

Boone News Republican Guest Book

Students remember influential teacher

By: Matt Oliver, Staff Writer

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When reflecting on one's educational experiences, often a favorite teacher comes to mind. Whether it was a history lecture that has never been forgotten or life lessons that have endured the passage of time, former Boone High School teacher and coach Hal Lyness remained a memorable figure for many of the students he taught.

Lyness passed away this past Sunday and as funeral services were held at the Augustana Lutheran Church on Friday, many of his past students reflected on his legacy - filled with lessons that have echoed throughout their lifetimes.

Although Facebook is generally thought of as a social networking Web site where old friends communicate, more than 780 individuals utilized the site as a means of traveling down memory lane, reflecting on their fondest memories of the longtime teacher and coach.

"What can you say about a person so involved in the lives of Boone students and residents?" wrote 1980 BHS graduate Terri Gengler Davidson, of Boone. "He was a fabulous person with a ready smile. If you saw him on the streets, it was amazing that he could always remember your name even though you hadn't been in his class for over 25 years."

Although Lyness' classes were often difficult, he motivated many of his students to rise to the challenge.

"Mr. Lyness was a memorable, inspiring teacher. He was also demanding and challenging. I learned how to take notes in his class, how to outline, the value of current events and reading the newspaper. And I do remember his great penmanship," wrote 1968 BHS alumnus Nancy Naeve Degner, of Ankeny. "The fact that I remember his teaching so clearly is a testament to his skills as a teacher."

Students now located in places spanning from New York to California expressed their gratitude for Lyness' ability to make learning an enjoyable experience.

"The thing that when I think about him that always stands out is the way that he was able to pull the very, very best out of every student he ever met," said 1988 BHS graduate Tracey Herrick, of Phoenix.

Herrick said Lyness had a habit of writing comments on the top of assignments and exams, which students appreciated. "The sun rose and fell on getting those good comments at the top of the page," Herrick said. Unlike the traditional approach to teaching, Lyness did not use textbooks. Instead, he used his own knowledge and put forth vivid accounts of topics that he presented. "The way he really forced you to memorize and really absorb all of the material was just amazing," Herrick said. "He didn't use textbooks. My notes read like a history novel from

the way he colored such fantastic stories and gave such rich amounts of detail - he just pushed and pushed and pulled the best out of everybody he ever met."

Lyness was born in Portland, Ore., in 1925 to Harry and Betty Marie Lyness. He spent most of his youth in Tacoma, Wash., where he graduated from Stadium High School in 1942. Following high school, Lyness continued to devote his life to academia.

His quest to become a lifelong student began at the College of Puget Sound in Tacoma. In 1948, he graduated from Doane College in Crete, Neb. Thereafter, he earned his master's degree in education from the University of Nebraska and then continued his educational journey continued at one of America's premier universities - Harvard University. Additionally, Lyness studied at Drake University, Iowa State University, Purdue University, Indiana University, Northwestern University and Valley Forge College in Valley Forge, Penn.

During his education, Lyness excelled in both academics and athletics. He lettered as a Northwestern Wildcat on the baseball diamond during the summer of 1945. In 1946, he displayed his ability to lead as he captained and quarterbacked Doane College to a championship. While at Doane College, Lyness lettered in football, track and golf. In 1947, he became Nebraska small college tennis champion in both singles and doubles competition. Not only did Lyness have a calling to education and athletics but also a calling to serve his country. Lyness enlisted in the United States Navy in 1942 and attended officer's training at Doane College and Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. He served in both the Pacific and Mediterranean theaters during World War II as a yeoman aboard a flagship. On June 20, 1948 he married Betty Rasmussen in Cozad, Neb.

His career as a teacher began in Gothenburg, Neb., where he taught social studies and coached from 1948-1950. From 1950-1951, Lyness taught in Danbury, Neb., and from 1951-1956, he coached at Wilber High School in Wilber, Neb., where he led his team to a state football championship in 1955.

In 1956, Lyness came to Boone where he taught and coached until 1990. Originally hired as a coach, he soon began teaching a wide array of subjects at BHS, including government, social studies, economics, American history, world history and international relations. Aside from teaching, he coached seventh-grade track and sophomore basketball. During his time in Boone, his service to America continued as he worked as a security guard at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Boone from 1972-2008. He was a lifelong educator and member of the National Education Association.

