

Facebook Posts

(this and more is available online at...

<http://www.uni.edu/peterson/bhs67/HalLynessSr.htm>)

Wall



Kelley's Korner

By:Mo Kelley

02/10/2009

Updated 02/10/2009 10:48:41 AM CST

K----K

What can be added to what so many have already stated?

Hal Lyness. Teacher, coach, just genuine "good guy."

I never had the opportunity to be his student. Our meetings on the street normally involved serious talk about the Cubs, Yankees or Hawkeyes. Even then, you could expect some education. A bit of a different slant or perspective on those teams and their seasons.

I am not a Facebook guy, at least yet. I'm not familiar at all with this Internet social connection. Yet, that's how I learned of Hal's passing and it amazed me that the word got out, I guess via that vehicle, so quickly.

Hal passed away on Saturday and early Sunday morning when I was checking my e-mails at work, there they were, those words of sadness.

I thank Bill Clark, who I believe is in Florida, for informing me of Hal's death.

He indicated that on Facebook there was a group, "Memories of Hal Lyness" and, at that time, just a few hours after Hal's passing, 100 former students and friends had already checked in.

Later, it was reported that over 700 hits had been received and they were still coming.

But let me move on to those who knew Hal best, is former students.

I heard from a couple others in addition to Bill Clark.

Dr. John Hendricks, of Temple, Texas, said, "How ironic. On the very day of his passing, I had been filling out a form which asked me to name teachers who had left an imprint on me. Among others, I cited Merle Harris and Hal Lyness. His enthusiasm was absolutely contagious. What a joy it was to be in his class. He made current events and political happenings come alive and meaningful. He had a wonderful sense of humor and a quick wit. He opened up new vistas for many of us."

John Camelin, of Blair, Neb., said, "His is truly an incredible story of an exceptional man. But most importantly, he was a loving, compassionate and caring teacher, coach, friend, citizen, patriot, husband and father. His legacy will live on forever in the hearts of those he touched. His impact on lives was immeasurable and to be revered."

[Back to Memories of Hal Lyness](#)



Post #1

[Jeffrey Hughes](#) (Des Moines, IA) wrote on February 5, 2009 at 11:17am

I know it would be expensive, but wouldn't it be cool and appropriate to see if we can have a bust, statue, or small memorial in front of the highschool for Mr. Lyness? Maybe they're already doing this, too, I don't know...

[Reply to JeffreyReport](#)



Post #2

[John Camelin](#) (Omaha, NE) wrote on February 5, 2009 at 1:07pm

What a neat idea. Or even a plaque inside the main entrance with something nice written about him, dates that he taught (and subbed) in Boone, etc.

[Reply to JohnReport](#)



Post #3

[Jeffrey Hughes](#) (Des Moines, IA) wrote on February 5, 2009 at 1:39pm

Yes, even that...something with his nice, smiling face would be great since he did that so often...just ideas...maybe Mike Aspengren or someone can paint or sketch his head or face or something and put it on the plaque...just ideas...we'll get the word around...do you know of any phrases, J.C., lines, or words he often said?

[Reply to JeffreyReport](#)



Post #4

[Melissa Anderson Spencer](#) (Des Moines, IA) wrote on February 5, 2009 at 2:25pm

That is a great idea Jeff.

[Reply to MelissaReport](#)



Post #5

[Steven Ray](#) (Des Moines, IA) wrote on February 5, 2009 at 7:45pm

I thought I would share with everyone a bit of history and an email I received this afternoon.

Some of you may, or may not, know that Hal Lyness knew and was on a first name basis with the elder Bush "41," George H.W. Bush. I am not sure of the connection exactly, but it was a time back in his days in the Navy (same time period Bush 41 was the youngest naval pilot at the time) or it might have been when he was schooling in the east, such as Harvard.

In 1988, when Bush 41 was planning his run to replace his boss, Ronald Reagan, Bush 41 came to Iowa and made a stop in Boone. I remember his limousine coming into town, flanked by security, as it ended up at 316 Clinton Street, the home of Hal Lyness.

Late last evening, February 4, I sent an e-mail to President Bush's press staff at his presidential library on the campus of Texas A & M University. I forwarded the obituary of Mr. Lyness and asked the staff to please forward this to the President as I was certain he would like to know of the death of an fellow war veteran and acquaintance.

This afternoon, I received the following notice from his correspondence staff. That was a pretty good turn-around time for message sent from me yesterday to a former President of the United States. The message read:

From: Casey, Linda [mailto:linda@flfw.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2009 14:20
To: Steven Paul Ray
Subject: RE: Message of Interest to the Former President

Dear Mr. Ray, President Bush thanks you for sharing Mr. Lyness's obituary with him and he sends you his best wishes.

Sincerely,

Linda Casey Poepsel
Director of Correspondence

From: Steven Paul Ray [mailto:potus2024@mchsi.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 9:57 PM
To: Media.Bush@nara.gov
Subject: Message of Interest to the Former President
Importance: High

This is the obituary of a teacher from Boone, IA, that I am certain President Bush may remember from years ago.

This educator passed away Sunday, February 1, 2009. Is there some way you could pass to President Bush the information about this?

Much appreciated.

Steven P. Ray
111 Story Street
Boone, IA 50036-4240
(515) 432-5842

[Reply to StevenReport](#)



Post #6

[Jeffrey Hughes](#) (Des Moines, IA) wrote on February 5, 2009 at 10:38pm

This is great, Mr. Steven Ray, and a very nice thing for you to do...thanks for sharing and for your diligent work in obtaining this.

[Reply to JeffreyReport](#)



Post #7

[Philip Dally](#) (Des Moines, IA) wrote on February 11, 2009 at 9:07am

It would be nice if they got a bronze replica of the Constitution or Declaration of Independence and put it on a wall in his memory



Post #1

1 reply

[Liz Kelly](#) (Kirkwood) wrote on February 7, 2009 at 11:29am

On behalf of the entire Lyness family, I would like to extend our heart-felt thank-you's to everyone who took the time to share their kind messages about father. Your thoughts and fond memories were wonderful to read and they warmed our hearts tenderly.

Dad's grandchildren have had the opportunity, also, to learn some things that they, otherwise, could never have known, and what a "gift" to them that is. Thank you so very much.

May I share with you a poem that I found in one of dad's old graduation speeches that he wrote and dedicated to all of you:

People everywhere in life
From every walk and station
From every town and city
And every state and nation
Have given me so many things

Intangible and dear
I couldn't begin to count them all
Or even make them clear....

I only know I owe so much
To people everywhere
And when I put my thoughts in verse
It's just a way to share
The musings of a thankful heart
A heart much like your own
For nothing that I think or write
Is mine and mine alone.

So, if you found some beauty
In any word or line
It's just "Your souls reflection
In proximity with mine."

He loved us all so well - with all of his might..... Thank you again. God bless you.
Warmly,

Betty Lyness, Hal, Chris, Ellen, and Becky

[Reply to LizReport](#)



Post #2

[John Camelin](#) (Omaha, NE) replied to [Liz's post](#) on February 9, 2009 at 11:13am

The greatest part of this "site" and all of the support and messages that it received, is the fact that it has been shared with you and the family. There is no way to overstate what he meant to thousands of students, but by piecing together bits of memories and thoughts from so many, it begins to take shape. God bless you and the Lyness family.

John Camelin

BHS '88



[Jeff Hora](#) (Microsoft) wrote

at 5:31pm on March 7th, 2009

My passion for history and the inter-connectedness of events exists because of Mr. Lyness. I would not have had the kind of drive of curioity for these if he had not inspired and nurtured me. I was always amazed at how energetic he was...from today's vantage point, he seemed like human caffiene!

[Diana Sidler](#) (Waterloo, IA) wrote
at 10:24pm on February 24th, 2009



Mr Lyness was the best teacher I ever had at good old BHS. He gave my class commencement speech too. I wonder how many classes asked him to send them off. I was also in the National Guard after high school and always saw him at the hanger, it was comforting to see him there. I will never forget him and never read the US News and World Report without thinking of him.
class of 75...ISU class of 81

[Report](#)

[Marla Hays](#) (Portland, OR) wrote
at 2:08pm on February 22nd, 2009

Blessing to all of the Lyness Family.

Mr Lyness spoke at our graduation...his topic: These are the Good Ole Days.



He helped us to develop our critical thinking skills and he encouraged us each day to do better.

Read, think, reflect, observe...make your own decisions.

Oh! He was always going to buy IBM when it went below 100. Does any one still recall the stocks they bought in class???

I read US News & World Report to this day and never without thinking about Mr Lyness!!

Marla Hays - BHS Class of '74

[Report](#)



[Curt Blaskey](#) (Des Moines, IA) wrote
at 9:43pm on February 20th, 2009

Best Teacher Ever!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

[Report](#)

[Linda Benson Caldwell](#) (Des Moines, IA) wrote
at 11:07pm on February 13th, 2009



Mr. Lyness always fit and proper. You will be missed by many. Jim and Linda Caldwell class of 63

[Report](#)

[Kevin Tucker](#) (Denver, CO) wrote
at 12:38pm on February 11th, 2009



Great Memories of Hal, always dressed to a tee, incredible motivator and teacher, always interesting classroom discussions. A great track, football coach and life coach. My most vivid memory was getting in a fight in the hallway with some other student and here comes Hal, booking down the hallway, jumping right into the mix without a second thought, slamming me up against a locker and telling me to calm down. He was one of my favorite teachers and most memorable. If I had a beer right now I would toast him for being a great man, in a small town!!! Here's to you Mr. Lyness

[Report](#)



[David](#) wrote at 6:40pm on February 8th, 2009

Generations of men and women are better for having been his students. Our sympathies go to his wife and family. But our memories of him will live on and inspire us to continue to reach for our fullest potential, which he seemed to see in all of us. I am grateful for the difference he made in my life!

