to stand in front of people and talk, because I was so shy. He would encourage and support me the whole time, by nodding his head, and giving me a thumbs up, etc. I am so grateful for his friendship back then. It makes me sad the world lost a really great man way too early! Prayers are being said for you his family and friends. God be with y'all in this time of terrible loss and grief. Find comfort in your faith in Jesus Christ.

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Linda Ross Scarborough - September 04, 2014 at 01:44 PM

CR

“*Doug was definitely one of a kind- a true gentleman, educator, and avid outdoorsman. He was always willing to lend a helping hand, give advice, and share knowledge. He would go out of his way to help strangers or friends, and always had a comment that could brighten even the worse day. For these traits and many others he was respected. His presence made this world a better place.*

*I spent a lot of time with him in the woods when I was a boy- he was one of the first people to see the first deer that I ever shot. I can still remember the smile on his face and the congratulations that followed.*

*Every once in a while I run across an S hook hanging from a tree in the North woods. They were Doug's calling card, a sort of notice that was posted for other hunters letting us know that he had killed and dressed a deer in that location. Over the last 25 or so years he bagged more deer than any of us could ever count, and in each location an S hook. Today they take on a new meaning- they are a monument that represents a level of prowess that few of us outdoorsman will achieve, but many of us will aspire to.*

*Here's to Doug and the new chapter of his journey. May the road always rise to meet you (or nose if you find yourself in the woods), may the wind always be at your back, and may there always be a warm hearth to greet you.*

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**Chris Robinson** - September 03, 2014 at 07:01 PM

CH

“*My heart goes out to Doug's family. He was my "go to" person while I was superintendent in Miami. When we had a problem, his input and assistance was vital. He was special. I have many fond memories of Doug. He was a great educator, administrator, and friend. We shared many professional, fishing, and hunting experiences.*

*Dr. Charles Head*

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**Charlie Head** - September 03, 2014 at 06:59 PM

BM

“*I am sorry for your loss and am praying for the family during this difficult time.*  
*Beth Mathews*

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**Beth Mathews** - September 03, 2014 at 06:20 PM

AF

“ When I was a student at Rockdale in Miami, Mr. Spillman was the principal. I remember how great all of the kids thought he was. He would come out at recess and push us on the swings. We would beg him to sign his name on our hands with a pen and he would. And we thought that was so awesome. I'm very sorry to hear about this. He will be greatly missed.

*Autumn Fuhrman*

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**Autumn Fuhrman** - September 03, 2014 at 02:10 PM

BS

“ I would like to tell you how sorry I am to hear of Dougs passing. I was hired by Doug at Crest Schools and there was never a better person to work for and that looked out for you. Really enjoyed talking to him about sports, hunting, his cattle herds and kids / grandkids through the years. He had a lot of good stories to tell from his experiences. Dougs was a very special person - could talk to a anyone and would help anyone out. Thought and prayers are with the family.

*Brent Smith*

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**Brent Smith** - September 03, 2014 at 12:14 PM

MH

“ So very sorry for your loss, Doug was always very nice to me, a kind man. Prayers for you and the family as you go through this most difficult time.

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**Marcy Hendren** - September 03, 2014 at 12:10 PM

DJ

“ Janet and Family,  
What a great picture and it shows just how happy you and Doug were at your wedding. It was such a sweet wedding and it holds a special place in my heart. Know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. Love, Debbie Johnson~

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**Debbie Johnson** - September 03, 2014 at 11:30 AM



“ I just seen Mr. Spillman a few weeks ago, he was on golf cart watching his grand kids slip and slide with my kiddos and my bff daughter. Mandy was there and I yelled at mandy do you not know who I am, and Mr. Spillman, ya I do, its Mallory, and Mandy came up and hugged me. It was good day, we watched the kids slip and slide for hours. I am deeply sorry and sad for the family. I will be praying and asking for comfort for all them. Mandy and my sister grew up together being best friends and her dad was good friends with our parents. Hugs!!



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**Mya Seat** - September 03, 2014 at 11:17 AM



“ We are so sorry to hear of Doug's passing. He was a great guy and I enjoyed working with him each day. Doug spent many evenings preparing for deer and turkey season with Butch. We will cherish these memories.

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**Butch and Leanne Trabuc** - September 03, 2014 at 10:58 AM



“ Janet and family:

*I am so sorry for your loss. I will always remember his smile, great personality and kind heart.*

*I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Deanna Johnson*

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**Deanna Johnson** - September 03, 2014 at 10:53 AM



“ Poppy Doug was an amazing man. He meant more to me than I can explain. He was the reason that I got my first teaching job, for that I will forever be grateful. I have so many memories of Doug on work trips, all of them bring a smile to my face and make me laugh. Doug had a laugh like no other that made you laugh just hearing it. For all the Head Start office girls, I'll never forget him saying, "Here Kitty, Kitty!!!"

*Mandy, Ky, and Addy I love you girls so much! I will be there for you whenever you need anything!*

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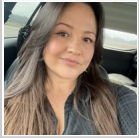
**Keli Sumter** - September 03, 2014 at 10:35 AM

JH

“ I am so sorry to hear about Mr. Spillman and so sorry for the family's loss. Thinking of you all during this hard time.  
~Jayme Carroll Hendrix



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**Jayme Carroll Hendrix** - September 03, 2014 at 08:15 AM



“ When I was in grade school at Rockdale my foot slipped under the fence and got cut open during our morning run. I called my grandmother to come take me to get stitches. When she arrived, I started to hobble out to the car when Mr. Spillman scooped me up and carried me. I will never forget how tall and strong he was! He was such a compassionate person and that moment has stuck with me for 23 years.

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**DeMaris Rector** - September 03, 2014 at 07:12 AM

SA

“ Doug always had that great smile and approachable personality. I feel blessed to have known him.



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**Sandy Ankenman** - September 03, 2014 at 06:58 AM

BA

“ Im sad to hear about Mr Spillman. He was my principal when I attend Roosevelt Elementary. I remember he always came out on the playground and pushed us on the swings. And everyone always got so excited when he did. He would push us so hard and so fast. I went to a lot of schools when I was younger because my father was in the military. And Mr Spillman was by far my favorite principal. My thoughts and prayers go out to Mr Spillmens family.

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**Brad Antle** - September 02, 2014 at 11:38 PM

TC

“ I applied for a job at Crest High School where Doug was the superintendent. On my application it had asked, if you had any fines other than minor traffic violations. I had responded that 10 years earlier I had got a fine for putting a doe tag on a buck. Doug called me to set up interview and the conversation went like this..."Mr. Conrad, this is Doug Spillman from Crest School, would you like to come in for an interview? Before you answer Mr. Conrad, I want you to know I always have an extra buck tag if you need one.". That was my first conversation with Doug . Doug hired me and that was the start of a great friendship with one of the finest people I have ever known.  
Toby Conrad

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**Toby Conrad** - September 02, 2014 at 10:31 PM

CD

Toby , so glad you teaching and such a great story to remember Doug with. He was a wonderful mentor and friend , always helpful and positive in my years with him professionally. My prayers go out to his family , may God keep you close.

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**Connie Deems** - September 03, 2014 at 10:50 PM

JB

“ Janet and family,  
Our family is praying for you all in this time of sorrow. Our hearts go out to you.  
Love you very much, Chris, Julie and the gang.

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**julie Buzzard** - September 02, 2014 at 08:35 PM

DF

“ Doug was so happy the last time I saw him....full of love and life.....heaven's gain, our loss. Love to Janet and the family!

*Donna Speer Farley*

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**Donna Farley** - September 02, 2014 at 07:20 PM