His wife of 60 years, Betty Lyness said that for him, his students were more than just students. "He was dedicated to his pupils," Betty Lyness said. "He loved his pupils and enjoyed his work with them - it was like a second family to him."

While her husband dedicated his life to the realm of education, Betty Lyness said teaching was not initially the profession he set out to pursue. "He didn't freely plan to be a teacher. He was going to be a lawyer," Betty Lyness said. "When we met at college, we planned to get married so

that kind of altered the plan and he decided he would be a coach, not dreaming he would have to teach."

Like coaching, the classroom presented Lyness with the opportunity to guide the direction his students took and allowed him to touch the lives of many pupils during his tenure in Boone. "It turned out to be a blessing," Betty Lyness. "It was a two-way street. He really loved teaching. He really loved his students and what he did." journey at one of America's premier universities - Harvard University. Additionally, Lyness studied at Drake University, Iowa State University, Purdue University, Indiana University, Northwestern University and Valley Forge College in Valley Forge, Penn.

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students took and allowed him to touch the lives of many pupils during his tenure in Boone. "It turned out to be a blessing," Betty Lyness. "It was a two-way street. He really loved teaching. He really loved his students and what he did."

February 21, 2009

- ☒ To all the Lyness family, I am so sorry for your loss, but what a wonderful person to have in your life. I'm so glad that Mr. Lyness was a part of my life, for even a short time. He had a way of teaching that was like no other that I ever had and was just a great person. He will be missed and remembered by all. You can't think of BHS with out thinking of Mr. Lyness. You are in my prayer.

Valerie Moorman-Williams (West Plains, MO)

February 12, 2009

- ☒ My husband (BHS Class of 1960) and I (BHS Class of 1962) always had a very high regard for Mr. Lyness, as an instructor and person. Our sympathies are with your family.

Mickey & Kathi Cornelius (Annada, MO)

[Contact me](#)

February 12, 2009

- ☒ Mr. Lyness: You were everything a teacher is supposed to be: dedicated, inspirational and wonderful family man. You had a tremendous impact on my life.

michael loehrer (dublin, OH)

February 12, 2009

- ☒ Topper, although I never met your father he must have been a remarkable man. My condolences to you and your family.

Flo Lassek (Las Vegas, NV)

February 12, 2009

- ☒ Mr. Lyness, of all of the classes I took at BHS, yours were the most memorable. You taught me to not take anything written or said at face value, and to always pay attention to everything's true meaning.

I always went out of my way to fit your classes into my schedule.

I've been away from Boone for a number of years now, and I've always thought once in awhile what you were up to, how you and Betty were doing, and am saddened to hear of your passing.

I hope to sit and chat with you again someday up in Heaven -- I know that's where you're heading.

God Bless you and your family.

Steve Kratz - Class of '90
Steve Kratz (Moline, IL)

February 8, 2009

☒ To the Family of Hal Lyness-I was taught that no one ever truly died until the last person on earth that remembered him had died. If that is true, Mr. Lyness will be with us for decades. While having him for a teacher was a great experience, being remembered by him 15 years after, was phenomenal. I happened to be at BHS for a transcript and was walking in the hallway when he came out of a classroom. He stopped to say hello and offer help if needed. He paused, then said he thought recognized me, and hesitantly said my maiden name. This after over 20+ years away from BHS. It brought tears to my eyes to be remembered by such a remarkable teacher. God Bless all of his family at this time. His passing is a great loss to all he touched.

Jackie and Don Stiles (Glendale,)

[Contact me](#)

February 8, 2009

☒ Mr Lyness is the reason I decided to become a teacher. His amazing talent and heart at making students want to learn and seeing the best in everyone is something truly unique. He always remembered everyone's name even if he hadn't seen them in years. I was blessed with having him as a substitute teacher and I will forever miss him. There is no doubt in my mind that I will continue to tell my students about this amazing teacher and how he inspired students to succeed and open not only their minds but their hearts. My thoughts and prayers are with the family!

Katie Martin (Boone, IA)

February 8, 2009

☒ Mr Lyness- What can i say that others have not. You truly are a legend. You have inspired so many students and will be missed by all. Tammy Mathews (Kruse)

Tammy Kruse (Lake Havasu City, AZ)

[Contact me](#)

February 7, 2009

☒ My deepest sympathies to the family of Mr. Lyness. He taught so many of us to care about and pay attention to the world we live in. His life blessed the lives of so many, including mine, and for that I am most grateful.

Deborah Svec-Carstens, BHS Class of '88 (Ankeny, IA)

February 7, 2009

☒ Topper,

When I think of you and the Lyness family, my memory takes me back to Bryant grade school because that's where our history started. I can still picture your folks coming to our Christmas programs and May Day and other school activities. I remember how attractive I thought your Dad and Mother always looked. There was an air of elegance about them. I wish I could have attended your father's service as it has been a long time since I've seen you, your mother, Ellen, Chris, and Becky. We both grew up with special

people for parents in a very special time and, through your father, lots of other kids got to experience a special relationship too. Those BHS kids are better people because your dad cared so much.

Davi Mondt Lowman (Sherburn, MN)

February 7, 2009

- ☒ I remember many good, even great, teachers at Boone High, but Mr. Lyness was by far the best and the one I remember most. He made such a positive impact on countless young minds.

Marsha (McCoy)Wilson BHS class of '64 (Mandeville)

[Contact me](#)

February 6, 2009

- ☒ Mr. Lyness was a great teacher I had in school. I will miss him dearly. Rest in Peace. Miss you.

Jessica Redmond (Mayfield) Class of 2001

Jesscia Redmond (Ames, IA)

[Contact me](#)

February 6, 2009

- ☒ Although I'm quite certain Mr. Lyness would have been successful in a wide range of careers, I'm thankful he chose to be a Teacher. The number of lives he touched would be impossible to count. Thirty plus years after completing his Economics class, I can still remember many of his lessons, stories and mannerisms. He was unique in every sense and this true gentleman will be greatly missed. Chris and family – peace be with you all.
Jeff Anderson (Olathe, KS)
-

February 6, 2009

- ☒ Great teacher, great man. Gone but never forgotten.

BHS 1976

Pat Kluckman (Colorado Springs, CO)

[Contact me](#)

February 6, 2009

- ☒ Mr. Lyness was the greatest teacher I've ever known. On all this earth, he is the person I respect most. His kind smile, twinkling eyes, zest for life and learning, were infectious and inspiring. I looked forward to reading the little notes he wrote to me in the top right corner of each test. When once I had a bad day and my rank slipped some notches, he wrote "What happened?" That was all it took. I did my best and my rank returned to what it should be. He wrote "Welcome back!"

I remember when he was teaching us about buying auto insurance. He mentioned a spot where the insurance company would always charge us \$1.00, but in reality we only had to pay 85 cents. He grinned and said that was money in his pocket, then jingled his spare change for effect (which made us laugh). You never forget little touches like that.

He always stood when I entered the room, when any lady entered the room. His old world manners were amazing and showed such respect.

His classes were fascinating, despite the fact that everything he taught wasn't a subject I was normally interested in (I'm more of a science and arts person). I found myself taking all his classes, even elective ones, just to keep having him for a teacher. He was the ONLY person I've ever allowed to call me by a nickname so he wouldn't have to write out my long name on test comments. :-)

He felt like a second father to me, and that meant more than he could ever know. And yet perhaps he did know; Mr. Lyness was not just one of the smartest people I've met, but the most insightful and compassionate. He was both knowledgeable and discreet, kind and encouraging. Teenagers have emotional ups and down and he found a way to make every class brilliant and every day wonderful.

The world is diminished by his loss. But his example is with all of us and we are enriched by our association with him. Thank you, Mr. Lyness, for a lifetime of joy.

Jeanette Foshee (Boone, IA)

February 6, 2009

There are good teachers and there are memorable teachers. Mr Lyness was both. He will be missed but not forgotten by all who passed thru his classroom.