[David](#) wrote at 6:38pm on February 8th, 2009



Memories? How long of a list do you want? Ticonderoga pencils! Matching ties and socks! Impeccable handwriting! Lectures with no notes...though we took reams of notes!! I remember arriving early before class one day and I went up to the map on the wall, and using his pointer, began giving his lecture from the day before, giving the right information but (deliberately) pointing to all of the wrong places on the map. And I remember him coming in from his "post" in the hallway and just standing there grinning! I remember him saying, "Hitler wanted peace! Sure he wanted peace! He just spelled it differently than the rest of the world. He spelled it p-i-e-c-e! He wanted a piece of Austria, and a piece of Great Britain..." Man, he could make history live. Mr. Lyness could make the mummies dance, if you know what I mean!!

[David](#) wrote at 6:31pm on February 8th, 2009



Mr. Lyness had few equals. He believed in a code of conduct for life and he lived out that code in every area of his life. I remember being very hesitant to sign up for his American History class, but my oldest brother encouraged me to do it, and, boy, am I glad I did. I had no idea how that decision would affect my four years of high school. I took every class I could get with him! But Mr. Lyness was more than a teacher. He was a friend. And not just to me, but to every student who was interested. He was a dear friend, and I will miss him.

[Laura](#) wrote at 5:11pm on February 8th, 2009



My husband and I both were blessed to be taught by Mr. Lyness. We moved to the Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas area in 1982 and moved back to Boone in 2000 . Our youngest son graduated from Boone High after completing his Junior year and entire Senior year there. It was to our great delight that one of our sons was fortunate to have Mr. Lyness as a substitute. That was something we thought was out of the realm of possibility. Mr. Lyness was a great role model of a life-long learner, gentleman, calligrapher, and educator. How blessed our small town was to have a man of his caliber demonstrating the right way to comport oneself to multiple generations. Thank you, Mrs. Lyness and family for sharing him with us through the years.

Laura Martin Leland (Class of '77)

[Katie](#) wrote at 10:17am on February 8th, 2009



Mr Lyness was amazing! He is the reason I decided to become a teacher. The way he connected with his students and made everyone feel important. He made things fun and he made students want to learn. I was always amazed at how he always knew everyone by name, even if he hadn't seen you for years, he still remembered your name! He was truly an exceptional teacher that will be deeply missed. There is no doubt that I will continue to tell stories of this amazing wonderful teacher and man in my own High

School classes and hope that I can touch just one student as much as Mr Lyness touched so many. My prayers and thoughts go out to his family, his students, and the community.

[Brenda](#) wrote at 12:59pm on February 7th, 2009



Mr Lyness was one of my most favorite teachers. The best saying that remains in my thoughts today is when he would through his hands in the air and say "THOSE BIRDS IN WASHINGTON" Also had great penmanship. Brenda Walters Myers

[Amy](#) wrote at 9:36am on February 7th, 2009

Mr. Lyness was truly one of the most inspiring and outstanding individuals inside and outside of the classroom. It was the only class I can ever remember wanting to sit in the front row! His remarkable talent to teach you the Ivy League schools, state capitals, etc... were the most effective means of learning I had. His intricate handwriting is something I can still remember. Not only was his handwriting impeccable, the words he wrote were so genuine.



His sincere enthusiasm for teaching and caring for others should be something we all aspire to. He was such an incredible man and I feel so blessed and honored to have had him apart of my formative years. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. May they find comfort in knowing how much he was loved and respected by so many.

Mr. Lyness.....you will be dearly missed.

[JoAnn](#) wrote at 2:01pm yesterday February 7, 2009



Mr. Lyness - gosh, it's been 36 years since I walked in those halls and I STILL say "Mr. Lyness" - was an amazing teacher. He cared about students' learning, not just because it was a job he did, but because he cared for each and every student in his classes. He could make history fun! He was a wonderful mentor, role model and education has lost a great person. So have his students. Thank you Mr. Lyness.

[Natalie](#) wrote at 12:45pm yesterday

Not just one of the best, but THE best teacher I ever had. By far. I remember how he encouraged us all to learn a foreign language, saying the world (and great jobs) would then be open to us, and I have treid to pass this wisdom on to my kids. And the way he could turn C students into proud B and A students, the limbo-style way he had of writing on the board, not to mention the incredibly pleated way his shirt was always tucked into his pants! What a great role model for so many.



[Ash](#) wrote at 2:11pm on February 5th, 2009

Mr. Lyness was AMAZING. He was everyone's favorite substitute teacher when I was at BHS...with his permanent smile and joyful laugh...he always made any class fun!



I called my dad earlier today to see if he had heard about Mr. Lyness, knowing he probably had him as a teacher or something when he went to Boone High. He was, in fact, his track coach for several years. My dad was dumbfounded hearing the news about his passing and told me he saw Mr. Lyness at the gas station just last week...he recognized him and struck up a conversation. He told my dad about all his old teachers

that had passed away in recent years...and then ironically enough, he too became one of those favorite teachers he told my dad about.

My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and all his MANY friends, former students and co-workers. He will be greatly missed in the Boone Community because he touched SO many people's lives!

[Terri](#) wrote at 1:44pm on February 5th, 2009



What can you say about a person so involved in the lives of Boone students and residents? 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). He will be dearly missed. Our hearts go out to his family.

[Steve](#) wrote at 1:18pm on February 5th, 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.

[Ashley](#) wrote at 1:02pm on February 5th, 2009



I will always remember him saying if you save \$1 a day, you will be rich. he was a great substitute teacher, which is all I knew him as.

[Mathew](#) wrote at 11:33am on February 5th, 2009



I found the website for the Boone News Republican, they have an online guestbook that people can sign if they would like to have a place to leave a comment for the Lyness family.

http://www.legacy.com/NewsRepublican//gb/guestbookview.aspx?personid=123703134&eid=viewgb_20509

[Cleo](#) wrote at 11:32am on February 5th, 2009



Having the privilege to grow up as the next door neighbor of Hal and Betty is a blessing that cannot be put into words. This world has suffered a great loss with the passing of such a wonderful teacher, father, grandfather, patriot, and neighbor. My life is more complete having known this family and all my love goes out to Betty and the children. Jayme Lynch - Stoneburner

[Jeffrey](#) wrote at 11:31am on February 5th, 2009



Having Mr. Lyness as a Government teacher helped me become the teacher I am today by taking his philosophy, every student has the capacity to succeed not fail, into my classroom.

[Nancy](#) wrote at 10:09am on February 5th, 2009



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. The fact that I remember his teaching so clearly is a testament to his skills as a teacher.

Condolences to the family...

[Kevin Knight](#) (Des Moines, IA) wrote

at 8:53pm



I had the pleasure of having a couple of classes with Mr Lyness. Growing up in a small central Iowa town in the 60's and 70's the whole world seemed a long ways away. Mr Lyness didn't just teach History and Econ...he open windows to the world...he guided and inspired us to discover...he touched our lives and those that we touch.

[Report](#)

[Traci Wisecup Crady](#) wrote

at 7:48pm



Mr Lyness was one of the best teachers that I had. He always made Government interesting. He was a wonderful person and educator. He will be greatly missed.

[Report](#)

[Thomas Young](#) wrote

at 7:43pm



Cindy Samson Young -class of '73. Mr. Lyness was definitely the best teacher I ever had. He was smart and loved having us want to be smart. I took an International Topics class from him, which I believe it was U.S. News and World Report that we read and were tested on each week. We predicted an oil crisis before it happened and wondered why everyone else didn't see it coming. IT was relevant and He was personal. When I got back from a family vacation and he graded my test the top said "pretty good for a beach girl," and with that he had made me feel special. From all the other postings on here it is obvious he made everyone he came in contact with feel special. I'm glad I got to be his student so many years ago!

[Report](#)

[Sheri A. Best](#) wrote

at 7:28pm



Although I have always said Mr. Lyness might have been my hardest teacher, he was still the one I liked the best and thought the most of. He always took an interest in his students - not just in how they were doing in his class, but in everything they were doing. I'm back in college and this year I had to write a paper on the teacher that I most remember and my reasons for choosing him. Mr. Lyness was my only choice. He will be greatly missed by everyone who knew and loved him, but none of us will ever forget him.

[Report](#)

[Michelle Hicks](#) (Des Moines, IA) wrote

at 7:24pm



Mr. Lyness was the teacher who could inspire everyone he met. I had to wait until my senior year to have him for a teacher but I got so much out of his classes. He also explained the lessons in a way that they were easily understood even for the student who struggled in class. He seemed to know everyone and remembered you later on. My husband and I are both sadden that Boone has lost such a great teacher. I will also remember how he dressed and carried himself around the building even during the heat of the summer as we sat in summer school for government. Mr. Lyness' family is in our prayers at this time.

