



## Norman Koeller

April 30, 1939 - August 6, 2021

Norman C. Koeller of Siloam Springs, AR, passed away age 82 on Friday, August 6, at Alma Health and Rehab in Alma, AR. He was born April 30, 1939, in Joliet, Illinois to the late George and Adeline Koeller.

Norm, or Mr. Koeller to his students, taught English at Gentry High School for 30 years. He was a gifted educator and loved teaching. He was always so grateful for his many students whose lives he touched. Norm himself graduated high school from Mountain Home, Arkansas and received his undergraduate degree from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. After his retirement at a very young age, he served on the Gentry United Way board and the Gentry Library board. Norm also enjoyed his cars and often referred to himself as a "Gear Head."

Norm's faith was also a large part of his life. He was a very active member of the Grace Episcopal Church and spent time volunteering at the Gentry Assembly Church Food Pantry and delivering Meals on Wheels.

Norm was preceded in death by his parents, George and Adeline; his loving stepmother, Ann, who raised him; his stepson, Wesley Paul Altland; and, his wife, Mary Lou, who was his best friend and the love of his life.

He is survived by his daughter, Mary Margaret Patterson and her husband Phillip of Alma, AR; his three granddaughters; his son, Mike Altland and his wife Vicki of Conway, AR and their two daughters; his son Bill Altland and his wife Sarah of Monmouth, OR and their four children; his son John Altland and his wife Sheri of Denver, CO and their four children; and, Marla Altland, widow

of the late Wesley Paul Altland, and their three children.

Service will be held Wednesday, August 11, at 10:00am at Grace Episcopal Church in Siloam Springs, AR and will be led by Reverend Stan McKinnon, Rector of Grace Episcopal Church. Masks will be required according to COVID protocols. A private burial ceremony will be held at Oakhill Cemetery in Siloam Springs, AR.

Memorials may be made to Grace Episcopal Church, Siloam Springs, AR or to the Gentry HS Scholarship Fund (Koeller Scholarship C/O Emily Hodges, 201 S. Giles, Gentry, AR 72734).

# Cemetery Details

## Oak Hill Cemetery

2122 W. University St.  
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

AUG 11. 10:00 AM (CT)

Grace Episcopal Church  
617 N. Mt. Olive  
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

# Tribute Wall

SJ

“ I am Norm’s step cousin, Sally Dutcher Jones. I searched for Norm’s contact info since I had lost his phone number & have just discovered his recent passing. I am devastated to know he has died. Somehow I expected to find him alive & well. He was such a dynamic person.

My mother Elizabeth “Betsy”, as they called her, Francis Dutcher & his step mother Ann Francis Koeller were sisters. He was so dear to my mom with whom he kept a close relationship. When she died in 2010, my brother Tom & I eventually lost touch with Norm, although we always thought the world of him. We were all especially saddened when his beloved wife MaryLou died while my mom was still alive. She & my mom loved talking on the phone for hours & my mom adored her! They had occasionally visited us in along Beach, California where we grew up & where my brother still lives. We always looked forward to when they would come to town.

I am so sorry I let time slip by & didn’t get back in touch with him. Please accept my deepest sympathy for your loss of this wonderful man who I was so proud to call my cousin. I hope you receive this, although it’s been 4 months since his passing.

With love to Norm in heaven and with my heartfelt sympathy to all of you, his family,

Sally Dutcher Jones  
Temecula, California  
951 553-3421

If anyone would like to contact me. Norm was very special to me & I loved him.

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**Sarah Jones** - December 06, 2021 at 09:42 PM

TZ

“ Mr. Koeller was among the best teachers that I've ever had in my life. He was so intelligent and articulate that he made English class a joy to attend. He inspired me as a student to pursue creative writing, and I ended up receiving my bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Arkansas. I will never forget how he taught us to conjugate verbs -- and the differences between the various verb tenses. I frequently enjoyed our conversations on arcane topics, whether from the news or books one of us had read. He had a powerful impact on so many students at Gentry High School!

