



Donald Jean Cumpston

August 2, 1932 - November 30, 2009

Donald J. Cumpston of Yutan, Nebraska passed away November 30, 2009, after fighting a long, courageous battle against Alzheimer's disease. Don leaves behind his wife of 55 years, Barbara; three daughters and their families, Paula and Cassin Lofgreen of Steilacoom, WA; Carla and Bob Snyder of Yutan, NE; and Sheila Cumpston and Mila Bird of San Jose, CA; two grandsons, Terrance Lofgreen and Caleb Snyder; two granddaughters, Tyler & Tracia (Lofgreen) Clark and Hannah Snyder; one great-granddaughter, Amy-Lynn Clark; brothers Leonard & Phyllis Cumpston of Pittman, NJ and Harold Cumpston of Carroll, IA; sister-in-laws Virginia Cumpston of Lexington, NE and Janice Cumpston of Grand Island, NE; and brother-in-laws Richard & Doris Walker of Golden, CO and Luther Miller of Cozad, NE; as well as numerous well-loved nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Frances and James; and sisters, Virginia Keiser, Naomi Prato, Wanda Miller, and LaVonne Cumpston.

Don was born August 2, 1932 in Gothenburg, NE to Frank and Catherine (McNeil) Cumpston; the seventh of nine children. Don's growing up years were spent working a variety of odd jobs to help with the family finances; playing baseball, basketball, and football during his spare time; and singing in any school choral group that was available. His lifelong love of the Los Angeles Dodgers began when he was in grade school and they were still the Brooklyn Dodgers. Don graduated from Gothenburg High School in 1950. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean Conflict and married

Barbara Jean Walker of Palisade, NE on June 6, 1954. After his military discharge in 1956 Don enrolled in Kearney State Teachers College. He graduated in 1959 with a B.A. in Industrial Arts, a minor in Physical Education, a Coaching Endorsement, and two daughters that were born to him and Barb during the college years.

Don spent the next 36 years teaching school and coaching a variety of high school sports. His first teaching job was in the Beaver Valley School District. The family spent 3 years there during which time a third daughter was born. Atwood, KS was Don's next stop. The family lived there for 7 years and it should be mentioned that he never waivered in his love for Nebraska Cornhusker Football during this sojourn in Kansas! One year was spent teaching and coaching in the Eddyville-Sumner Nebraska School District before the family relocated to Arapahoe, NE. Don spent 7 years teaching and coaching in Arapahoe. Don's final employer was the Weeping Water School District where he taught for 18 years and was the athletic director for 10 years. During those years he served as a volunteer for UNL Indoor Track Meets and for the Nebraska State Boy's High School Track Meet. He was a member of the United Methodist Church, the American Legion, and the Masons. Don retired from the Weeping Water school system in 1994. He enjoyed hearing from students and athletes from all the schools where he had worked over the years. He never failed to answer to the name, "Coach". He was a lifetime member of the National Education Association and the Nebraska Coaches Association.

Don spent over 25 years working summers as a seasonal Park Ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park in Grand Lake, CO. He, Barb, and the "girls" enjoyed their Colorado summers. Not only did the family make friends with people from all over the country but while there enjoyed visits from friends from a variety of places since Grand Lake was such a great vacation spot. In 2004, he and Barb moved to Yutan, NE because of his failing health. He continued to follow the many sports he enjoyed. He became a member of the United Church of Christ and Yutan Legion Post 262. Everyone that knew Don

was familiar with how wherever you went with him he'd run into someone he knew; also, his great sense of humor and many signature witticisms. Anyone that had spent anytime with him at all had heard some of his famous statements such as, "Wish in one hand and spit in the other; and see which one fills up first" or "I do more work on accident than you do on purpose". The phrases were sure to make the listener do a double-take or crack a smile. Of all of his life's accomplishments, he was most proud of his daughters and grandchildren. A special thank you to his friends, coworkers, and acquaintances that humored him by listening to his many stories and brags about his "girls" and grandchildren. He couldn't help himself! He was an outstanding, loving husband, father, grandfather, uncle and will be greatly missed by us all; and by all of you who called him friend.

