



Dr. Roger Elwood Macklem

January 8, 1944 - April 3, 2022

Dr. Roger E Macklem passed away on April 3, 2022 with his family by his side. Roger was born in Homer, Nebraska on January 8, 1944 to Hurst and Eleanor (Belt) Macklem. He graduated from South Sioux City High School and attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He married Joan Hunzeker on December 1, 1973. He was a father to Curtis, Christopher, Cindy, Joy, and Jon.

His father passed away when Roger was three years old due to an accident. Roger and his brother, Allan, were raised by their strong, courageous, loving, and kind mother. His grandparents, Franklin and Linnie Belt, also helped raise the boys. Eleanor was a single mother that worked full time as a kindergarten teacher and then an elementary school principal. She taught Roger to be a hard worker, to be kind and empathetic. She also taught him the importance of learning, teaching, educating, and leading as a way to help people and the community.

Roger was very intelligent and a lifelong learner. He was a hard worker and dedicated to his profession. He believed in making a positive impact on the lives of others. He earned three degrees from The University of Nebraska. He was a science teacher, a college professor, a Nebraska state science consultant, a principal, and a superintendent of schools. He has impacted many people in many communities through his work. He was smart and

dedicated to his profession but none of this compares to the way he has loved. He was always very loving. He will always be remembered for the way he loved and cared for his wife, Joan.

Roger was the most proud of his family and enjoyed every moment that he could be with his children and grandchildren. Roger enjoyed golfing with friends, watching historical movies, staying current with news and politics, singing, telling stories, gardening, and cooking. Nobody could grill a steak like Roger. In the fall, he always wore Nebraska red and cheered for the Huskers. Roger was always the most valuable player in any card game or trivia game. He seemed to know everything about history, science, and life. He had the biggest heart, biggest smile, and biggest laugh. He will be missed by many but his legacy of education, hard work, life lessons, and love will be carried on through his family and all of those that he touched.

He was preceded in death by his father Hurst, mother Eleanor, and son Curtis. He is survived by many loved ones: Spouse, Joan; Son, Christopher and spouse Estrella and their children David and Cristina; daughter, Cindy and spouse Mark and their children Travis, Tracy, Ty, and Taryn; daughter, Joy and spouse Justin and their children Ellie, William, and Evan; son, Jon; and brother Allan and spouse Janet Jo. He also had nine great-grandchildren, several nieces, nephews, cousins, and many friends.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held for Dr. Roger E. Macklem on April 19, 2022 at 10:30 am. The service will be at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, 15050 West Maple Road, Omaha, Nebraska. Memorials can be made to the family for later designation.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

APR **19**. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Andrew United Methodist Church
15050 W. Maple Rd.
Omaha, NE 68164

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Roger Elwood Macklem*

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Dr. Roger Elwood Macklem.*



April 17, 2022 at 08:35 PM



“ *Macklem family, I'm sorry for the loss of your father. I have the privilege of teaching with Joy and have heard many stories of her father and what a wonderful man and educator he was. "His legacy of education, hard work, life lessons, and love will be carried on through his family and all of those that he touched." Although, I did not know Roger, through the lessons he taught Joy, I have become a better teacher and person. I hope you can find comfort in the memories you have with him. -Meghan Powell*

meghan - April 08, 2022 at 03:17 PM



Roger was my student teacher supervisor when he was a grad student at UNL. When he was the State Science Consultant, he visited my classroom in Elgin. I always remember his question--"What is the definition of biology?" When I answered "the science of living things", he responded with, "Why are you looking at all those pickled things in the jars then?" That comment changed the way I taught biology after that! My sympathy to his family.

Dr. Peggy Tilgner - April 10, 2022 at 04:24 PM

DP

Roger became our high school principal at Bayard, Nebraska, while I was superintendent. He fit the position perfectly on day one. He and his family were a positive influence in the community. It was always a pleasure and a joy to work beside him. Dr. Ray S. Phipps

Dr. Ray S. Phipps - April 11, 2022 at 01:21 PM

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My sympathies to the Macklem family. Doctor Macklem was a great man. He made such an impact on so many, especially myself. The world lost a "great one", but is a better place because of him. Thank you, Dr. Macklem!

Kelly Schilousky - April 11, 2022 at 06:12 PM