Terry & Michelle (Clark) Hicks BHS classes of '84 & '90

[Report](#)

[Dan Miller](#) (Crestwood High School) wrote

at 6:55pm

I had the priveledge of serving on the Board of Drirectors 1977-1995 during which time Hal Lyness was on the faculty. Hal inspired everyond- teachers, students, faculty, directors and the community. He always had a kind and wise word for everyone and contributed much to all that he encountered. I personally recieved more than I ever gave by serving my community of Boone. I thank him for having taught and inspired my children and all others that shared that experience. You come across a Hal Lyness few times in your lifetimes and it is a blessing that I thank God for. God Bleses you Mrs Lyness and your special family. Bill Miller- Almira, Washington.

[Report](#)

[Dan Miller](#) (Crestwood High School) wrote

at 6:46pm

Taking American History 2 with Mr. Lyness, Mark Hutcheson got a new moped. Hutch was kind enough to let me ride it and of course I got ticketed by Boone's finest for not having a license. I had to miss class to go to court. Mr. Lyness gave me great support and the patented hand written note not to worry about the infraction and that I was still "top drawer" in his eyes. As many of you have written, Mr. Lyness was not only a great person, a great teacher, but a leader of leaders. I was blessed to have many good teachers at Boone High School who were also inspired my Mr. Lyness. He brought the best out of everyone! One of my less academically inclined classmates told me once, that he would take a "D" in a Mr. Lyness class because he would actually have learned something. This is not meant to be a put down to my classmate or other Boone High teachers but to exemplefy that everyone wanted to be taught by Mr. Lyness. God's speed to the Lyness Family Tom Miller 1981.

[Report](#)

[Jill Beverlin](#) (Appleton, WI) wrote

at 4:03pm

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.

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

[Report](#)

[Philip Dally](#) (Des Moines, IA) wrote

at 2:43pm

I wish I would have learned more of what he offered. He was a great teacher and human being whose passion showed in what he did.



[Report](#)

[Rob Mcleod](#) wrote

at 1:05pm



Like many others who's lives have been touched by this man, I was honored to have had the pleasure of knowing him. Although the world is a lesser place without you Hal, all of us are better people having known you! You will be dearly missed. Take care friend.....

[Report](#)

[Barry E Howe](#) wrote

at 10:56am



Mr Lyness was the greatest teacher I ever had. He had a way of making learning so interesting. He was a very deeply respected and respectful man. The world is for sure a better place because of him. Thank you Mr. Lyness for touching our lives. My deepest condolences to his family.

[Report](#)

[Carrie Colwell Belknap](#) (Des Moines, IA) wrote

at 10:38am



Mr. Lyness was my favorite teacher as well. I loved how he had all of us girls dress up and he brought us corsages to wear that day. His lesson on putting together a budget for a salary of \$25,000 a year still sticks in my mind. We all thought it was impossible and he just smiled and said yes, it was a challenge. His classes were challenging and we were all the better for it. I feel fortunate to have had him for a teacher.

This is such a wonderful tribute to such a wonderful man. His impact is far and wide. My thoughts and condolences are with his family and all the people who were blessed with knowing him.

[Report](#)

[Todd Mundt](#) (Louisville, KY) wrote

at 10:06am



Mr. Lyness was incomparable, and from the first day of American History, I was amazed and inspired by him. I took his Econ and International Topics classes, too, and beyond the love of history, economics, and current events that I learned from him, and the intangible "how to be a good student," he had a remarkable influence on how I see the world, how I've learned to question what I'm told, and how to stand up to dogma. (If I'd applied his rules of investing, I'd not be working right now.)

It's funny how, in a small town, you can find a really amazing, dedicated educator, who cared so much about his students, and never hesitated to go out of his way for them.

Although no one else can match Mr. Lyness, we're lucky that we had so many teachers like him in the little world of Boone, Iowa.

[Report](#)

[John Carswell](#) (Des Moines, IA) wrote

at 9:58am



Best teacher I ever had, and I wasn't easy to teach! Mr Lyness did a great job preparing us for Life experiances. Nyla and I often talk about the thing we learned in his class. In fact, Nyla still has the orignal IBM stock she bought in his class. Great Guy! We will

truly miss him.

[Report](#)

[Michelle McIntyre- Daleske](#) (Des Moines, IA) wrote
at 9:02am



I grew up always hearing story's of Mr. Lyness. Mom told these of him teaching and of being friends with his daughter. When we moved to Boone i finally got to meet him as a sub. He was great, you could truly tell that he loved teaching and loved everyone that he taught, he cared no matter if he knew you or just met you for the first time. My mom mentioned him so much it was like the president was teaching our class. He was bigger than life. He was a great man and never will be forgotten, he is a legacy!!! Sorry for the loss that so many are affected by, but thank god so many of us are a affected, its better to have known him and lost him than to have never have known such a great and influential man!! My condolences to his family.

[Report](#)

[Mark McDowell](#) wrote
at 8:31am



I never had the privledge of having Hal as a teacher in a classroom, however I did have the pleasure of hosting a radio program on the Boone radio station where he along with Gary Russell discussed financial matters of all kinds. It didn't take me long to realize that (and in all due respect to Gary) when Hal talked, you listened. He taught me a lot despite the fact I never had him in a classroom. I will always be amazed that everytime I saw Hal, he always had a smile on his face, and always always always had a kind word to say. My prayers out to Betty

[Report](#)

[Corky Veeder-Anderson](#) (Des Moines, IA) wrote
at 8:02am



Mr Lyness was what a teacher was all about. He inspired us all with his love not only of history and government but of us all as human beings and our place in the world. My favorite expression of his was Katie bar the door! My sympathies to Betty, Topper, Ellen, Chris and Becky and their families. Corky Veeder Anderson class of 1969

[Report](#)

[Terry Dannatt](#) (Iowa State) wrote
at 7:40am



I am a richer person for knowing and being educated by Mr. Lyness (we wouldn't have thought about calling him Hal). I will always remember him taking time to talk with each student and being full-heartedly concerned about their education. My sympathies to the family and friends.

[Write on Terry's Wall - Report](#)

[Annie Uetz](#) (Des Moines, IA) wrote
at 10:32pm yesterday



As I reading these posts, I remembered when he came to a party at the Country Club. I don't even remember what the party was for but he and his wife danced all night. They twirled all over the dance floor. I remember watching them and thinking that I wanted to marry someone who would dance with me like that.

[Report](#)

[Emily Greiner](#) wrote

at 10:30pm yesterday



Thinking of Mr. Lyness brings a smile to my face. He was a man of many words and was always in a good mood. I will miss seeing Mr. Lyness wearing his pants up to his belly button hehe! He was an intelligent individual and will be deeply missed in the Boone Community.

[Annie Uetz](#) (Des Moines, IA) wrote

at 10:26pm yesterday



Mr. Lyness was the first teacher who taught me how to truly take notes and study. It is because of him that I made it through college. He made government interesting. What a great teacher!

[Report](#)

[Ryan Curell](#) (Iowa State) wrote

at 9:50pm yesterday



I knew Mr. Lyness primarily as my favorite sub. I'll never forget the talk he gave to our junior high class about his time in the Pacific during WWII -- his patriotism and love for our country was contagious.

[Report](#)

[Tina Jensen](#) wrote

at 9:48pm yesterday



Whenever someone asks why I went into the field of education, I answer, "Because of Hal Lyness." He made all of his classes come alive for his students and he made you feel like you could do anything! He had the most incredible penmanship and the funniest way of writing on the board - kind of like the limbo! You wanted to do great in his classes because he believed that you would! He took the time to write comments on papers and was interested in every student. He was a wonderful role model and touched so many lives. He will be missed.

[Report](#)

[Becky Seidl](#) (Springfield, MO) wrote

at 9:45pm yesterday



Mr. Lyness was by far my favorite teacher of all time. I have told my kids about his fancy handwriting and demonstrated how he leaned sort of backward with his knees bent and spread apart to be able to write all the way to the bottom of the blackboard. I always hated history, except when he was teaching it and I still remember the capitals of some of those obscure countries around the globe - many of which no longer exist! He will always hold a special place in my memory. The world is a better place and we are all better people for having known him. A truly gifted man.

[Report](#)

[Shelby Graves-Duehring](#) (Des Moines, IA) wrote

at 8:48pm yesterday



I hadn't seen whether the funeral information was posted so I thought I'd let those know. Friday February 6th @ 10 a.m Augustana Church with burial @ Linwood Cem. You can find the full obituary @ www.schroedermemorialchapel.com.

[Report](#)



Erin G. Blasberg wrote
at 8:08pm yesterday

Oh Hal. Where to begin? Hal may have been the most delightful, smart, sophisticated person have ever met. It is my pleasure to have known him. I'll miss you Hal!

Erin (Pearson) Blasberg

[Report](#)

[Jana Bailey Lundh](#) (Colorado Springs, CO) wrote
at 7:45pm yesterday



He was an incredible man and a dear friend of my family. Mr. Lyness was good friends with my grandparents, Boyd and Joyce Pestotnik, taught my mother Jo Howell and step-dad David Howell, and my mom's sisters, and was a fixture at Boone High School the years I was there as well. He was a precious soul who will be missed terribly!

