



## Joseph Gene Coble

May 20, 1942 - January 7, 2025

Joseph Gene Coble, 82, of Omaha, Nebraska, passed away peacefully on January 7, 2025, due to complications from Parkinson's Disease. Joe spent his childhood in Wood Lake, Nebraska, where he developed a love for hunting and fishing in the picturesque Sandhills. He had a strong passion for sports, excelling in both basketball and baseball.

Joe graduated from Kearney State College in 1963 with a Bachelor of Arts in Education, where he also nurtured his passion for baseball as a member of the KSC baseball team. In 1977, he earned a Master's in Administration from Wayne State College. Over his 46-year career in public education, Joe made a lasting impact as a coach, teacher, and principal, positively influencing countless students.

During the summers, Joe devoted himself to coaching baseball from pee-wees to town-team, passing on his passion and knowledge to players over the years. Many of those players stayed in touch, frequently calling or visiting him to reminisce about the wins, the losses, and the unforgettable moments they shared "between the lines." Known for his quick wit, he had a gift for making others feel at ease and engaged.

Joe married the love of his life, DeVon, and from their union came three children, Jeff, Kris, and Cory, who were the center of Joe's world.

Joe was family-oriented and took immense pride in supporting his children and grandchildren in their many endeavors. Whether coaching their teams, cheering from the sidelines, or offering guidance and encouragement, he was always their biggest fan. Joe's dedication to his family created countless cherished memories and inspired a legacy of hard work, teamwork, and unwavering support.

Joe is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, DeVon (Kemper), his sons, Jeff and Cory (Jackie), and his daughter, Kris (Brian) Obermeyer. He also leaves behind his cherished grandchildren: Courtney (Adam) Stottler, Blake (Jasmine) Obermeyer, and Madeline Coble (Matt Clarke), along with six beloved great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be directed to Eaton Field Projects, Bank First, 402 Main street Wakefield, Ne 68784.

A celebration of life will be held at DJ's Dugout, 19020 Evans St, Elkhorn, NE Saturday, January 25th from 12:00 to 3:00pm.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JAN **25**. 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

DJ's Dugout  
19020 Evans Street  
Elkhorn  
Elkhorn, NE 68022

# Tribute Wall

GR

“ I was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease four years ago. For over two years, I relied on Levodopa and several other medications, but unfortunately, the symptoms kept getting worse. The tremors became more noticeable, and my balance and mobility started to decline quickly. Last year, out of desperation and hope, I decided to try a herbal treatment program from NaturePath Herbal Clinic. Honestly, I was skeptical at first, but within a few months of starting the treatment, I began to notice real changes. My movements became smoother, the tremors subsided, and I felt steadier on my feet. Incredibly, I also regained much of my energy and confidence. It’s been a life-changing experience I feel more like myself again, better than I’ve felt in years. If you or a loved one is struggling with Parkinson’s disease, I truly recommend looking into their natural approach. You can visit their website at [www. naturepathherbalclinic .com](http://www.naturepathherbalclinic.com).  
[info@ naturepathherbalclinic .com](mailto:info@naturepathherbalclinic.com)

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**Greta** - January 13 at 04:33 PM

MH

“ My thoughts and prayers to the Coble family. I attended Wakefield High School with Jeff and son-in-law Brian. I also played many sports with his daughter, Kris. Joe was a loving husband and father. In addition, he was a great principal, teacher, and friend who cared for all the students that graced the halls at WHS. He will forever be remembered. May you rest in peace and may God's perpetual light shine upon you!!