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Jean Cumpston*

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ *It was with a great sense of loss when we heard of Mr. Cumpston's passing. We wanted to let you know that you have our greatest sympathy, and our hearts are truly saddened. We know that his passing will not only leave a void in our lives, but in the hearts of all those who knew him. Mr. Cumpston will always remain within our hearts. May God give your family strength.*

*Rich & Jodi Hoffman
Murfreesboro, Tennessee*

Richard & Jodi (Johnson) Hoffman - February 15, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *Barb,
My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this time.
Susie Whitmore*

Susan Whitmore - February 15, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dearest Cumpstons -
Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time. Know we love
you all. Jake, Joni - Sarie & Bec*

Noel & Joni, Sarah & Rebecca Jacobsen - December 15, 2009 at 10:03 AM

KJ

“ Dear Cumpston family,
I was so sorry to hear of your loss. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers.

Karen (Dawson) Johnson - December 13, 2009 at 10:12 AM

LN

“ Mike and I send our prayers to all of you. Don made such an impact in my life. He was a mentor for me and like a dad I wish I would have had. He was my coach and throughout the years a friend. I have coached for 26 years because he gave me the love for volleyball. I think of Don and Barb all the time. We kept in touch for many years. Thank you for sharing him with all of us. He was an incredible person.

Lauren (Toodles Goodno) Nordeen - December 10, 2009 at 12:23 PM

BB

“ My prayers and thoughts are with all of you. I enjoyed having Don as a volleyball coach! A lot of great memories from the years in Arapahoe. I thought of him often.

Brenda (Anderson) Branstiter - December 10, 2009 at 11:49 AM

DB

“ Cumpston Family please accept my condolences at Don's passing. I met Don when I was superintendent at Conestoga. I truly enjoyed listening to Don and Vern Aylor banter about their careers and perspectives on life. I really appreciated Don's willingness to be a substitute teacher after his retirement from WW. His ability to effectively interact with kids clearly showed me why he was such a good teacher and coach. His picture in the notices column in today's OWH is truly a reflection of how I picture Don when thinking of him...friendly, confident, and just a "bit" ornery. Blessings and prayers to all.

Dr. Rick Black - December 10, 2009 at 07:17 AM

JV

“ Cumpston Family- Please except my condolences. Coaching with Cump in Weeping Water was a time I will always treasure. He could always make me laugh when I wasn't in the mood. He was a good man and friend. He will be missed by many.

Janet Vandeventer - December 05, 2009 at 02:31 AM

RT

“ Barb, Paula, Carla, and Sheila, Stacia and I were saddened to hear of the passing of Coach Cumpston. I not only enjoyed "Cump" as a coach on the basketball court but also learned alot in his shop class. How lucky I was to have such a great coach with "all girls"!!! I will never forget the endless memories with Coach Cumpston!
Ron Thayn

Ron Thayn - December 05, 2009 at 02:30 AM

CM

“ Barb and family. We were saddened when we read about Don's passing. I'll always remember his smiling face when he came into the church office about noon time to rescue you and I as we cleaned out the office files for Pastor Terry. He always gave our daughter Erin a bad time substituting at Conestoga. They had their own nicknames for each other. Will let Uncle Ollie know for you.

Cheryl and Bill Mayfield - December 04, 2009 at 10:35 AM

"G

“ So sorry to hear about your loss. Don was a great teacher and a wonderful man. He will be greatly missed by all. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you.

"Col." Earl Stander, Pat, & G.W. - December 04, 2009 at 08:58 AM

WF

“ I was very sorry & sad to read about Coach Cumpston's passing. His fire and love for sports was addicting. Watching him coach and having him push me as a kid made me compete and not want to lose. I last saw him when I was going to school in the mid west and wished I had said thank you then, so I am saying it now "Thanks Cump!" To the Cumpston family, I am very sorry, however during your grieving, think of all of the good things and all of the people he touched, and not only made them better athletes but better human beings. God Speed.