[Report](#)



[Kylie Davidson](#) (Iowa State) wrote
at 6:43pm yesterday

Remember Mr. Lyness' money neck ties?! What a great man! For my graduation he wrote me the nicest letter... he always had a way of making you feel like you could accomplish anything in life.

[Report](#)

[Bryan White](#) (Iowa State) wrote
at 5:49pm yesterday



Mr. Lyness has been a part of my family for many years as he taught my grandparents, my parents, and myself when he was still serving as a substitute in the high school. I continued to see him in Hy-Vee and although I was not in a class he taught every day he still remembered my name and always asked how I was doing. He was a great man and is a great example to all he has met throughout the years. I still remember him coming into class in his powder blue leisure suit.

[Janet](#) wrote at 8:42am



My father became terminally ill the year I was in his jr high history class. Later that summer when he passed away, Mr. Lyness came to our front door, with flowers and a card with a lovely note inside with his famous handwriting. Later, when I graduated from high school, there was yet another card in the mailbox from him, telling me how proud my dad would have been. People remember those things. I remember perfectly and its been over 20 years. He was a class act, had a great smile, and truly cared about every person he came in contact with. I also remember something he said while sitting in his class. He was in the middle of one of his great stories, and with a finger pointing east, he would say, "And those birds over there in Washington...!!" Thanks Mr. Lyness for the great memories.

[Bill](#) wrote at 8:16am



What a great man. The finest teacher I ever had (which includes college and grad school). I remember in International Topics (my favorite course), he made us identify each country across the globe on a blank map and name its capital. At the time, I thought it superfluous. Funny, how that simple piece of knowledge stays with you all

these year and lead to an awareness and interest of events in the far corners of the earth. Hi quirkiness only added to his appeal: his tie was always too long; pants pulled up over his belly; his funny stride on the way into school. Even the kids that had little regard for school respected him immensely. What a legacy he leaves behind. RIP Mr. Lyness, you will be greatly missed.



[Jami](#) wrote at 5:43am

Its been a long time since I graduated but I can still see Mr Lyness walking down the hall and always with a smile on his face. He was a great teacher! He will be truly missed but his wisdom lives on in ALL of us..Rest in peace Mr Lyness, and keep smiling



[Brad](#) wrote at 2:17am

This group is a testament to how great a man Mr. Lyness was. He touched thousands of lives including my own. He will be greatly missed. Thanks you Mr. Lyness you truly changed you little part of the world for the better.



[Deanna](#) wrote at 9:53pm yesterday

I remember so much about Mr. Lyness; his handwriting, the notes he wrote, the snappy dressing. I can still smell his cologne. On the day of my mom's funeral, he came to my house with corsages for me and my sister, Jeanna. He was so thoughtful and dear and will be missed by so many. We will have stories to tell for years to come. We are his legacy.



[Dean](#) wrote at 8:49pm yesterday

You are not measured by the things you do, but instead, you are truly measured by the lives that you touch by your words and actions. Mr. Lyness was more than a teacher, he was a great man.



[Jared](#) wrote at 8:33pm yesterday

Wow. It's been more than 22 years since I attended Mr. Lyness' class. He was definitely a class act. Seeing these posts reminds me of "Dixon-Ticonderoga" pencils of course, as well as "fifty-four-forty or fight!" and "Magellen's expedition was the first to CIRCUMNAVIGATE THE GLOBE." Rest well Mr. Lyness.



[Rachel](#) wrote at 7:24pm yesterday

Mr. Lyness taught us history and it was like he was telling a story. No matter what the material was, he made it interesting and I always thought he was somebody who did secret work for the government. Remember his handwriting? It was so unique, fitting for such a unique man! He definitely was outstanding and so fondly remembered by all.



[Tina](#) wrote at 7:09pm yesterday

I was blessed to know Mr. Lyness only as a substitute teacher but will always remember him as a favorite of all. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family as he will be greatly missed by all!



[Mike](#) wrote at 6:40pm yesterday

Mr. Lyness taught me about history and about life in general. He's the reason that I'm so interested in history. Just sitting there in his class and listening to him talk, made you feel that you were really back in time or in his stories. Mr. Lyness will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

[Leah](#) wrote at 6:13pm yesterday



Mr Lyness was such a fantastic man! I grew up living just around the corner from him and his wife. Me and my little sister would go for walks and walk by his house and he would be outside with his wife Betty planting flowers in their big straw hats. They were so friendly and loved to chat! As I grew older and was in highschool I has the privelage of having him as a teacher and loved his class. I could sit for hours just listening to him tell about all of his life experiences and the places he had been and the people he has met....He lived life to the fullest and lived such a fasinating life at that! He is a Boone icon and will truely bt missed by so many people. What a fantastic person and I"m so glad that I had the chance to know him for so long. My Lyness...you are a terrific rolemodel, person, and teacher!!!!

[Sue](#) wrote at 6:03pm yesterday



Mr. Lyness was my Government teacher when I was a junior in high school-he was interesting, fair and compassionate. This is what most in the teaching profession should strive to be.

[Megan](#) wrote at 5:53pm yesterday



Mr. Lyness will be remembered by many Boone High former students. I will always remember him walking through the halls at Boone High. He will be greatly missed. Rest in Peace Mr. Lyness.

[Doug](#) wrote at 5:30pm yesterday



Amazing, unforgettable man. Definitely the kind of person to aspire to be. He will be greatly missed!!

[Mary](#) wrote at 4:35pm yesterday



Like everyone else, I have such fond memories of him. He was a spectacular teacher and person...there are but a few teachers like him in this world. I can't think of a teacher as meticuloos and captivating as he was...an incredible role model for all of us and I have loved reading everyone else's entries on what an impact he made on their lives. I have thought of him all day and have found myself trying to recall every single memory I have of him. I keep imagining how wonderful it would be had he written a memoir...what a fascinating life story that I know so many of us would have relished in reading! God Bless the Lyness family, job well done Mr. Lyness!

[Melissa](#) wrote at 4:27pm yesterday



Mr Lyness is a legend. He was articulate, and expected nothing but the best from each person that he taught. He really motivated, encouraged, entertained, and educated us not only on our course matter, but in life. What a gem. My prayers to his family. You will be missed.

[Chad](#) wrote at 4:20pm yesterday



Mr. Lyness was a GREAT man and I am truly a better person for knowing him. There aren't many lessons that I remember from regular teachers, but to this day I remember things that he taught me, only being a sub from time to time! It speaks volumes of his character that a group this large has been created in his memory!

[Brad](#) wrote at 4:00pm yesterday



I only knew Hal for a short time while working at AASF 1. He made me feel welcome from the first time I met him. He was always ready to chat about anything, and we often did. You could tell from the first time you met him that he was a true professional. It is a pleasure to have known him. Best wishes to his family.

[Amy](#) wrote at 3:29pm yesterday

Thank you Mr. Lyness for teaching us so much more than government and economics...you taught us life lessons we all rely on more than we realize. I still think of you every St. Patrick's Day and how you had the girls dress up and presented us corsages...just one more way of making us feel special. You touched so many lives and made us want to be better and we thank you for that. From the beautiful penmanship (that we all cherished on our tests...good or bad) to the sharp dressing and the way you taught with your captivating stories and challenging tests. It also meant so much to me to have him show up at my graduation party and I too still have my card that he carefully wrote such a thoughtful note in. We can only hope our children get so lucky to have a teacher like Mr. Lyness. Thank you for touching our lives. Love to your family...big hug to Becky and family!!



[Michael](#) wrote at 3:20pm yesterday

Just reading all these posts makes me so happy and sad. Mr Lyness was a man of great importance in so many lives. He taught us to strive to be the best and he expected it. If you missed a question on one of his quizzes you probably never missed it again. Not only did he teach the Straits of Malacca, ingress and egress, you learned lessons that applied to everything. I loved his classes. I loved the competitiveness of his tests and the handwritten notes. I still have a folder with everything he ever wrote to me in it. Just last week, I helped my kids make bar graphs for the science fair, I thought about all the hours we spent making those stock market graphs (on the last weekend before they were due, even though Mr Lyness had told us to start the day we started writing down the points) I remember all the times studying as a group to go over the notes and do a good job. Mr Lyness inspired us to travel to NYC and DC to participate in summer workshops. Cheers to Mr Lyness!!



[Michelle](#) wrote at 2:33pm yesterday

When our kids were young, we'd take them trick-or-treating to the homes of special friends. If Hal happened to be working night security at the Armory, Betty would tell us to stop out and see him. He would have powdered sugar donuts and apple cider all set up for the kids, complete with holiday plates, cups, and napkins, for a little Halloween party specially for them. His spontaneous joy expressed to everyone was generously extended to little children as well as his high school students. Even though we had been gone from Boone for many years, Hal and Betty drove to Ankeny to attend each one of our three children's graduation celebrations - dressed to the nines - and with that famous twinkle in his eye!! My husband Tim played in a weekly golf foursome with Hal, Merle Harris and Bruce Petrak, and many memories were created through the years. Hal's favorite club was a four-iron, and we often mention him when that particular club is pulled out of the bag! Hal was one of a kind!



Kristen wrote at 2:26pm yesterday



Mr. Lyness was always so sweet...one of the nicest teachers out there. I will always remember him, even though he was a substitute for only a couple of my classes. He will be missed by many. May God bless his family and give them peace, especially in the next few days.