*Michele (Meyer) Hemberger*

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**Michele Hemberger** - January 15, 2025 at 02:49 PM

CC

*Thanks Michele!*

**Cory Coble** - January 15, 2025 at 05:00 PM

KR

“ Joe seemed to be as *"tough as nails"* in the classroom when I had him in our history classes in Gresham. His first words to me on day one that I had his class were *"Do you want me to put your head on a plate?"* He was right; I was horsing around. Years later when I saw him at my uncle's funeral, I told him that I had modeled my own thirty-nine years of teaching after his: *tough, but fair.* I rarely had any problems. His life had such a positive effect on mine. Thank you. Joe

**Kim Romohr** - January 14, 2025 at 08:18 AM

CC

*Appreciate the kind words Kim!*

**Cory Coble** - January 14, 2025 at 12:59 PM

BH

“ Devon - my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family in this time of pain and sorrow. Embrace each other and the many memories to be shared for a life well lived. Sincerely,  
Bill Harrell

**Bill Harrell** - January 12, 2025 at 03:51 PM

CC

*Thank you Bill!*

**Cory Coble** - January 13, 2025 at 10:50 AM

TC

“ *My heart goes out to you DeVon and your beautiful family. May you all find peace and comfort in your memories* Tami Clarke

Tami Clarke - January 10, 2025 at 07:35 PM

CC

*Thank you Tami!*

Cory Coble - January 10, 2025 at 07:52 PM

DN

“ *Our sincere sympathy and prayers to the Coble family.*

Dennis & Roxanne Ryan of O'Neill NE - January 10, 2025 at 12:39 PM

CC

*Thank you Dennis and Roxanne!*

Cory Coble - January 10, 2025 at 01:30 PM

CW

“ *I remember Coach Coble when he was at Gresham Public School. During his tenure the Gresham Blackbirds took home several of the Conference trophies and the Class D 8 Man State Football Championship. He was a positive influence on youth, and the community. My condolences to his family.* Carol Scheele Wakin

Carol Wakin - January 09, 2025 at 11:23 PM

CC

*Thank you Carol!!*

Cory Coble - January 10, 2025 at 04:52 AM

KR

“ I went to through school with Joe’s son Jeff. He was an amazing person and teacher . I wil never forget Joe and how he was so amazing as a teacher and a father figure to all of us . Our life moves way to fast we need to embrace the moments we have. RIP Joe you will be missed !!

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**kristin** - January 09, 2025 at 10:38 PM

CC

Thanks Kristin!

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**Cory Coble** - January 10, 2025 at 04:52 AM

BS

“ Coble family-  
Thoughts-prayers and deepest condolences are with all of you. I will always remember and treasure the time I had with Mr./Coach Coble!  
He was an amazing SS teacher that I was fortunate to have in middle school. I still remember Mr. Coble standing up front and telling us about Japan and China relations during and after WW2. I was also privileged to play baseball for Coach Coble. He was our coach from little league all the way to high school, legion and finally town team! So many lessons he taught us about the fundamentals and the love of the game. And so many life lessons! I will never forget traveling to KC to watch the Royals and Yankees with our families. As young kids Jeff and I were on cloud 9!  
Mr. Coble was a legend in Wakefield! They don’t make them like Coach anymore!  
I’m sure he will be hitting fungoes in heaven.  
RIP Coach!

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**Brian Soderberg** - January 09, 2025 at 06:45 PM

CC

*Thanks for the kind words Brian!*

**Cory Coble** - January 09, 2025 at 06:55 PM

MR

*Mr. Coble was just as effective in the classroom as he was on the ballfield or in the gym. His vibrant lectures on history and current events while teaching at Gresham in the turbulent 60s was something that I shall always remember. Rest in peace Joe.*

**Monte Romohr** - January 09, 2025 at 09:27 PM

CC

*Thanks Monte!*

**Cory Coble** - January 10, 2025 at 04:53 AM

AF

“ *Aunt Elsie Coble and family purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Joseph Gene Coble.*



**Aunt Elsie Coble and family** - January 09, 2025 at 04:49 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joseph Gene Coble.*

January 09, 2025 at 04:34 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph Gene Coble.



