



## Raymond L. Judkins

June 8, 1937 - October 20, 2019

On October 20, 2019, Raymond Laverne Judkins regained his memory and his freedom from his toughest opponent ever, Alzheimer's. His battle has ended and he remains a champion. His greatest fans throughout this battle and his entire life were his wife Judy Judkins, his brothers Gene Judkins, David Judkins and Wayne Judkins, children Mike and Terie Judkins, Tim and Edie Ingram, Brett and Becky Crowe, his grandchildren Matt Judkins, Todd and Brianna Judkins, Brittany Crowe and Bailey Crowe and great grandchildren Liadan and Damien Judkins.

Dad lives on not only in our memories but also in the memories of all of the countless lives he touched. He was a coach above all else and the accomplishment that brought him the most pride was starting the wrestling program at NEO A&M College and being inducted into the NEO Athletic Hall of Fame.

However, his coaching skills reached far beyond the world of athletics. Dad coached by example, he was a coach of character and lived his life with integrity; he was a coach of fatherhood who demonstrated unconditional love to his own children and many others whom he took in as his own. He was a coach of joy, constantly living life with laughter and infusing fun into everything he did. He was a coach of marriage and demonstrated an unfailing love for our mother that his children, grandchildren and anyone else who was around him witnessed on a daily basis. Though his memory left him, his love for his red headed bride was a constant. Dad lives on through the lessons that he

taught us all, his singing, his laughter, his love of life and his desire to make a difference in the lives of others.

Raymond Laverne Judkins was born in Oklahoma City on June 8, 1937 to Herbert and Rebecca Judkins. He is a graduate of Putnam City High School Class of 1955. Ray attended NEO A&M College and earned his Bachelor's from Northeastern State in Tahlequah where he was a member of the 1959 National Championship Football Team. He continued his education at Pittsburg State University where he earned his Master's in Educational Leadership and his Specialist in Administration.

He met Judith Ann Archer, the love of his life, on a blind date while attending school at Tahlequah and they were married in November of 1958. They began their life teaching and coaching on a Navajo Reservation in Arizona where their first child Mike was born and later moved to Sargent High School outside of the small farming community of Monte Vista, Colorado. While in Monte Vista, they had their daughter Edie. Their next stop was McCook Nebraska where Dad worked as a football coach at McCook Jr. College. With each move came another addition to their family and McCook was no exception. McCook was where their daughter Becky joined the family.

Dad's dream to return to NEO and coach became a reality in 1969 when McCook played the NEO Norseman. McCook had been ahead, but NEO came in at the last minute for the win. Chuck Bowman was NEO's head coach at the time and he took advantage of the opportunity, inviting Dad to join the Golden Norseman coaching staff. Dad coached at NEO until he realized he was missing out on his children's lives, so he became an assistant principal at Miami High School. He returned to NEO for a short time, then was hired as the principal at Picher High School and later returned to Miami Public Schools where he retired as their high school principal. As typical for Dad, he wasn't happy not being busy so he took a position in Columbus, Kansas as a principal for Columbus Public Schools and worked in that school system until his retirement.

We are holding a celebration of life for Dad on Friday, October 25 in the Bruce

Carter Student Union Calcagno Ballroom. A reception will begin at 2:00 pm followed by a brief memorial program at 2:30. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Wrestling Program at NEO A&M College Foundation, 200 I Street NE or to the Animal Welfare and Adoption Agency at their PayPal account [miamiadoptadog@gmail.com](mailto:miamiadoptadog@gmail.com).

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

OCT **25**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Bruce Carter Student Union Calcagno Ballroom at NEO A&M College  
200 I Street NE  
Miami, OK 74354

# Tribute Wall

JC

“ *Mr. Judkins was my principle at Picher, he was a very likable guy and kind. He would do all he could do to help a child- May god be with his family during this time of need. God bless Jerry D Coach class of 1990*

Jerry D Coach - November 01, 2019 at 02:16 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Raymond L. Judkins.*



October 24, 2019 at 10:26 AM

BW

“ *Bill and Pam Wrisinger purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Raymond L. Judkins.*



Bill and Pam Wrisinger - October 23, 2019 at 02:32 PM

HS

“ *Ray Judkins was a coach, mentor and a friend. He had such a positive influence on many people. It was a privilege to have wrestled for him at NEO. Rest in peace! Howard Seay*

Howard Seay - October 22, 2019 at 12:46 PM

TM

“ He was Coach, Principle, Friend!  
Good memories of Mr. Judkins!  
FAIR, ALWAYS 🌹

Tim Morris - October 22, 2019 at 08:00 AM

DG

“ It was my freshman year of high school when Mr. Judkins made a big impression on me. (I didn't know him as Coach) My parents were both teaching at the school and I had just won the Miami wrestling tournament if my memory serves me. My mom and I were leaving the library at MHS and Mr. J stops us to talk. He says, “so you think you are a wrestler?” My response was “yes sir”! “Come here” he replies. As I get close enough to him, he reaches down grabs me by the back of the thigh then lifts all 130lbs to eye level and says something like “you will do.” That moment in time definitely changed my perspective. He will be missed by many!

David Gilstrap - October 21, 2019 at 08:54 PM

 Tammy Becker

“ I can remember Mr. Judkins smile and laughter. He always had time for you and always friendly to everyone. He was my favorite principal of all time. I am so sorry for your loss. May God bring you comfort and peace that only he can give. Prayers for your family.

Tammy Becker - October 21, 2019 at 08:12 PM

KB

“ I can hear his laughter as he sang to us, with that great smile reaching all the way to his eyes. It was a privilege to be a teacher with and for Ray J, a truly great man.

Kay Boman-Harvey - October 21, 2019 at 03:16 PM

JM

*Mr. Ray J was an "Encourager" in every sense of the word! Lorene Micka considered him one of the best administrators, had the backs of teachers, and a great friend. In the halls of MHS, I had a smile, a joke and a hug when I really needed it. And I felt safe. Lucky me, I got that at N.E.O. as well, and a fine teacher. Light Perpetual Shine upon you, Mr. Judkins. And thank you.*

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**Jill Micka** - October 21, 2019 at 05:14 PM

KS

*Ray J was a wonderful role model and a man of integrity. When I'm teaching my US History classes I sometimes pause and think about the many lessons I learned from him.*

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**Kathy Saar** - October 21, 2019 at 07:25 PM

RS

*I remember Ray J talking me into running the clock for all the football games and later went on to announce. He was always there with a smile and friendly approach to teach me how to do the job. I remember him saying as principal that he didn't think of his teachers working for him, but With him in creating an excellent learning environment for the students. Our world became a better place because of his hard work and devotion. One of a kind! Loved by all who knew him! Will be missed by so many who's lives were touched by him! Our loss and heavens gain!*

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**Ron Stowell** - October 21, 2019 at 08:22 PM