Katy wrote at 1:55pm yesterday



I will never forget Mr. Lyness. He was truly one of the greatest. His summer gov. class was a blast. Who would ever look forward to a summer class? I loved it when he would sub for Mr. Hora's business law and accounting classes too. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Jensie wrote at 1:52pm yesterday

UPDATE on the service: Hal G. Lyness, age 83, of 316 Clinton Street in Boone, died February 1, 2009, at his home. Funeral services are Friday, February 6, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. at the Augustana Lutheran Church with Pastor Dick Dahle officiating. Burial will be in the Linwood Park Cemetery.



Friends may call at Schroeder Memorial Chapel at Sixth and Marshall on Thursday from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. where the family will be present from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Visitation continues Friday at the Church from 9:00 a.m. until servicetime.

Memorials may be given to the family to be used at their discretion.

Jensie wrote at 1:51pm yesterday



Mr. Lyness taught my mom, my older brother and was a sub by the time I was in high school. Word always flew around the halls in celebration when he was subbing for a class. He shared his passion for investing and appreciation of others' life experiences with all of us. He will be missed and I count myself fortunate to have learned from him, as I know we all do.

Jamie wrote at 1:50pm yesterday



I am not at all surprised by the vast amount of people to join this page in such a short amount of time. It goes to show that Mr. Lyness is a very important part of BHS history! He was the epitome of what all educators should strive to be. He made each and every student feel important and that they could accomplish anything. I remember summer government - him giving me that big smile and a laugh when I accidentally hummed my schoolhouse rock out loud while taking a test! That was my best study tool for that class - besides all the awesome notes he gave us! I hope that those he influenced to teach will each incorporate just a bit of him in your way of teaching. Mr. Lyness will be missed - but never forgotten by those whose lives he touched!!!

Julie wrote at 1:23pm yesterday



Look at the years and the lives he touched. I recall that he treated every student as if he or she was the smartest kid in school but just didn't yet know it. If we could only touch a portion of the lives, in number and effect, we will all have been good citizens. --- Julie Nelson, BHS 1979

[Tashia](#) wrote at 1:14pm yesterday

Mr. Lyness...I only hope he knew what an impact he had on every student he encountered. My life is better for knowing him. While I learned a great deal from him regarding class material, it was his life stories that I will forever hold on to. This man, humble and good natured, could describe his life experiences in such fascinating and vivid detail. I can, twenty-two years after hearing Mr. Lyness relate the stories, picture him in the Navy, boxing, playing baseball, meeting politicians... Every story made me want to hear more, to make sure I had fulfilled my end of the deal (homework, reading, etc.) so that we could get on to the next story. What did I learn? Dream -- dream big -- and follow those dreams. Inspire. Share your wisdom, or at least your experience.



Mr. Lyness was perpetually positive. He saw the goodness in every individual. If only we all could, the world would be a better place. Thank you for sharing your life with us, Mr. Lyness.



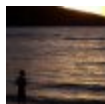
[Julie](#) wrote at 12:54pm yesterday

Service is Friday 10 am @ Augustana Lutheran Church

Visitation is Thursday from 1 to 8 -family present 6 to 8 at Schroeder Memorial Chapel

[Amber](#) wrote at 12:33pm yesterday

This is all for now...the service is still pending:



Hal G. Lyness, age 83, of 316 Clinton Street in Boone, died February 1, 2009, at his home. Funeral services are pending at Schroeder Memorial Chapel at Sixth and Marshall

[Julie](#) wrote at 12:32pm yesterday

Mr. Lyness was truly an inspirational man. The comments you are leaving here mean a great deal to the family as this is a very difficult time but they too want to celebrate a great life lived. What is being shared here serves as wonderful reminders. Thank you

Service information has been confirmed and there should something in Modays paper and then again on Wednesday.



The service will be at 10:00 am on Wednesday at Augustana Lutheran Church in Boone.

Visitation is scheduled for Thursday from 1 until 8pm with family present from 6 until 8 at the Schroeder Memorial Chapel on 6th St in Boone.

For all of you wondering what else you might do I thought that you should know there has been some mention of establishing a scholarship fund in honor of Mr. Lyness. May we all be comforted by knowing that a great man walked among us and touched each of our lives in a very special way.

[Heidi](#) wrote at 11:37am yesterday

Mr. Lyness was a great substitute teacher and a great person. He always had a smile on his face and was also so nice and polite to everyone. He made school alot easier to get threw when he was around. He will be greatly missed and I am glad I got a chance to know him. My prayers go out to his family.





[Heather](#) wrote at 11:31am yesterday

What a sad day!!! As all have clearly said, he was an amazing man. He made a difference in my life as well. I'll never forget the lesson he taught about what could happen if we all just saved \$1 a day!



[John](#) wrote at 11:15am yesterday

This may be old news, but I just heard this morning that the funeral is NOT on Thursday, but rather on Friday. Can somebody post the obituary and arrangement information, once it hits the Boone paper??

Also, for anyone in the Class of 1988 who would be interested in contributing towards flowers being sent by our class, you may want to contact Amy (Nash) Walter for details.



[Kendra](#) wrote at 10:59am yesterday

Mr. Lyness was substituting by the time i got to high school. It was always a great day whenever he was in the building, whether I had a class with him or not. I know it seems silly, but the man had the greatest ties I have ever seen. I'm glad that I got to know him, even if only for a brief time and I will always remember him.



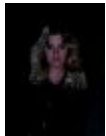
[Dana](#) wrote at 10:52am yesterday

Mr. Lyness was one of my favorite teachers. I was so lucky to have him for summer Government after he had retired. He was so kind and genuine, and a real educator in the truest meaning of the word. Mr. Lyness increased my interest and love of Government. He influenced me heading in that direction, and receiving a Political Science degree in college. What a great man, he will be truly missed.



[Eric](#) wrote at 10:51am yesterday

Mr Lyness was not only a great teacher, but a great person. He truly cared about every single person he met. He certainly will be missed. He was one of my favorite substitute teachers. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family. He definitely was one of a kind.



[Sheila](#) wrote at 10:39am yesterday

Mr. Lyness made going to Boone High School an awesome experience. I even took a summer class simply because he was teaching it. Beyond his ability to educate, he was a true gentleman. He was dignified, mannerly and so well spoken. He was proud of his country, encouraged us to be good citizens, and pushed his students not to strive for mediocrity but rather for greatness. HE MADE A DIFFERENCE!! And it breaks my heart that he is no longer with us. I will miss seeing him around town. Those eyes that sparkled when he spoke to you and asked about your family and life. Always positive and always upbeat, I will always remember him as one in a billion. Mr. Lyness, we all miss you. Thank you for being you.



[Christie](#) wrote at 10:19am yesterday

Boone has lost a great friend. Mr. Lyness touched so many lives in so many different ways. He is fondly remembered as one of the great educators of Boone High. My prayers are with his family!



[Tauri](#) wrote at 10:17am yesterday

Mr. Lyness always had a passion for teaching and his country that he passed along to his classes. After all we all know our states and capitols.

He was a great man who will be greatly missed.



Evan wrote at 10:09am yesterday

Mr. Lyness was a great teacher and a great man. This is a very sobering loss; he will be greatly missed



Katherine wrote at 9:25am yesterday

A great loss for Boone. His family is in my thoughts and prayers. If only there were more Mr. Lyness's in the world... it would be a better place.



David wrote at 9:07am yesterday

He started teaching at Boone High just when I graduated from there. Would have liked being in his class there. He was one of the nicest men in Boone.



Sarah wrote at 8:58am yesterday

he was such a sweet old guy. i knew him for as long as i can remember, since he was the guard at the national guard hanger. and he subbed at school too. i was so sad when my mom told me this morning! i'll definitely be at the funeral, whenever it is.



Greg wrote at 8:56am yesterday

What a great loss, one the best teachers I ever had. My prayers are with the family.



Amie wrote at 8:56am yesterday

Mr. Lyness was a wonderful man and teacher. I feel blessed to have had him in my life. He will be missed!



Chelsea wrote at 8:50am yesterday

What a great man. It's amazing how many people were influenced by him!



Alicia wrote at 8:37am yesterday

That is so sad! He was one of the sweetest people I ever met! My prayers go out to his family!



Nickolaus wrote at 8:10am yesterday

Best substitute ever!



Heather wrote at 8:09am yesterday

I only graduated 9 years ago, but I still talk about when he came and talked at my MOC class. He was always full of life. He was my favorite sub.



Stephanie wrote at 8:02am yesterday

What a wonderful man! My thoughts and prayers go out to his family!

[Carol](#) wrote at 7:36am yesterday

From the Class of 1972 I send my thoughts and prayers to the family of Mr. Lyness. I am grateful that after having him as a teacher he remained at Boone High and continued to teach my children and possibly by grandchildren. I can remember sitting in his class when he was telling us about his son in the Navy. He would show us on world maps where his son was located. Then he gave us the same "lecture" he had given to his son about saving money, and how much his son would have in the bank if he saved his paychecks while on the long Navy cruise. I also remember the striped coat he wore from an Olympics game. What a wonderful man to have given so much of himself to others.