January 09, 2025 at 04:34 PM



“ I know Joe suffered these last few years, but before then and even after before he went into the nursing home, Joe and Devon’s home was family central for family members. I didn’t meet Joe until he retired to his gig at Elkhorn but I was always welcomed by the whole clan and been privileged to watch their children and grandchildren grow and share in their expanding family. I just ran into Maddie at Benson Days last summer. Devon, Jeff, Kristy, Corey, Maddie, Courtney and Blake take in these wonderful stories and keep them near once every thing settles down. He was a force to be reckoned with. You all are in my thoughts and prayers.



Peggy - January 09, 2025 at 02:29 PM



Thanks Peggy!

Cory Coble - January 09, 2025 at 03:54 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph Gene Coble.*



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January 09, 2025 at 01:30 PM



“ *I'd like to express to you our sincere condolences for the loss of Joe. While working along side of him, I've gleaned so many things off of his expertise and common sense. Just being around him during work time and after, one couldn't help but pick up on his commitment and passion for his students and staff. Of course his humor will stick with us and he continued to demonstrate this long after he retired. He continued to have this passion up to my last visit with him in December. He always had praise for you, Devon, as he referred to you as his angel. His students and staff respected him and his leadership brought a feeling of togetherness in the short six years he was principal at OPS. We are all better for having Mr. Coble in our lives. God Bless him and may he Rest In Peace...The Brosz family (Steve, Shari, Wade, Heidi, and Kasey)*

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**Steve Brosz** - January 09, 2025 at 12:47 PM



*Appreciate the kind words Steve!*

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**Cory Coble** - January 09, 2025 at 03:55 PM

TB

“ My name is Tammy Bazelman. At the end of my junior year at O'Neill Public Schools I found out the name of our new principal that would be there for my senior year. I went home and told my mom (Deb Cunningham Bazelman) his name. She repeated his name 3 times with more excitement every time she said his name. I was so confused. Turns out Joe was my grandparent's (Dick and Winnie Cunningham) hired hand when my mom was young. She absolutely adored him! Joe was an incredible principal and friend. I enjoyed our visits and loved hearing him and mom talk about the "old days". Some of our visits may or may not have taken place at his "2nd office" in the boiler room. IYKYK. At this time I hope you can take comfort in knowing how many lives Joe made a positive impact on. He was a gem and won't be forgotten. RIP Joe.

Tammy Bazelman - January 09, 2025 at 08:50 AM

CC

Thanks Tammy!

Cory Coble - January 09, 2025 at 03:56 PM

TB

“ Travis, Erin, Johnathan, Jacob Birkley purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Joseph Gene Coble.



Travis, Erin, Johnathan, Jacob Birkley - January 08, 2025 at 08:59 PM

JS

“ Joe was my baseball coach during the late 80s and 90s. He always had a way of making me feel welcomed. From the “Hey Sparrow” (I grew up an Allen Eagle), to when I used the Coble’s home as a layover for various baseball activities. Thanks DeVon and Cory! I’m not so sure how happy Joe was when Cory and I drove the old van (3 on the tree) to get things for baseball practice or games. Lol. One of those moments where you had to have been there. My favorite baseball memory was a rare time when I got to pitch and we were playing Norfolk I believe. (My memory, revisionist history perhaps). First batter - hit by pitch. Second batter - hit by pitch. Third batter strike out. Fourth batter - hit by pitch. By this time the opposing fans, coaches and players are literally yelling to get me off the field. Joe called time out and came to the mound. I was sure I was getting pulled. He looked me in the eye and said, “I don’t give a damn if you hit every last one of them! Just keep pitching.” Not sure if that’s exactly how it went but it had to be close. Needless to say, I settled in and finished the game. Opportunities like that, to fail on my own terms, are what I will always remember.

Years later we reconnected when I was teaching and coaching baseball at Elkhorn High and I ran into Joe after a day of substitute teaching. He definitely had a passion for education! We picked up where we left off all those years ago. I carry many memories of the positive impact he had on me from a baseball standpoint and from a human being standpoint. Rest easy Joe!

