

Obituary in Boone News Republican



Hal Graham Lyness 1925 - 2009

Hal Graham Lyness, age 83, of 316 Clinton Street, entered eternal rest February 1, 2009, at his home. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, neighbor, and friend. Mr. Lyness had a passion for teaching, touching many lives.

Hal Graham Lyness was born on May 24, 1925, in Portland, Oregon, the son of Harry Fisher Lyness and Betty Marie (Graham) Lyness. He lived most of his youth in Tacoma, Washington. Hal graduated from Stadium High School in 1942. Hal was a life long student, studying at the College of Puget Sound in Tacoma, graduating from

the Doane College in Crete, Nebraska in 1948, receiving his Masters Degree of Education from the University of Nebraska and further education from Harvard, Drake University, Iowa State University, Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, and Valley Forge College in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Hal enlisted in the United States Navy in 1942, and served in both theaters, Pacific and Mediterranean, as yeoman on a flagship. He attended officer's training at Doane and Northwestern. He was honorably discharged in April of 1946. Hal loved sports and lettered in baseball at Northwestern the summer of 1945. He captained and quarterbacked the championship football team in 1946 at Doane College where he lettered in football, track, and golf. In 1947, he was the Nebraska small college tennis champion in both singles and doubles. Hal married Betty Rasmussen in Cozad, Nebraska, on June 20, 1948.

Mr. Lyness taught social studies and coached in Gothenburg, Nebraska, from 1948 to 1950, Danbury, Nebraska, from 1950 to 1951, and Wilber, Nebraska from 1951 to 1956, where he coached Wilber High School to a football championship in 1955. He then taught and coached in Boone from 1956 to 1990. Originally hired as a coach in Boone, Hal taught government, social studies, economics, American history, world history, and international relations. He also coached 7th grade track and sophomore basketball. Hal also worked as a security guard at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Boone from 1972 to 2008. He was a member of the National Education Association. Hal will be remembered fondly. He cherished his wife and family. His students and Boone High School were also very important to him.

Along with his wife, Betty of Boone, Hal is survived by four children, Hal Lloyd Lyness and wife, Ann of Boone, Ellen Waldman and husband, Bob, of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, Chris Lyness and companion Meliea Huffman of Boone and Becky Kelly and companion Steve Jay of Boone. Also surviving are 5 grandchildren: Brent Fischer of Reno, Nevada, Kristin Stearman of The Colony, Texas, Jericho Heller and husband, Steve of Ames, Elizabeth Kelly of Columbia, Missouri, and James Kelly of Iowa City; three great-granddaughters, Stella and Emmah Stearman of The Colony, Texas and Jessica Heller of Des Moines, and a brother-in-law, Carroll Rasmussen and wife Susie of Reno, Nevada. He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Jerry Marie Lyness.

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. Folding and presentation of the American Flag will be conducted by members of the Boone Veterans Council. Friends may call at Schroeder Memorial Chapel at Sixth and Marshall on Thursday from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. with the family present from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Visitation continues Friday at the Church from 9:00 a.m. until service time. Memorials may be given to the family to be used at their discretion.

Online condolences and a guestbook are available at www.schroedermemorialchapel.com.