



Bruce Meland

December 7, 1937 - December 16, 2009

Bruce Clifford Meland, 72, passed away at his home with his wife by his side on December 16, 2009, in Mesa, AZ, after a courageous two-year battle with cancer. A memorial service will be held at 1:30 pm Monday, December 28, at Parkway Funeral Service, 2330 Tyler Parkway, Bismarck. Burial will be in Driscoll Cemetery. He was born in Bismarck, ND on December 7, 1937, the son of Nora and Clifford Meland. Bruce grew up in Driscoll and Bismarck, ND. He graduated from Bismarck High School, Bismarck State College, and received a BS degree from Valley City State. He received a MS in School Administration from the University of North Dakota and had further post-graduate work at the University of Oregon. He married Kay Etta Scharnowske on July 26, 1958 in Bismarck, ND. Bruce was well known in ND for his ability as an athlete and winning coach. While teaching and coaching in Makoti, ND, his team won the state Class C basketball championship. He taught and coached at Simle Junior High. He then became an instructor and coach at Bismarck State College BSC taking his basketball teams to three national tournaments in his 16 years as coach. He was named Regional Coach of the Year. He also coached golf and baseball at BSC. He coached the Bismarck Junior Legion baseball team to a state title and 2nd place in the Regionals. In his last five years in education, he was superintendent at Solen/Cannonball, ND. Highlights of Bruce's coaching and teaching career were the numerous students and athletes that remained in contact with him through the years. He retired in 1991 when he and his wife of 51 years, Kay, started out in an RV to

do some traveling and ended up in Mesa, AZ where they've lived for 18 years. For the last 30 years, they spent vacation time at their Lake Tschida home. Bruce loved baseball, golf, fishing and bridge. These he did well and was named to the ND Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame, was a member of the Bowman Blue Sox amateur baseball championship team in 1959, had 4 holes-in-one and joined the ND Whopper Club last summer with a 10 lb., 31 in. walleye. He is survived by his wife, Kay, Mesa, AZ; sons, Timothy, daughter-in-law Gail, and grandchildren, Steven and Marie of Brookings, SD; Dr. Jeffrey, daughter-in-law Alicia, and grandchildren, Jackson and Thomas of Northfield, MN; and Thomas, daughter-in-law Bonnie, and grandson, Matthew of Minot, ND; sister Joan, husband Robert Innes of Gillette, WY, two aunts and many nieces, nephews and cousins. A special thank you to our extended family, Joan and Leland Skabo. He was preceded in death by his parents and niece, Paula Skabo Hartze. He was a much-loved and respected husband, father, grandfather and friend. His honesty, wisdom, and kindness were valued by all. Bruce will be deeply missed. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Hospice Inspiris, 2025 N. Third Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004.

Tribute Wall

JL

“ So very sorry to hear of Bruce's passing. He was a great boss and friend. I had the great pleasure of getting to know both of you when you lived here in Solen. Hold on to all the great memories! Jackie

Jackie Longacre - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ When I arrived in North Dakota,in 1978 from Detroit, Mi, Mr. Meland picked me up from the bus station and took me to the campus of then, BJC. From a distance I could see this person with long beautiful hair and a nice tan. I said to myself,I am in the right place. When I finally got out of the car and got a close up, I realized that it was a guy from Hawaii. I then started to wonder if I was in the right place. I didn't even know if Mr.Meland could coach basketball. Then I saw Tim play. Nope, he can't coach.Tim was an A student though. I tell everyone to this day, that Bismarck was by far the best experience I ever had. Thanks coach Meland, you taught me about the transition on the court. May your eternal transition be a slam dunk!

Marvin R Hughes - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ I had the pleasure and privilege of working with Bruce at BJC/BSC for many years. What stands out in my mind is the loyalty he had to his athletes,students in general, to the faculty and staff, and to BSC in general. He was there for his athletes when they needed help of any kind,and was always willing to take a stand on educational issues,of which there were many in those days.Most of all, I remember Bruce's wry sense of humor and how he made you feel good about sharing time with him.Our condolences to Kay and the family.Mike and Dena

Mike and Dena Lenhardt - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ Our sympathy to you Kay and your family. It has been many years since our paths crossed but the Schlosser's have been keeping us up to date on our group of old friends. Take care and stay strong.

Kelly and Donna McKenzie - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ To the Meland family: I have fond memories of Bruce Meland. His insight, his humor, his ability to connect with us as we were growing up and going through college. I saw the profound positive impact he had on Tim his oldest son. I was always amazed how Bruce could beat me at badmitten when I was 19 smile. Bruce leaves behind a family that he certainly is most proud of! Warm Regards, Jeff

Jeff Sieler - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Dear Kay & family: So sorry to hear about your loss. We would like to have seen you and the boys but won't be able to attend the service. Call or e-mail us sometime. Would be nice to keep in touch. Take care and you have our deepest sympathy.

Don & Doris Ann Van Beek - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Hello Kay - I'm thinking of you and hoping that your memories of Bruce and the comfort of your family will sustain you. Jordis

Jordis Conrad - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ We are so sorry to hear of Bruce's passing. I will never forget Bruce supporting me to continue my education. Lar and I were just remembering special times in Solen while Bruce was the Superintendent. Bruce was such a kind and supportive friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family!

Larry and Darlene Froelich - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ Kay, Tim, Jeff, and Tom, Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you celebrate and remember Bruce. I remember one particular golf outing with Bruce and Jeff at the Northfield country club. Your dad had quite a laugh when I was able to hit a fairway shot backwards with my 3-wood. I have fond memories of times spent with the Meland family at events such as shared graduation gatherings and numerous hunting and golf adventures.

Tom Strinden - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BO

“ Thanks for all the wonderful memories, Bruce, We will miss you. Love, Doris, Bonnie and Derek

Bonnie Oldenburger - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ My condolences to Kay and her family. Bruce was a real friend during out coaching days. He was great to coach against and did an outstanding job. I loved our recent golfing outings and he was always competitive. A good friend will be missed.

Denis Limke - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ Kay & Family Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. So sorry to hear of Bruce's passing. He was a great man and enjoyed him as a friend while we all lived in Solen. God Bless you all.

Mike & Karen Riedinger - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ Mr. Melland was a great coach and teacher. Bruce Melland coached the Makoti Cardinals to the Class C State Basketbal Championship in 1962. I was a proud member of that team. Mr Melland was not only a good coach and teacher but a great person and role model. All members of that team of 1962 went on to have succusful careers and lives in general. I have always felt that the competitiveness and team spirit that he instilled in us as a team and individuals played an importand part in shaping our lives and futures. My deepest sympathy to the family of Coach Bruce Melland.

Jerry Janz - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ i played basball and basketball for makotigod he was a very big part of my life for a long time. he helped me be what ia, today. he was a big hero in my life. love myron and god bless

myrom janz - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ My condolences go out to the Meland family. I had the priviledge of having coach Meland as my first college coach. My thoughts of Bruce were that he gave everyone a fair chance and treated them with respect. I'm sure he was very instrumental in a lot of people's lives. He will be missed by all, God Bless you Kaye and family. Curt Honeyman

Curt Honeyman - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ I have many fond memories of my time at BJC and specifically playing for Bruce and making some great friends from the teams I played on. Bruce was always fair and treated his players with respect. I'm currently employed by BSC and know that Bruce made a great contribution to athletics and the campus community. May he rest in peace and God Bless all family members...dave clark

Dave Clark - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM