



## Steven Kent Fritzler

May 24, 1949 - February 16, 2017

Steven Kent Fritzler, 67, of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, went to be with his heavenly Father, Thursday, February 16, 2017 at The Lutheran Home in Cape Girardeau.

He was born May 24, 1949 in Sidney, Nebraska to Reuben and Emalyn Schmidt Fritzler.

He and Lois Backer were married July 10, 1971. She preceded in death November 28, 1996. He later married Marilyn Schmitt February 21, 1998 in Cape Girardeau.

Steve received a bachelor of science degree from Concordia in Seward, Nebraska and a master's degree from the University of Missouri at Columbia.

He taught science, math and chemistry at St. Paul High School in Concordia, Missouri where he was also the head basketball coach and an assistant football coach. In most recent years, he had worked as a financial planner.

He was a very active member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Chapel; he was past chairman of the congregation, member of the church choir and past head elder.

Saxony High School was also important to Steve as he served on the steering committee to begin the high school, was past chairman of the school board, and started the girls basketball program and coached for several years.

Steve was also involved with Lutheran Family & Children's Services and The Lutheran Home.

Survivors include his mother, Emalyn Fritzler of Cape Girardeau; wife, Marilyn Fritzler of Cape Girardeau; son, Jonathan C. (Melissa) Fritzler of Cape Girardeau; stepson, Mark (Jacqui) Hobbs of Oran, Missouri; stepdaughters, Julie (Eddie) Brown, Augusta, Georgia and Elizabeth (Jason) Glastetter of New Hamburg, Missouri; brother, Gary Fritzler of Memphis, Tennessee; seven grandchildren, Elissa and Austin Fritzler, Taylor and Reid Hobbs, and Ty, Callen and Luke Glastetter.

He was preceded in death by his father, first wife, and both a son and daughter at birth.

Friends may call 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Saturday, February 18, 2017 at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel in Cape Girardeau.

Funeral service will be at 3:00 PM Sunday, February 19, 2017 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Chapel in Cape Girardeau with the Rev. Weston Wildauer officiating.

Burial will be at Cape County Memorial Park in Cape Girardeau.

Memorial contributions may be given to Good Shepherd Lutheran Chapel, Saxony Lutheran High School, or The Fritzler-Backer Endowment Fund at St. Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, Missouri.



# Cemetery Details

## Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery

2315 Highway 61 North  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701  
(573) 334-1909  
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 18. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel  
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

## Service

FEB 19. 3:00 PM (CT)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Chapel  
1904 W. Cape Rock Drive  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

# Tribute Wall

JR

“Marilyn, Jonathan and Liz, I am so very sorry to hear of Steve's passing. I am stunned that such a vital and shining spirit could be lost at such a young age. Steve never came into the Federal Defender's office in Cape without a big smile on his face and a warm greeting for everyone. I was privileged to be a guest at Marilyn and Steve's wedding, and what a great match they were from the beginning. He adored his family and he showed it in every way. We were away on vacation this weekend, and all I could think of was what a wonderful man Steve was and how much he will be missed by everyone he knew and loved. Best wishes to all of you, and please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.

*Jeff Rosanswank, Rancho Cucamonga, CA*

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**Jeffrey Rosanswank** - February 21, 2017 at 01:01 PM

JM

“ How deflating to learn of Mr. Fritzler's illness and then how devastating to learn later of his passing. He was one of those special men who occupied that level below my father along with uncles, some teachers and a couple others who would do so much to shape the adult I would someday become. Just gobs and gobs of memories come flooding back of his infectious attitude towards just about anything whether it was solving a problem in Chemistry, getting a first look with my buddies of his infant son back from the ICU, a bone-rattling hit in football practice or even the "ting" of a wasp caught in the ventilation fan of the lab. And what a thrill it was after moving on from those long ago, far away golden years to learn that he not only married that nice pretty lady from my home church, but also got to know my parents and share some good times with them. When running into him later in life, I'm sure I did like others and greeted him as "Mr. Fritzler" only to have him say, "Hey, you can just call me Steve." Well I awkwardly tried that but to me I will always remember him as "Mr. Fritzler" - a teacher, a coach and most importantly, a Christian man that I looked up to.