RICHARD MUSSER (BLOOMINGTON, MN)

February 6, 2009

Onnie and I wish the Lyness family peace during this tough time. Mr. Lyness was a wonderful teacher and a caring human being. Mr. Lyness always brought out the "best" in people--a rare gift. Everyone who knew Mr. Lyness loved him as a teacher and a friend. I still remember he and his beautiful wife dancing at our wedding--the essence of grace and class. He will be missed by everyone who knew him.

God Bless,

Matt Kunz (BHS Class of 87)

Onnie Bock-Kunz (BHS Class of 88)

matthew kunz (Platte City, MO)

[Contact me](#)

February 6, 2009

My heartfelt sympathy to the Lyness family. I was very fortunate to be in Mr. Lyness's class. He was always my favorite and continued to influence me years after my school days.

Marcia Ward Zachar (Cedar Rapids, IA)

February 6, 2009

☒ I don't think there's ever been a student who roamed the halls of BHS that didn't know, respect and admire Mr. Lyness. I will always remember him with a smile on his face and will never forget his encyclopedic knowledge of what seemed like everything! We have truly lost a great educator and a role model for so many. My sympathies to the Lyness family.

Jon Welin (Seminole, FL)

[Contact me](#)

February 5, 2009

☒ Becky and family, I'm so sorry for the loss of such a wonderful person who has touched so many people in many ways through his teaching of school and life. I myself had Mr. Lyness as a teacher and was so happy that both of my daughters were able to have him as a substitute teacher. His impact was so great on all students. I just saw Mr. and Mrs. Lyness on Jan. 21st at Augustana Lutheran Church at my great Aunt Julietta's funeral who passed at 99. How I now had wished I had went to and spoke a word on how he had touched my life and my daughters lives. I regret this but yet I know this kind gentle man knows how much of an impact he has made on so many people. I'm sure Mr. Lyness is somewhere still teaching people with his wonderful ways and fanciful writing. Bless you Mr. Lyness!

Mindy "Melinda" Rosedal Moeller Class of '78 (Boone, IA)

[Contact me](#)

February 5, 2009

☒ My sympathies are with the Lyness family. As Boone High alumni I feel very blessed to have known Mr. Lyness. He was always known for his kind words, friendly smiles, and words of encouragement.

Jennifer Firmstone (Anchorage, AK)

February 5, 2009

☒ Mr. Lyness was a good man. A faithful servant of his community and his country. The world would be a better place, if we all could exhibit a little piece of him everyday.

Eric Sandegren (Washington, DC)

February 5, 2009

☒ To the Lyness family, you are in our thoughts and prayers as we mourn the loss of this exceptional man. I've been fortunate to see Hal often here at our office and he will be missed by his friends at the Boone News Republican.

Claudia Lovin (Boone, IA)

February 5, 2009

☒ Betty, Chris and family. As I read through the 4 page tribute it does not go unnoticed that the majority of us refer to Mr Lyness with the respectful full name of Mr Lyness, not Hal. He will always be remembered as the best teacher many of us have ever had. His dedication to education and to his students is unmatched. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Kathy Erbe Hawkins (Dallas, TX)

February 5, 2009

- ☒ Mr. Lyness was a wonderful teacher and example to me and I am very thankful to have had the privilege of knowing him. I still remember my American History today because he gently taught me the need to study and how important it was. I also remember watching him run around the track as well - even then I don't think I could have kept up with him. My condolences to the family and my thanks to you for supporting him in his occupation as he touched a lot of lives in a positive way.

Steve Hirsch (St. Bonifacius, MN)

[Contact me](#)

February 5, 2009

- ☒ We were very fortunate at Boone High School to have had Mr. Lyness on the faculty. Certainly he was one in a million and gained the respect and love from his students.

Mary Day (Des Moines, IA)

February 5, 2009

- ☒ Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of the Lyness family and friends.

LeRoy & Marilyn (Howard) Clabaugh (Pleasant Hill, IA)

February 5, 2009

- ☒ I didn't have Mr. Lyness as a full time teacher but I did have him as a substitute teacher. He made his lessons interesting and a joy to listen to. He was a caring person and always smiling. I could tell that he was meant to teach and loved his job.