Josh Snyder

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**Josh Snyder** - January 08, 2025 at 08:26 PM

CC

Appreciate that Josh! Great times!  
Cory

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**Cory Coble** - January 08, 2025 at 09:25 PM

EB

*I can literally hear him say that to u... such a good man*

**Eric Beacom** - January 08, 2025 at 11:27 PM

GK

*My Brother-in-law was loved by the Kemper family and his sudden demise was a shock to us. My sister, Devon has lost her life's companion and Jeff, Cory & Cristy lost a great father. Our thoughts and empathy are with you at this time. Love to all Gary*

**Gary Kemper** - January 09, 2025 at 02:46 PM

CC

*Thanks Uncle Gary and Aunt Thyra! Love Cory*

**Cory Coble** - January 09, 2025 at 06:03 PM

TK

*Joe and I were both "outsiders", having married into the Kemper Clan. Many memories come to mind of us sneaking outside for a smoke when we visited Nebraska. We had some wonderful conversations out there, and I will always treasure that. Joe will be sorely missed by a great many people.*

**Thyra Kemper** - February 10, 2025 at 12:50 PM

DK

“*Joe is my Brother-in-Law, he loved to tease my wife, Sandy, for years he said we couldn't come visit unless she brought a coconut cream pie, and she always did. The last time we visited at the home she surprised him with a pie. He was very comforting when Sandy was home on hospice, and called her a couple of times before her passing. RIP Brother Dennis*

**Dennis Kemper** - January 08, 2025 at 07:00 PM

CC

*Love you Uncle Dennis!*

**Cory Coble** - January 08, 2025 at 09:26 PM

AL

“ I got to know Joe through baseball when Wakefield and Wayne battled. Years later, he was my principal at O'Neill. During the time I worked with him in education, Joe was a great leader and a mentor. Many times we had discussions on sports, life in general, and teaching. He will definitely be missed. Rest in peace my friend.

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**Al Lindsay** - January 08, 2025 at 06:47 PM

CC

*Thanks Al!*

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**Cory Coble** - January 09, 2025 at 08:49 PM

JN

“ Joe is my first cousin. My dad was 10 years older than Joe and they were always quite close.

*The last several years, after Joe was in the nursing home, Lowell and I tried to visit him every few months. I would also call between visits. Joe loved to reminisce about the large extended family and especially the time when they lived in Cody. Here are a couple of stories that he told:*

*After Florence and Newt divorced, Florence, Joe and Susan were living on the South side of Cody, near Joe and Irene Lindberg. Joe was about 4 years old. It must have been just after Christmas as Joe had received a set of spurs for Christmas. Junior (Walter Empkey, Jr.) rode over on a horse. Junior would have been about 14 at the time. Joe was showing Junior his spurs. Junior put the spurs on and told Joe he would show him how they worked. Well, he did – Junior ended up on his butt in the snow after the horse bucked him off. Joe would laugh and laugh after recounting this story.*

*I hope I have the details on this one right. About a week before Joe and DeVon got married, they were in Lincoln visiting my folks, Junior and Clara Empkey. I am guessing they had sampled some of the “home brew” that mom and dad made. For some reason, Clara gave Joe a haircut. If I remember correctly, she just cut the hair off of one side of his head first. As I remember them telling it, DeVon was not happy at all – AND WHO COULD BLAME HER?*

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**Jane Nickolaus** - January 08, 2025 at 06:12 PM

CC

*Appreciate the kind words Jane!*

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**Cory Coble** - January 09, 2025 at 08:49 PM

FS

“ Joe was first teaching position was at Page High School I was a senior I think he was bull rider also during college. I have many fond memories of Joe . Joe was a friend a teacher and a coach. I went to a basketball game in Gresham Ne when he was coaching there.

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**Floyd Sorensen** - January 08, 2025 at 05:50 PM

CC

*Thank you Floyd!*

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**Cory Coble** - January 09, 2025 at 08:50 PM