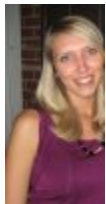
[Danielle](#) wrote at 7:32am yesterday

My friend Melissa said his funeral was on Thursday at 11, but I don't know where yet. I'll keep checking the Boone News Republican online and I'll get back to you with more info



[Brooke](#) wrote at 7:31am yesterday

Although I only had Mr. Lyness as a substitute teacher, he was the sub you hoped you'd get when your teacher was out sick! He challenged every student he mentored to "keep up their character," as he once told me. Just look at how many people have joined this group and written something about him. I'd say we're all doing a pretty good job of that for him. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and everyone who is mourning him at this time.



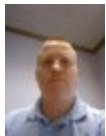
[Jennifer](#) wrote at 7:23am yesterday

Mr. Lyness got me really interested in math back in 7th grade...ended up finding out that I was actually really good at math. He was one of my favorite teachers!



[Robert](#) wrote at 7:06am yesterday

To this day I still feel that Mr. Lyness was the greatest teacher in my life. He always made sure he said hello to you even if you never had him in a class. This is for him. Go Hawkeyes!!!!!!!



[Lynn](#) wrote at 6:53am yesterday

My thoughts and prayers are with the Lyness family.

I only had him as a teacher for a brief time, but I remember his tests and the Ticonderoga pencils.

The thing I will always remember the most about him was his politeness. He explained one day that he walked down the stairs in front of his wife, in case she would fall, he could stop her from getting harmed. That was also why he walked behind her going up the stairs. And it was why he always walked on the sidewalk with him being closest to the street, so that if a car splashed mud, he would get the brunt of it and his wife would be spared.



I also remember sitting in his class and seeing a mouse (I think). I waited patiently until the end of class to mention it to him. He chastised me for not interrupting sooner and I told him that wouldn't have been polite. I asked him what he would have done if I had

done it earlier and he said so matter-of-fact "I would have had all the boys move the bookcase to see if we could catch it."

[Karen](#) wrote at 6:40am yesterday



I was so sorry to hear of your loss. I never had Mr. Lyness unfortunately, but somehow, he still would know you in the halls and he always would say hello to me. My thoughts and prayers are with the Lyness family.

[Patrick](#) wrote at 6:10am yesterday



Mr. Lyness taught me the magic of compound interest, and to never be late. He was a great guy.

[Melissa](#) wrote at 5:59am yesterday



After reflecting on the news most of last night I came up with a couple of other memories. I had a UCLA sweatshirt that was my favorite. Mr. Lyness loved it. He use to call me The UCLA Kid. He even wrote that in my graduation card. :) I remember coming into his classroom for the very first time in Jr. High. He said "Don't bring your book to class. You won't need it. Now take out a sheet of paper and we are going to learn all of the Presidents." I remember his killer fill in the blank tests. I was terrible at remembering dates. I remember hours of cramming so I didn't let him down with a bad grade on a test. Like Mindy I remember the Ticonderoga pencils. I have never looked at one the same again. :)

[Deb](#) wrote at 3:46am yesterday



What can I say about him that hasn't already been said? He was my teacher, my dad's, my uncle's, my sister's and subbed for my son. Not being one of his students in some degree, must be the biggest disappointment in a student's life. He was such a fabulous man-and always modest when years later you would see him and comment on how wonderful a teacher he was. We all complain about teacher's test-why they couldn't be multiple choice. But no one complained about his fill in the blank and SA tests-or the fact that they were always like 10 pages long!!!! And multiple choice-please-why should he give you the answers-if you took notes-you had the answer. His beautiful handwriting, clothes and enthusiasm in everything. He was one in a million-no-there will never be another Hal Lyness.

[Donna](#) wrote at 12:24am yesterday



Sorry to hear it. I was just quoting him on Friday to my husband. Of all the teachers I ever had he was the most interesting and intellectually curious. I'd like to have someone remember me the way I remember Mr. Lyness.

His recommendations got me into the AFS program and the college where I met my husband. A great influence on my life.

[Brad](#) wrote at 11:10pm on February 1st, 2009



Wow, Mr. Lyness...you'll be missed. Out of all the teachers I had, you were one of the best. I'm sorry I never was able to tell you that, but I remember thanking you for being such a good teacher. I really learned more than just economics. Thank you for helping shape my life and study habits! Rest in peace and may God always keep you in His care.



[Jennifer](#) wrote at 10:30pm on February 1st, 2009

Mr. Lyness was one of the most inspirational teachers I have been priveleged to learn from. It is with great sadness that I read of his passing. The world has lost one of the best. Keeping his family in my thoughts tonight. Thank you for sharing him with us for all those years. RIP Hal Lyness.



[Brenda](#) wrote at 9:44pm on February 1st, 2009

I called my father with the news, I attended Boone High 28 years after my dad and we both took History from Mr. Lyness. As we talked about our memories, they were the same. We both extend the warmest wishes to the family and feel how hard this must be for them. Mr. Lyness effected generations of students, through his years of teaching he never lost the passion to inspire students through tough questions. He gave high school students a glimpse at college level teaching. His lectures brought history to life, an hour in his class felt like 5 min. I can only image the type of son, husband, and father he was to his family. Our deepest condolences.



[Kit](#) wrote at 9:13pm on February 1st, 2009

Mr. Lyness was the end all... be all. Best teacher I ever had. I just had to get 100% on all of his tests to see that beautiful handwriting on the top of page of the test that said "excellent." He wanted to make us all better people. I wish I would have had him as a mentor in college. I would probably be swimming in cash. The world was a better place with him in it.



[Stacie](#) wrote at 9:03pm on February 1st, 2009

Ticoondroga pencil!!!!yes !!!!! thanks sis!!!!



[Mary](#) wrote at 8:40pm on February 1st, 2009

I always remembered Mr. Lyness' class and his passion for teaching. He had a way of touching every student's lives and really brought the material to life. He was a wonderful teacher and person. My prayers to all of his family.



[Steven](#) wrote at 8:35pm on February 1st, 2009

Please let us know when his funeral is as I and many others would like to know:)



[Annette](#) wrote at 8:24pm on February 1st, 2009

Mr. Lyness was a great teacher and a very special man. I worked with as a security gaurd at the National Gaurd Aviation building several years ago. He was a great friend and he will be greatly missed. My prayers are with his family at this time of sorrow.



[Steven](#) wrote at 8:18pm on February 1st, 2009

Mr Lyness was an awesome teacher who I have no doubt he is in a much better place. He could just lighten up a room. If he had any enemies I didn't know of any. I will be praying for peace with his family as he truly was a blessing with everyone he came across:)



[John](#) wrote at 8:17pm on February 1st, 2009

It's so great that Shawn started this page. Like everyone else, about a million memories of him come to mind when I think of him. But my last memory of Mr. Lyness was when he came to my dad's funeral...it meant the world to me. He was selfless,

compassionate, and passionate about so much. I truly loved him and it hurts to know I won't get the chance to see him again. There's a special place in heaven for him, I'm sure. Boone was truly blessed to have him for so long.



[Luann](#) wrote at 8:16pm on February 1st, 2009

Mr. Lyness was a great teacher and a mentor to many students. He will be greatly missed our thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this time of grief.



[Anne](#) wrote at 8:13pm on February 1st, 2009

Mr. Lyness was the coolest. It was always a good day when he subbed a class. RIP Mr. Lyness. :(



[Kerry](#) wrote at 8:13pm on February 1st, 2009

Mr. Lyness was one of the finest people I have ever met. He certainly lived a full life and touched every single person he met along the way. Though we can't replace him, we can only aspire to be more like him.



[Steve](#) wrote at 8:08pm on February 1st, 2009

Hands down the best teacher I ever had. He will be missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.



[Eric](#) wrote at 8:07pm on February 1st, 2009

An unbelievably gifted teacher who cared about each of his students. Of all the high school teachers who taught me at Boone High School, two stand head and shoulders above all, Hal Lyness and Rosemary Hall. I graduated with Becky, and knew Chris. My prayers and thoughts are with his family. A truly good man.



[Angela](#) wrote at 7:54pm on February 1st, 2009

Mr. Lyness will be greatly missed in this community! I only pray that I can be half the teacher that he was to so many of us that went through Boone Schools. My prayers are with his family.



[Mary](#) wrote at 7:48pm on February 1st, 2009

Mr. Lyness was totally "one in a million"! His love, respect, and "talent to teach" was impeccable. Love and prayers to the family. He was so loved!
Mary Jo Pritchard, class of '68'



[Wendy](#) wrote at 7:42pm on February 1st, 2009

Mr. Lyness was an unbelievable educator and one of the greatest men I have ever had the pleasure to know. His lessons went WAY beyond the classroom and into all of our lives. He not only taught us to appreciate our democratic society...he also taught us respect - for ourselves and others around us. I will never forget the years in his classroom, the corsages, the football picks and especially the personal notes on tests and all of the notes and cards for every occasion !! He will be greatly missed by those of us that were priveleged to know him !! My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.



[Shawn](#) wrote at 7:42pm on February 1st, 2009

A sad day for all of us who knew him. He was one of the biggest influences in my life and the reason I decided to go into the education profession. I never had a teacher that motivated me to learn more than he did. I think I studied harder for his tests than I ever

did in college because I wanted to gain the top spot on his government tests. I think I still have some of my tests from his class.

I remember the Ivy League football picks, him taking attendance and not a sound in the room, boy times have changed. His lectures were amazing and in a day where they say that isn't the right way to teach, I say he proved the so called education experts wrong. The things I learned in his class are still with me today.

[Patrick](#) wrote at 7:38pm on February 1st, 2009

A great man and teacher. He was a Boone icon. He truly will be missed.



I remember Mr. Lyness always running/speed walking to get his lunch at noon. I never did understand how fast that guy really was.

[Nancy](#) wrote at 7:37pm on February 1st, 2009

My thoughts & prayers are with his family... The world has lost a wonderful man, teacher, & friend.



[Kate](#) wrote at 7:33pm on February 1st, 2009

I saw Mr. Lyness walking up to his car a week or two ago and he looked as spry and charming as he ever did! May those of us who knew him remember the example of kindness and tolerance that he showed each of us growing up. My condolences and prayers to his family and friends.



[Mishelle](#) wrote at 7:12pm on February 1st, 2009

Such sad news - I saw him at the bakery a couple of weeks ago and he looked the same as he did 20 years ago :) He was a great teacher - he challenged us and actually made government fun! He is the reason I enjoy politics today - he made it all so simple to understand. He will be missed.



[Jedediah](#) wrote at 7:02pm on February 1st, 2009

He was the best sub I ever had....He really cared about even the students he subbed for! He attended my Graduation and gave me a card that said he knew I would go far. I have never forgot all the kind things he said and did for me in high school! God made a special man and took him home to be with him. May God be there to bless and comfort the family!



[Aimee](#) wrote at 6:49pm on February 1st, 2009

He was the greatest sub I've ever had and my most favorite neighbor when I had my first apt.

I would always see him outside with his huge gardening hat on pulling weeds. You'll be dearly missed



[Mindy](#) wrote at 6:35pm on February 1st, 2009

Mr. Lyness was a teacher that I aspire to be. He truly cared about his students and the art of teaching, as well as being an amazing human being and true gentleman in every sense of the word. I remember vividly how we learned to take notes (because that's all we had in his classes - no books), how to make lectures interesting - his eyes lighting up as he spoke. The corsages, giving of his precious "spare" time to let us hang out in his



room after lunch, during lunch, before school, after school.... I remember (and still have) a test that I didn't study for and got a bad grade. He wrote (in his red flair marker) on the back of the test in that big, beautiful writing, that he was disappointed in me and that he knew I was better than that. That made me work harder, knowing that he truly did care about how I did in school. THAT is a teacher! Every time I use a Ticonderoga pencil, I think of him!! I will miss him dearly.



Gina wrote at 6:28pm on February 1st, 2009

Mr. Lyness was such a great guy who had a lot of joy no matter what! All my prayers will be with his family.

Chuck wrote at 6:21pm on February 1st, 2009



Mr Lyness was a very nice man and role model for many people. Doesnt everyone wish they could be more like him? He will be greatly missed.

My thoughts and our prayers go out to him and his family.



Stacie wrote at 6:19pm on February 1st, 2009

Oh yeah one more thing- I remember one time getting a big red "C" on a test and he wrote below it "I am very disappointed in you" Wow - that hurt me because I knew he meant it - made me study harder and not blow off one class from that point on.

Nicole wrote at 6:17pm on February 1st, 2009



I cannot think of a time where my classmates have gathered and Hal Lyness did not come up as a topic. His remarkable dedication to his students, his love of country, and the respect his presence commanded have touched literally hundreds of Boone High grads. My deepest condolences go to his family, please know that you are not alone in your grief.

Monica wrote at 6:14pm on February 1st, 2009



I always loved history and politics, why not it ran in my blood? My first test of learning cabinet members came when Mr. Lyness said those infamous words, "We're going to have a little quiz tomorrow." It was during Reagan's second administration. Mr. Lyness just brought history and pride in our country to life! God bless, and my condolences to the Lyness family.



Ashley wrote at 6:09pm on February 1st, 2009

My prayers are with his family.... He was a great man....

Stacie wrote at 6:09pm on February 1st, 2009



I never studied so hard in my life except in his first hour American History class freshman year '85-'86 - having to automatically get your paper out writing out the 50 states with capitols, preamble of the Constitution and the original 13 states before class started. His tests fill in the blanks - dates and names. I thank him for that. How excited I was to win a shake a few times when I "picked" the right teams - I was clueless on football. I do to this day speak of him often and how much he inspired me to not only want to learn but actually enjoy American History. He was also my advisor sophomore year and he made every holiday special- got corsages for us to wear - I remember the green one for St Patricks Day - I think my mom has it "pressed" in a book at her house still. Absolutely the best teacher I ever had - a wonderful man. Boone's finest and definitely a legend - a school should be renamed in his honor and dedication to the

Boone students past, present and future.



Kelsey wrote at 6:03pm on February 1st, 2009

Mr. Lyness was the nicest, sweetest and kindest person ever. RIP

[Kristen](#) wrote at 6:03pm on February 1st, 2009



I remember Mr. Lyness as a wonderful, caring husband. His wife Betty worked with me at the Eastern Star, and he would drive her to work everyday and he would always get out and open her car door for her and the door to work. He always had a smile on his face and always gave Betty a kiss before she went in...he will be greatly missed by the people's lives he touched!



[Carla](#) wrote at 5:52pm on February 1st, 2009

I remember him teaching about Ivy League colleges and football. He was the best history teacher Boone has ever had. He will be greatly missed!

[Kathi](#) wrote at 5:25pm on February 1st, 2009



I remember having Mr. Lyness during the first Gulf War. He explained everything to us so well. His pride of being an American was so easy to see. He lived the words he spoke. I enjoyed learning from him so much! I even considered becoming a history teacher because of him. I took extra history classes in college because he inspired me to love history. I actually thought of him the other day as I was teaching National Landmarks to my class of 2nd graders. I remember him explaining the importance of being proud to be an American and how lucky we each are to live in such a great country. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family. I am so glad to have know such a wonderful man and teacher!



[Lindsay](#) wrote at 5:16pm on February 1st, 2009

I was recently just thinking about him. I remember him as a very sweet sweet man. And always enjoyed him as a teacher.

Deborah wrote at 5:14pm on February 1st, 2009



Mr. Lyness taught me how important it was for each one of us to CARE about what's going on with OUR government, and what a privilege it is to live in this country. I can still remember some of the capitals of various countries, and several members of Reagan's cabinet (which dates me, of course) - just a couple of things that he believed were so important for us to know, if we were going to be citizens of the world. I stive to maintain that awarness of the world around me, even today. He was a wonderful man and I am so grateful to have had him as a teacher.

[Chris](#) wrote at 5:14pm on February 1st, 2009



I remember Mr. Lyness as being the teacher that you acutally thought lived through American History. The stories he told seemed like he was actually there when it happened. He made it all seem so real. And so very interesting. He was one of the best teachers, if not the best teacher, Boone High ever had. He will be greatly missed.



[Carrie](#) wrote at 4:31pm on February 1st, 2009

Mr. Lyness was one of the best teachers I had, he was one of a kind. He was so interesting to listen too. My prayers go out to his family. He will be missed my so

many!



[Danielle](#) wrote at 4:28pm on February 1st, 2009

Jayson Pendarvis, My Boyfriend, enjoyed listening to him talk about when he was in the military. He is one of the highest appreciated teachers at Boone High.

[Stacey](#) wrote at 4:05pm on February 1st, 2009



Mr. Lyness was the best substitute Boone High School ever had. I remember walking into a classroom and seeing that the teacher was gone, but Mr. Lyness was there instead. He always made class fun. He will be greatly missed. My prayers go out to his family.

[TJ](#) wrote at 3:23pm on February 1st, 2009



Mr. Lyness was the finest educator I ever had, at any level. I structured my schedule to take every class he taught at Boone High School. In American History I, American History II, Economics, International Topics, American Government and as a Home Room Teacher, he provided timeless lessons and knowledge. His passion, for educating and enlightening, was a rare and wonderful thing that benefited so, so many.

[Jen](#) wrote at 3:17pm on February 1st, 2009



Mr. Lyness was the best teacher I have had in my life.....bottom line. Every time I go to Boone, I think that I should stop by and see him - that is a big regret I will have now. I loved that his 'text books' were the WSJ (for Economics) and USNews and World Report (was it called World Topics?). I still remember specific things I learned from him. Mr. Lyness was always encouraging and pushing everyone to do their best. What an awesome person.



[Renea](#) wrote at 3:10pm on February 1st, 2009

Was I the only one who never had him as a teacher....but I remember him well. A small man who had a ton of energy and always walked at a fast pace :-)

[Katie](#) wrote at 2:52pm on February 1st, 2009



Mr. Lyness was by far one of the best subs we had at Boone High. He was a wonderful man and always took the time to really teach and appreciate us as people. God is blessed to have him in His presence now. Many blessings to his family.



[Cameron](#) wrote at 2:33pm on February 1st, 2009

He was one of those guys you thought would be around forever. I respected him and the fact that he was so good to his students. May he always be in our thoughts.

[Bill](#) wrote at 2:27pm on February 1st, 2009



Mr Lyness was one of best teachers. He taught real life stuff, didn't use a book or a note during class and could give a great commencement speech! I don't know if I ever saw him without a tie or a smile and a pencil behind his ear.