Isha (Cox) Casey (Boone, IA)

February 5, 2009

- ☒ What a great man! I loved that he always wrote comments on our papers! I will miss you Mr. Lyness! My condolences to Becky and Chris.

Karla Pepples (Story City, IA)

[Contact me](#)

February 5, 2009

- ☒ Becky & family,

My heart goes out to you at this time. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Your dad was a wonderful man & teacher. God Bless You.

Nancy Wheeler Bolon (Boone, IA)

Mr. Lyness touched many lives and will be fondly remembered by everyone that had the pleasure of knowing him.

Donny Wilson (Boone, IA)

February 5, 2009

- ☒ I am also one of those that never had the honor of having Mr. Lyness for a teacher, but I have lived in Boone for over 15 years and I've never heard anything but absolute praise for Mr. Lyness. I worked at the AASF in Boone for about 8 years, where Hal worked as

a security guard, and it was always a joy to stay after work and talk with Hal about the daily local and worldly news. I respected his opinions and views and he was always willing to share a story or two. His service and dedication to his family, community, and country show the kind of man that he was. I know he has positively influenced many many lives, and if there was ever a picture put in the Webster's Dictionary under "role model", Hal 's picture would be there. Hal, you will be greatly missed. My condolences to Betty, Becky and family, my prayers are with you.

Mike Schminke (Boone, IA)

[Contact me](#)

February 5, 2009

☒ I never had Hal as a teacher, but my wife worked with him at the school. I considered him a great friend. Not only did he know my name but he never forgot anything about me, hopefully all good. Anyone that has ever come in contact with Hal is a better person. Evidence of this is the response on this format. he was loved by his family, his co-workers, his students and anyone that ever met him. As a teacher he was tough. As a friend and mentor he was the best. He will be missed and in my heart there will be a void. I am crying as I am writing this. That shows how deep the love has spread.

Allan Tedrow (Boone, IA)

February 5, 2009

☒ Mr. Lyness was the most inspiring person i have ever met. Not only was he dedicated to teaching everyone as much as possible he was always willing to explain the meaning behind the lessons. He inspired me to go to college and continue learning in both history and politics. I will always remember his enthusiasm and smiles when he was a substitute teacher. My condolences to the family who lost a great human being.

Mathew Tedrow (Fort Collins, CO)

[Contact me](#)

February 5, 2009

☒ Mr. Lyness was the greatest teacher I've ever had. He had a way to make everyone want to do their best. Even the students who didn't normally apply themselves or didn't even want to be in school learned quickly to respect him. I'll never forget when we had to walk into class, immediately sit down and write all of the president's cabinet, all of the presidents from the beginning of time and the year's they served, and all the state's and capitals for extra credit. By the 2nd week, all students could write every one of them. I'll also remember all the notes he would write at the top of every test (fill in the blank of course). I took another course in summer school to have him again as a teacher. At the top of one of my tests, he wrote "this is unlike you, what's wrong". How did he know my family had some tragedy at that time in my life. He just knew everyone inside and out. What a wonderful, intelligent, great human being that has made a difference in the lives of many children. My thoughts and prayers are with the family. He definitely did his work on earth and is resting in God's hands now.

Mindy (Moen) Schminke (Boone, IA)

February 5, 2009

- ☒ My heartfelt sympathy to one of the kindest families I have ever had the fortune to know.
Susan (Boone)
-

February 5, 2009

- ☒ Mr. Lyness holds a special place in our hearts since he gave the Class of '67 his first born. We cherish the mentoring and heartfelt teaching we received from Mr. Lyness. We know we will meet him in heaven.

Terry Dannatt (Boone, IA)

February 4, 2009

- ☒ I have heard scores of students speak of Hal Lyness and what a great teacher he was. I did not have that opportunity of being his student. However, I did witness his greatness in the hallways and also later at the Army Aviation Flight Facility. What a positive legacy he leaves. We need teachers like him today more than ever!