Will Ferel - December 04, 2009 at 08:12 AM

KW

“ My Condolences to The Cumpston Family, Coach Cumpston was a Great Coach, & more importantly a Great Person, who always went out of his way & take time for you !!!!

Kirk Winheim - December 03, 2009 at 01:26 PM

BH

“ To the family of Coach Cumpston,
My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. I am
forever grateful to "Coach" for introducing a country boy to high
school sports, freshman, Beaver Valley High School 1961.

Bob Haag - December 03, 2009 at 11:14 AM

AM

“ Barb and family, I was saddened when Rogers Smith told me of
Don's passing. The guys at the UNL track meets ask me each year
how he is doing. I sure enjoyed coaching against him and listening
to his stories. My girls also enjoyed when he subbed over here at
Conestoga. He was a good man and will be missed. God bless you
and all your family.

Andy and Marilyn Myrtue - December 03, 2009 at 10:36 AM

DS

“ My deepest sympathy to you, Barb, and all of your family at this sad
time. I was so sorry to hear of Don's passing. He was such a
wonderful guy and I always felt like he was an old friend, tho I had
only known him this last few years. I know he will be sadly missed
by all who knew him.

DeAnna Schutte - December 03, 2009 at 06:49 AM

OT

“ We offer our heart felt sympathy in your loss.

Owen & Helen Lamb, Tucson,AZ - December 03, 2009 at 04:13 AM

TW

“ *Barb, Paula, Carla and Sheila*

Please accept my sincere condolences with Don's passing. I spoke with him only a few times after your family moved but, he was the same old "Cump" that I remembered. He hadn't changed a bit. We lived in the house across the street from where you lived and I thought of your family often. He will be greatly missed. My prayers to you..... Todd.

Todd Weverka - December 02, 2009 at 12:51 PM

KW

“ *To the family of Coach Cumpston,
My wife and I wish you God's blessings in this difficult time. We will always remember Don as a wonderful teacher and coach with a smile and laugh that made the school days at Arapahoe High enjoyable and positive. Our memories of Don will always be treasured.*

Kelvin and Mary Wolzen

Kelvin Wolzen - December 02, 2009 at 12:28 PM

AT

“ *Dear Barb, Bob and Carla,*

Our whole family sends our deepest condolences. We cherished the friendliness of Don as our neighbor the past few years. We will miss him. Our puppies especially miss him throwing apples to them. You are in our prayers.

Andy, Brooke, Mason, Brady, and Nolan Timm

Andy and Brooke Timm - December 02, 2009 at 12:18 PM

LV

“ *Barb and Family*

I want to offer my condolences to all of you. Don was a special coach and friend to me and I have thought about him many times over the years. Having seen him at football & basketball games in Lincoln so many times I looked for him every time I went to a game. He will always have a special place in my heart for all the things he did for me and I know he will be missed greatly by all.

Larry Voss

Larry Voss - December 02, 2009 at 08:28 AM

MA

“ *Barb, Paula and Carla,*

So sorry to see that Don had passed away. We were just talking old memories of Atwood last week. We wondered where all of you. I remember being a brownie scout and Don had to tie my tie since my dad was gone to work before I went to school. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Melody Mellick Antholz

Melody Mellick Antholz - December 02, 2009 at 06:20 AM

CJ

“ *Barbara, Paula, Carla and Sheila:*

I wanted to take this opportunity to express my sincere condolences to you at the loss of Mr. Cumpston (still unable to address him as anything else, except "Coach" or "Mr. Cumpston"). He touched so many lives during his teaching and coaching career, I being one of those. May you rest in peace knowing that he lives on in the hearts and memories of his former students.

Cindy (Collins) Johnson - December 02, 2009 at 06:04 AM