[Melissa](#) wrote at 2:22pm on February 1st, 2009



Mr Lyness had a huge impact on my life. He made me realize as long as I worked as hard I could have anything I wanted in life. He was interested in each and every student who came through his door. I remember him letting a group of us hang out in his room

after lunch. I remember my senior year he spent the last couple of days of class sharing his life story with us. You could have heard a pin drop on the floor. The world has lost an amazing person, teacher and human being.

Jodie I remember his football picks. I never could win. LOL

[Sheri](#) wrote at 2:13pm on February 1st, 2009



The greatest teacher I ever had - Hal Lyness was such an inspiration in my life. He believed in the potential of all people and in the obligation we all have to use our gifts to make a positive impact on the world. I fondly think of him each morning as the WSJ hits my desk. His beautifully hand-written words of praise on the top of each exam were priceless and motivated me to want to achieve great things. He will be greatly missed, but his spirit will live on through all of us - of the countless students he touched and inspired. My prayers are with his family - God Bless you Mr. Lyness.

[Jodie](#) wrote at 1:58pm on February 1st, 2009



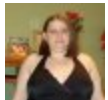
not only was he a great teacher he was a wonderful man. he taught us so much more than text book info. he taught us about real world government. anyone remember football picks and winning BOYDS malts? bless mr. lyness and his family.

[Charlotte](#) wrote at 1:29pm on February 1st, 2009



I loved Hal Lyness. From his colorful clothes to his always cheery attitude, he was just a likable guy. However, he created in me a passion for my own opinion regarding politics. No matter what his affiliation, when he taught us, he taught us love for the RIGHT to vote and a thorough working knowledge of government. Mindy and I had the pleasure of being junior delegates in 1988 for the Democrats and I remember Hal just being so thrilled about how involved we were--he created that in us. What an amazing man!

[Melissa](#) wrote at 1:05pm on February 1st, 2009



he was always at boone high when he retired subbing for someone. he was a great teacher and will be missed.

[Kay](#) wrote at 12:46pm on February 1st, 2009



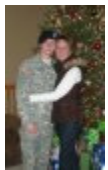
Such an icon for all of us at Boone High. He will be so missed but everyone's memories will keep him alive!! My sorrow goes out to Betty, Becky, Chis, Hal and Ellen.

[Amy](#) wrote at 12:41pm on February 1st, 2009



Hal Lyness taught so much more than American History and Government. He taught us to have respect for our fellow citizens and to love what has been given to us by those who have served to protect us. He was a true patriot and gentleman. I truly feel that it was an honor to have been taught by him and to have known him. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

[Angie](#) wrote at 12:41pm on February 1st, 2009



Sad news to hear...he was the best government teacher at Boone High. What was so great about Mr. Lyness was that even though we have been out of school for 20 years....he knew you by name when you saw him on the street. He will be remembered by many of us. Thought and prayers to his family.

[Jeanie](#) wrote at 12:15pm on February 1st, 2009



I seem to be the first person who was not Hal's student to post a comment. Still, he taught me many things. Hal had retired by the time I began teaching in Boone, but I got to know him through his time as a substitute teacher and as a guest speaker for our 8th grade WWII unit. He was passionate and compassionate: truly a remarkable man who embraced life and his fellow person. We are lucky to have been in his company for a while, and I know that the lives he touched are touching others in a better way because of him.

[Troy](#) wrote at 12:11pm on February 1st, 2009



Mr. Lyness - what an influence he had on my life and the lives of Boone High School students for decades. Whether it was picking investment stocks, going through the US News and World Report from cover to cover or making weekly picks on Ivy League football games with the winner getting a Boyd's malt (had to know all the Ivy League schools and where they were located to qualify), Hal always challenged us to become a better, more rounded person. Years later when I would see him he already knew where I was at and what I was doing. You will be missed, Mr. Lyness, but your influence on this world will continue on, because you influenced so many.

[Erika](#) wrote at 12:03pm on February 1st, 2009



Sad news to hear on this sunny day. Mr. Lyness used to walk or it was more like speed walk to school. He would pass me on my way and quickly zip right on by with a smile on his face and a hello. It's ironic how one man could touch so many and all of us who had him will never forget the many lessons of history, government and life he thought us. Cheers to you Mr. Lyness!

[Jimmy](#) wrote at 11:56am on February 1st, 2009



Hal, was a great teacher, man, and friend. I am grateful for the honor of having him teach me and then be a security guard at my work for the last few years and we became good friends. I do believe he is possibly the smartest man around, God Be With Him, and my deepest app. go to Betty....

[Tracey](#) wrote at 11:51am on February 1st, 2009



I remember his beautiful handwriting and how he inspired you to work 100% harder than in any other class. Getting a "A" from him in that perfect handwriting was like winning an Oscar. I was just telling a coworker the other day about everything we had to learn and recite from memory for his tests- which were blank sheets of paper you had to fill in. The electoral state, their votes, senators and what the state was known for. The preamble, all the states and capitols in their groups.

I had Government 5th period and he let me and a few others hang out in his class after lunch so we could beat the rush. He was a great man and the world is a lesser place without him in it.

I say in honor of his memory everyone who was touched by him go out and do something to honor his memory by paying the gift he gave us forward. Mentor a child, volunteer, do whatever it is you can do to honor his spirit!!

[Shannon](#) wrote at 11:28am on February 1st, 2009



Whenever I think of my days back at Boone High, his face always comes to mind as I begin reciting the Justices of the Supreme Court in my head. It's funny some of the things you remember. What a wonderful teacher and human being. I feel so lucky to have crossed paths with him and blessed to have these precious memories.

[Kipp](#) wrote at 11:19am on February 1st, 2009



Hal Lyness was an amazing man. As I recall, he was a champion Navy boxer, was offered a job with Richard Nixon when Nixon was President, and was offered several other positions due to his vast knowledge of American History and Government. Yet, he chose to stay in the little town of Boone, Iowa to pour his life into the hearts and minds of two generations of students. His influence will continue on for many many years. Already, he is sorely missed. Goodbye, Mr. Lyness. I, for one, love you!

[Mark](#) wrote at 11:17am on February 1st, 2009



Mr. Lyness taught my Dad I was fortunate enough to also have him as a teacher and he also was a substitute for my oldest son. This man was truly amazing and touched so many lives He taught three generations!

[Darci](#) wrote at 11:17am on February 1st, 2009



Last year at the opening inservice for Boone teachers, Dr. Schutte asked us to reflect on teachers who made a difference in our lives. Mr. Lyness was one of those teachers. I know you all remember taking notes on loose leaf paper and having a 3 ring binder, memorizing the states and capitals and which area of the nation they were located, winning Boyd's shakes for the football predictions (which I was horrible at), he bought the senior girls corsages and we all dressed up for it, he picked up itty bitty pieces of paper off the floor of his classroom, which was neat as a pin, his beautiful handwriting on the chalkboard, his 13 page fill in the blank tests and of course his dress. I know that there are more things we all can remember, how many other teachers can you remember so many things about? To me, that is the true sign of a great educator and man. Thanks to him for making me the teacher and person I am today!

[Scott](#) wrote at 11:04am on February 1st, 2009



He was such a wonderful mentor. I was just talking about him last night with a friend here in Iraq and that how I enjoyed having him as a teacher and he had him as a substitute teacher. We all were fortunate to be a student of his. I remember going into American History and not knowing who he was and thinking he was teaching when my dad was in high school and thinking it was going to be dry and boring. After one day I was amazed and knew if I could take a class with him teaching, I was going to try and get in it. He was such an amazing man and he will be missed by all of us who were apart of his legacy.

Bob wrote at 10:56am on February 1st, 2009

The following is from a letter dated May 21, 1987:



Moms,

Having known and taught these young men of yours makes me feel like the great Yankee 1st baseman, Lou Gehrig, who said.....

"I'm the luckiest man in the world."

Congratulations on the graduation of your son, and thanks for our paths having crossed. It's been sheer joy for me.

Warmly,

Hal

I've kept that all these years because it was a wonderful example of what a great man he was, and it reminds me to strive to be like that myself. Years ago I made a point to tell him myself what a great teacher and person he was and how I kept this letter that he sent us, and true to form he said that it was the students that were great, not he. He once told me that I could call him Hal, not Mr. Lyness anymore. Somehow I couldn't do it. I didn't feel it showed the respect that he had earned.

Thank you, Mr. Lyness, for OUR paths having crossed! The pleasure was all mine!

[Jennifer](#) wrote at 10:46am on February 1st, 2009



We were all so fortunate to have had Mr. Lyness as a teacher, mentor and friend. He instituted a desire in each of us to learn and excel. He also taught each of us to be respectful of one another. I think we have all carried those life skills into our adult lives. He was truly a history maker! And Shawn hit it dead on....Hal was a SNAPPY DRESSER! I will never forget the plaid pants and always, always coordinating wing-tips! The definition of dapper!

[Shawn](#) wrote at 10:28am on February 1st, 2009



I was a huge fan of Hal Lyness. He taught us more than just History. He set the bar for us to think beyond his classroom and he was a great example of how one person could touch so many people. And who could forget how snappy he would dress. He was a class act, all the way through.

Thank you Mr. Lyness.