Andy Anderson (Class of 62) (Cedar Rapids, IA)

[Contact me](#)

February 4, 2009

- ☒ Mr. Lyness was the best teacher at Boone High. Whenever a teacher was absent we always hoped he was our substitute. I had the privledge of growing up a few blocks away from Mr. Lyness he was always out walking our working outdoors. He was a wonderful teacher and person...and tolerated us neighborhood kids. He will greatly be missed....

Katie Lind-Price (Boone, IA)

[Contact me](#)

February 4, 2009

- ☒ My most sincere condolences to the Lyness family. I'm sure you are already missing your husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He was really, one of my favorite teachers. Even if he didn't teach your favorite subject, his classes were the most enjoyable simply because his love of teaching showed in his lectures. I could sit a listen to him for hours. How many of us still say "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead." or "Katie, bar the door."? And I remember his long fingers and graceful hands that gave whatever he was talking about more meaning. The world has lost a great man and he will be sorely missed by everyone who's life he touched. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Sharon (Gretna, NE)

February 4, 2009

- ☒ To each of you I send my heart felt sympathy for your loss...Mr. Lyness was one of my favorites, too. He could take the most boring 'history lesson' and make you feel like you were really there!!!

Topper, you were always a part of our household, as Rick could always tell a good story (true or not) about the extra cirricular activities you and he attended.....

and Ellen, my sweet Ellen -- it's been a long time since the days of "Ledges Manor."

Please know that

my heart aches for you.

I wish each of you strength as you go forward and want you to know that soon your days will become filled with treasured memories. Mr Lyness was one in a million.

Jody "Hyatt" Craven (Guthrie Center, IA)

[Contact me](#)

February 4, 2009

What I remember about Mr. Lyness, he was the most wonderful teacher a student could have. He was a good listener and could teach where it made you want to learn more. I can remember when he signed my yearbook, I thought that was the nicest thing a teacher could do. He will be greatly missed. We need more teachers like him in this world.

God Bless to the family.

Marcia Westberg Ruth (Pine City, MN)

February 4, 2009

Mr. Lyness was one of the best teachers I had. I was truly inspired to work hard for him. I remember him always smiling even when he had some back problems. I also learned things in his classes that I truly used in life. My sympathy to Betty and the rest of the family.

Monica McGregor-Huyser (IA)

February 4, 2009

My Sympathies to all the Lyness family,
Mr. Lyness was the best teacher I ever had. I will never forget his wonderful handwriting on the board & the 'bulletin board' test. He was a wonderful man and his passing is a great loss. My sisters & I were all so very pleased to see him a year ago at our brother's funeral. May God give you all comfort in this time of sadness.

Laurie (Erbe) Maurer BHS '71

Laurie Maurer (Hewitt, TX)

February 4, 2009

In Memory of Mr. Hal Lyness – An Essay

A teacher is one who instructs, who causes us to learn by precept, example or experience. Mr. Lyness was indeed a brilliant teacher, and an extraordinary individual. Those who were blessed to have him as an instructor in the classroom most assuredly left as better students and persons.

Dressed for success: We only saw Mr. Lyness in perfectly pressed dress-shirts and pants – complete with a snappy tie each day. Both his neatly-manicured appearance and his demeanor as he came into class gave you the feeling he was about to speak to a room full of dignitaries – not “just” a classroom full of middle and high school students. I think I unconsciously straightened my spine every time he entered the room, and knew I had better pay attention because what was about to take place was important!

Attention to detail: I remember almost holding my breath each time I watched Mr. Lyness write on the chalkboard. Who could forget his painstakingly purposeful penmanship? Or the immaculate way in which he erased the board at the end of each class period with not a speck of stray chalk or trace of previous marks left behind on the slate-gray board? Or the deliberate and gentle way he placed each “Wall Street Journal” on our desks? Watching him open a box of tissues was also an exercise in awareness of specifics as he carefully removed the cardboard opening from the container being cautious to not rip or tear outside of the perforations. He took such care in all he did - one could not help but be inspired to do likewise in life!