*Jeff Mueller, New Athens, IL*

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**Jeff Mueller** - February 20, 2017 at 12:46 PM

DH

“ Marilyn, I know you may not see this message for a few days and maybe even a few weeks. I saw something go across my feed and I told Richard that I thought Steve's dad had passed away. I never imagined it was Steve. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you today and as you find your way during the next days and months. We tell everyone what a great trip we had to Hawaii all because of the companionship of two wonderful people we met pre cruise. We will be praying for you and all of the family and keeping a wonderful memory of Steve as we go forward. Donna & Richard

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**Donna & Richard Hollin** - February 18, 2017 at 02:31 PM

JE

“ Growing up with Steve, in Kimball NE, I saw him grow from a sensitive and caring friend into an sensitive and loving man. We shared many friends, activities, laughs and mischief while attending Kimball schools for 13 years. Gary and his Mom will remember the time the police came to their door looking for the "thugs" who were abusing inebriated patrons outside a bar in downtown Kimball with cracker balls and a slingshot. My younger brother and I were co-conspirators in this "crime spree" but Reuben's panel van was the clue that broke the case! Oh what fun times we had growing up in Kimball. We will miss Steve's infectious enthusiasm for life and friends.

*Prayers and support are sent to Steve's family and friends who know where Steve resides, now.*

*Jim Eastman, Niwot CO*

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**Jim Eastman** - February 18, 2017 at 11:48 AM



“ Amazing Arboricola was purchased for the family of Steven Kent Fritzler.



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February 17, 2017 at 10:55 AM

JH

“ It is with deepest sympathy that we send our love to Marilyn, Jon and Steve's entire family. He truly was an amazing human being who we had the privilege of knowing for over 50 years. His Lord was always first in his life---ALWAYS! it has been said that the world is full of both givers and takers, Steve Fritzler was the best example of a giver I have ever known. He was funny, always positive, and most of all a wonderful Christian man. We loved Steve and will miss him. But also know he is now with Jesus and one day all of us will be reunited with him. Rest in peace dear friend, We you!!

*Jack and Bev Hollingsworth*

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**Jack and Bev Hollingsworth** - February 17, 2017 at 09:30 AM

AL

“ Mr. Fritzler's love for science and contagious enthusiasm set me on the career path that I still enjoy to this day. I will be forever grateful to him for this. His life should be a reminder to us all to make a difference to somebody somewhere--he obviously did!

*Andy Lottes*

*PS--I still think for Fritzler and Laubenstein whenever I smell cut grass on a hot August afternoon.*

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**Andy Lottes** - February 17, 2017 at 09:29 AM

RB

“ It saddened me to hear of Mr. Fritzler's passing, but there is no question that he was a man of faith in our Triune God. His faith was always evident. Mr. Fritzler was my line coach in football who loved to ride the blocking sled. He loved to run us through hamburger drills. Occasionally he would participate in scrimmage without pads - brave man. He was also my basketball coach who loved to show us he could dunk. He was my Earth Science, Biology and Chemistry teacher. During chem class in 1978, he had us make gunpowder. My chem kit didn't have potassium nitrate so I used sodium nitrate. When we lit it, it burned so strongly the aluminum foil started oxidizing and shooting sparks everywhere. Mr. Fritzler grabbed the fire extinguisher to put it out. We filled the room with smoke. Fortunately there were no smoke detectors back then and there were many windows to open on the third floor of Baepler. Thank you Mr. Fritzler for serving St. Paul College High School.

*Rev. Dr. Michael Bingenheimer '79*

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**Rev. Dr. Michael Bingenheimer** - February 17, 2017 at 07:26 AM

SO

“ I am so hear of Steve's passing. He was a great man and will be missed by all. I will keep all of you in my thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.



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**Susie O'Connell** - February 16, 2017 at 08:47 PM

ML

“ Coach, teacher, competitor, intellect, connector of people. I thank God for Steve Fritzler, one of several outstanding teachers with which we at St. Paul's College High now SPLHS were blessed. I've got so many memories of Steve Fritzler that bring a smile and remind me to appreciate that every day is a new adventure to be unpacked. His enthusiastic stride, exceptional pogo stick like jumping ability, heartfelt exclamations, and over all zest for life were his physical reminders that "today is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!" However, Mr. Fritzler was an intellect as well who could unwrap science in a way that assisted each student in their personal discoveries and accomplishments. He was also a reluctant but engaging theologian able to unwrap biblical truths even from Pink Floyd: "another Brick in the Wall." When he and Lois ,after much waiting, had a son, Fritz got excited about every gram gained and every new physical stage mastered. Chemistry in the late afternoon? When most teachers would have struggled to keep their students conscious, Mr. Fritzler had us fully engaged. I can just imagine his hearty and delighted laugh as mysteries unattainable by human inquiry are now revealed to him in their entirety. Thanks Lord, for allowing us to know and be inspired by your servant, Steve!

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**Mike Lange** - February 16, 2017 at 07:42 PM



Mick  
Bradish

*Awesome.....I could not have said it any better. Thanks Mike*

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**Mick Bradish** - February 16, 2017 at 07:54 PM



*I agree about the intelligent Mr. Fritzler that I had at St. Paul's. It was always a pleasure to see him around Cape with his further endeavors. There's a song about a man that goes to heaven and sees all these people that he made a real difference in their lives - that was Steve. I am sorry to hear of his earthly loss - but know that he is being welcomed in heaven.*

*Lori Launhardt*

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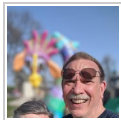
**Lori Launhardt** - February 16, 2017 at 09:32 PM



*Thanks for putting into words much of what I'm thinking...*

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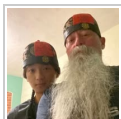
**John Lottes** - February 16, 2017 at 09:50 PM



*Mourning and celebrating! So glad to be walking into choir practice tonight as I learned this news. Practicing and inspired by Easter anthems filled with both the dissonance of Good Friday and the joy of Easter. So apropos for this day and hour; living as inspired by Mr. Fritzler, mourning an early loss, rejoicing for one of heavens newest Saints.*

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**John Hinck** - February 16, 2017 at 10:04 PM



*Mike, I was thinking just before I read your tribute, that Mr. Fritzler always had such a joyful enthusiasm, I wish I could see the exchange that took place when he was welcomed home by Jesus. I look forward to sharing in that joy.*

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**Scott Borchardt** - February 16, 2017 at 10:15 PM



*What a great blessing he was to us at St. Paul's and always such a highlight when he would attend our class reunions! He will be greatly missed, but there is that hope that we will see him again. Thank you, Jesus!!!*

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**Judy Brack Ray** - February 16, 2017 at 10:47 PM

BR

*Thank you to Mr. Fritzler for his influence in my life. It was an honor to have known him. Praying for peace and comfort to his family.*

**Becky Ryder** - February 16, 2017 at 11:40 PM

MD

*I consider myself very lucky to have studied and played football under him. He was a joy to be around.*

**Mike Diefendorf** - February 16, 2017 at 11:48 PM

KM

*I loved the way he took opportunities to reconnect with us even years after we were no longer his responsibility as his students. Craig and I last ran into him last October at the girls volleyball tournament for state in Cape. He had just returned from a trip and instead of going home came to the arena to see who he could see. Always excited to visit and share what life had to offer, always an inspiration. I wished I had his energy. We have been blessed when God puts those people in our path. Prayers ascend for Steve's family. There is now an empty spot ... :-)*

**Kristen Muehler** - February 17, 2017 at 06:54 AM

RL

*I too am filled with sadness to learn of Steve's early passing, and so many have already very accurately written of his profound influence, abilities, and warmth as a teacher, coach and faith-filled mentor. Just want to say, I am so grateful for having him in my life and the grins and enthusiasm he brought to our St. Paul's H.S. community, and to me, personally...in Chemistry, as my student advisor, and reconnecting with him on Facebook years later...I especially smile remembering all the fun games of Spades my brother Jonathan and I played against Mr. Fritzler and Mr. Gasau on the choir tour bus...he was always up for some friendly competition! :) So thankful to know I will see him again in heaven and know he's reconnecting with other saints up there and enjoying that already...My prayers are for comfort, peace and strength for his family, and those closest to him. He will be greatly missed, on this earth. He was someone who really made a difference for many, and for this girl, from the class of 1982. <3*

**Rebecca Jank Limmer** - February 17, 2017 at 11:05 AM

TK

*Coach Fritzler was one of a kind. He will always be a part of my favorite SPCH memories. Todd Kanoy*

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**Todd Kanoy** - February 17, 2017 at 03:33 PM

JV

*We were so shocked and saddened to hear of Steve's passing. Steve and I grew up together in Kimball, Nebraska and attended school together K-12. We were especially close during those trying days of Junior High. I lived on a farm just outside of Kimball and Steve and I were often partners when it came to pushing the envelope during those days. I remember one instance when I, being all of 13 years of age, decided to teach Steve, also 13, how to drive our family pickup. Unfortunately Steve at one point put the truck in reverse and backed over my much prized 3 speed bike. We partnered up for the 8th grade Science Fair. Our demonstration of the water cycle caused quite a mess when it sprung a leak and flooded some of the surrounding booths. Amazing that both of us went on to work in science related fields. I'll always remember his High School mode of transportation being an army-green panel truck. It was a great ride. Steve was a great friend to grow up with and he will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family. May he rest in peace.*

*Jim and Connie Volkmer*

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**Jim and Connie Volkmer** - February 17, 2017 at 06:49 PM

KK

*His encouragement and enthusiasm made you want to do your best even if you weren't sure of yourself. In his Biology class, we learned to be independent learners and self-motivated. Life Science and Earth Science are still my favorite sections of Science to teach. My prayers and sympathy for his family.*

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**Kathryn Kirby** - February 17, 2017 at 07:30 PM

RL

*A great teacher who wasn't afraid to try new methods. He showed me that Biology was worth studying which helped lead me to getting a degree in it.*

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**Randy Langkraehr** - February 19, 2017 at 03:28 AM