R-E-S-P-E-C-T: Mr. Lyness exuded respect. His slight build belied the huge presence that followed him each time he stepped through the classroom door. His classes started and ended promptly. And while I do not recall him ever speaking to us about being tardy, I do remember one occasion where a student had the tremendous misfortune of entering the room several minutes past the bell. He did not berate or discipline the student. He simply stopped what he was saying, looked pointedly at the individual, took a deep breath, and resumed his lecture. After this experience, one simply “knew better” than to be late for one of his classes. And you did not want to miss a class. Mr. Lyness approached his lectures with seriousness and thoroughness. One knew this information was highly important! His tests reflected his affinity for detail – so copious note-taking was a bonus to a student in his class. ? “Outsiders” may have found his lengthy tests daunting. But, as a student, his high expectations did not break you – rather it became the reason you studied harder. He asked those tough questions because he believed in you and knew you WERE up to the task. In his book, you were worthy of a high quality exam! What a tremendous motivation this was to do everything in your power to do well – not only in his classes, but in life.

Mr. Lyness was A) an inspirational teacher, B) a man whose mere presence made you feel honored and respected, C) one of the most principled and dedicated people most of us will ever be privileged to know, D) all of the above. (CHOICE!) Those of us who were fortunate enough to have had him as a teacher will have no problem with this question. We know, without a doubt, that the answer is D) all of the above.

Mr. Lyness – in the immortal words you wrote at the top of one of my tests ... “As I remember ...”

Your twinkling, sharp, blue eyes that crinkled every time a smile appeared on your narrow face...

The joy of seeing words of encouragement deliberately penned across the top of a paper you returned ...

The pride of doing well on one of your particularly difficult tests ...

The amusement of remembering some of your favorite quotes – like, “Katie bar the door

...”

As I remember all of these details, big and little, I give thanks to God for your time on earth. I am sure as you entered heaven you heard these words ... “Well done, good and faithful servant”. ~ Matthew 25: 21

Written with love, gratitude, and deepest respect by
Jill (Orr) Beverlin
Jill (Orr) Beverlin (Neenah, WI)
[Contact me](#)

February 4, 2009

- ☒ He was a GREAT teacher. I remember him fondly. Class of '66
Karen (Craven) Penry (East Moline, IL)
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February 4, 2009

- ☒ CURRENT AND RETIRED MEMBERS OF THE ARMY AVIATION SUPPORT FACILITY IN BOONE WILL CERTAINLY MISS HALS DEDICATED YEARS THEIR, HE WILL CERTAINLY BE MISSED BY ALL.
KIRK HANSON (CHANDLER, AZ)
[Contact me](#)
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February 4, 2009

- ☒ Mr Lyness was the best teacher I ever had.
Kind, soft spoken, and he believed in what he taught. He believed in our government, and he believed in us.
He turned me into a republican and my parents were Democrats and the arguments we had at our table were unreal. I look back and have to say, thanks Mr. Lyness for the memories.
Barb Johnson/Carlson (Spring Lake Park, MN)
[Contact me](#)
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February 4, 2009

- ☒ Chris and Becky and family, sorry to hear about your loss. Your father truly was a great man and teacher. I will think of him whenever I pass through Crete and Wilber Neb. on my route. His achievements were many and so was his guidance.
Starr Westberg (Boone, IA)
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February 4, 2009

- ☒ Mr. Lyness was an exceptional teacher and human being. He didn't just teach, he inspired. Generations of his students are mourning. God bless.
Jennifer Grant Bailey (Beaufort, SC)
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February 4, 2009

- ☒ Mr. Lyness was the nicest sweetest man ever. I never saw him without a smile on his face. He didn't have a bad bone in his body and treated everyone nicely and respectfully.

I was fortunate to have him as a substitute in high school the few times I did and wish I could have had the opportunity to know him better & longer than I did. I will always remember Mr. Lyness' unique ties & the way he wore his pants up to his belly button:) What a loss this is to the town of Boone. Mr. Lyness will be well-remembered. Thank you Mr. Lyness & RIP

Kelsey Bargloff (Boone, IA)

February 4, 2009

- ☒ You never forget the great ones. They make such an impression on a young person's life. Hal made sure each of us understood the values that make this country as great as it is. He did it with a kindness and endearing quality that made you want to learn more. I personally will never forget his infamous fill-in-the-blank exams, Wall Street Journal projects or enthusiasm with which he taught social studies to many students.

Cory Walker (Boone, IA)

February 4, 2009

- ☒ The news of the loss of Mr. Lyness has reached the far corners of the earth. Hal was a great inspiration to many students and his loss will be felt for a long time. Those who knew him were immediately drawn to his intellect and kind heart.....and may I say...the best and most distinct handwriting I've ever come across. May those who mourn him know that he lives in each and every one of us whom he touched. Memories of Hal will live on for a very long time. I'm proud to say that Hal was my friend, teacher, and mentor. To the Lyness family, you have my deepest sympathy.

Daryl Tellinghuisen (Boone, IA)

February 4, 2009

- ☒ Mr. Lyness was by far one of the best and favorite teachers I have ever had the pleasure to learn from. He always had a smile on his face and I will never forget him!! He will be truly missed by everyone who had the opportunity to have him as a teacher!! Bless you, Mr. Lyness for making High School a bit more enjoyable!!!

Melissa (Boone, IA)

February 4, 2009

- ☒ Mr. Lyness, we just visited last week, of course talking about the political scene, great sense of humor, wonderful teacher, good neighbor and always willing to talk, he taught my children and me to engage ourselves in the subject involved with, Mr. Lyness, as he has always been to me shall be missed, he impacted all that met him

Charisse Cook (Boone, IA)

February 4, 2009

- ☒ SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT MR. LYNESS. OUR CHILDREN HAD HIM AS A TEACHER. WE CAN REMEMBER BOTH HE AND MRS. LYNESS ALWAYS HAVING A WONDERFUL SMILE.. A GREAT TEACHER HAS BEEN LOST.

BILL-LINDA OTT (CHERRYVALE, KS)

February 4, 2009

Mr. Lyness was the best teacher I ever had. I attended a World History class in summer school just because he was teaching it. I remember one test that the whole class failed; he took the blame for it and gave us what he thought we'd earn in comparison to past tests. He was one of the most-fair individuals I've known and the American/World history knowledge and pride of my country that I possess today are because of him. My prayers are with the family. He will be missed.

Sandy Monen (Boone, IA)

February 4, 2009

Hal was a valued colleague and the most popular teacher/scholar at Boone Jr./Sr. High School. It was a privilege to serve on the faculty with him as he mentored several new teachers. He encouraged students to do their absolute best as well as introduced them to a global perspective. Hal and I shared birthdays, May 24th, and every year I have sung "Happy Birthday" to him even though I have been gone from Boone for over 20 years. What a blessing to know both Hal and Betty. God's peace, Ruth Lesher (Walser)

Ruth Lesher (CA)

February 3, 2009

Mr.Lyness,To Jayson Pendarvis And I,And To Everyone Who Knew You,You Are Truly A Legend.You Touched Everyone's Lives And Will Be Greatly Missed.

Danielle Godwin (Boone, IA)

February 3, 2009

Topper,Ellen,Chris,Becky

Your dad was my and several others favorite teacher and coach. When he taught anything, he made you want to learn, he made things enjoyable. you wanted to work hard for him. What a great man. My sympathy goes out for you.

Bob Anderson (Golden, CO)

February 3, 2009

Ann Morton Woods (Boone, IA)

[Contact me](#)

February 3, 2009

Jennifer Sloan (Boone, IA)

[Contact me](#)

February 3, 2009

Mr. Lyness was the best teacher and coach I ever had at Boone High School. He will be missed by many. Class of '70.

Don Myers (Pilot Mound, IA)

February 3, 2009

☒ Mr. Lyness, you have left a life long impression on many people's lives. You were a great influence to many young minds, and you raised the bar on education. I will never forget you.

Kari J Kaulen (Kearney, NE)

[Contact me](#)

February 3, 2009

☒ Of all the teachers and coaches and just good people, I have ever known Hal was one of the Best, it was a pleasure and honor to have know him. I will always remember him. Always postive, and helpful.

Dennis Wilson (Fairfax, IA)

February 3, 2009

☒ Hal,

You were a very inspiring teacher, I had a real fondness for your teaching methods. My God grant you eternal rest.

P Golish (Rockville, CT)