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**Tony Zodrow** - August 15, 2021 at 02:45 AM

JB

“ He was one of my favorite teachers at Gentry High School Always friendly and willing to help you. Later in life when you would see him driving his Mustang GT he always put a smile on my face He was a Gear Head as well loved his cars . I will miss my friend. John Bartlett

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**john bartlett** - August 11, 2021 at 11:45 AM

KB

“ Norm was a treasure in our lives. I shared many memories with him and Mary Lou. They were among the first people I met when I started teaching at Gentry. He was a funny, thoughtful person with a quick wit. And he really enjoyed a good glass of wine with a good meal. I didn't get to see him often in last several years but when I did, he was always the same. I will truly miss him.

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**Katherine Browne** - August 10, 2021 at 07:27 PM

BN

“ He made school a wonderful place. Also He and ( Mrs Altland ) Koeller raised a great bunch of kids !!! English was my favorite because of the great teachers in Gentry School English Department.  
My heartfelt sympathy to all of you as your mourn the loss of this great man.  
May God bring comfort to All of the Families , Love and Prayers,  
Betsy Babcock Nunn

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**Betsy Nunn** - August 10, 2021 at 09:02 AM

RJ

“ Mr Koeller was one of my favorite teachers n school. He always cared for each student and was willing to help when you felt lost. I was able to visit with him when I would see him at the store and around Siloam Springs area. He always had a story to tell about high school and some you wish he would have forgot. He will be missed but I am glad to have known him thru the years. Prayers for his family during this time. Ron Jordan

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**Ron Jordan** - August 09, 2021 at 08:57 PM

JT

“ I will miss you my friend and my favorite teacher. I learned to love literature just by listening to you read to us in the classroom. You truly brought the words to life.  
You had such a sense of humor my dear friend. You were sitting on the corner of your desk reading to us as usual, when the corner you were sitting on went through the floor. You calmly said “how unfortunate” and continued reading the story.  
You will be missed by me and many others.

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**Juanita Dilbeck Trammell** - August 09, 2021 at 08:46 PM

RH

“ When Norman Koeller first came to teach in Gentry, I recall my mother, Bonnie Curran, being concerned about him being a bachelor. He came to several dinners at our house and we were always thankful to have him in our home and then as our teacher as the years went by. He was a great guy and a great friend. Prayers for each of you and know he is reunited with his family! See you again one day Mr. Koeller! Rita

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**Rita Fox Hopkins** - August 09, 2021 at 03:47 PM

LH

“ You just never knew when you were going to run into Norm. But I always loved it when we did! What a guy! Just loved talking to him! He absolutely made the world a better place!  
I have memories of him way back - as my (Lanita) English teacher. Loved his class. Later he and Mary Lou visited Jody (Holland - Randy's mom). They became buds. I think Norm was "buds" with a lot of people :)  
Then even later, he delivered meals to my Mom.  
I'm so sorry for your and the world's loss. I know he will be sorely missed by his family and friends.  
Randy and Lanita Holland

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**Lanita Holland** - August 09, 2021 at 03:13 PM

RW

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Mr. Koeller touched so many lives. He was such a wonderful teacher and mentor, as well as a kind man. When I was in my freshman year in college, my English professor asked me if my Mom was an English teacher. The answer was "No, but I had a great high school teacher who influenced and encouraged me." I became a teacher. I can only hope to have some of the influence on my students that he had on his. My prayers are with you all. ❤️

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**Rae Jean Wegener** - August 09, 2021 at 10:04 AM

JT

“ *Mr Koeller was my favorite teacher in Gentry. He and Ms Altland were such caring teachers both in and outside the classroom. My condolences and prayers go out to the family. Jim Taylor P.O. Box 16307, Fresno, Ca. 93755*

Jim Taylor - August 09, 2021 at 08:43 AM

LG

“ *Lynne Glass lit a candle in memory of Norman Koeller*



Lynne Glass - August 09, 2021 at 07:53 AM

CC

“ *Sorry for your loss he was a great teacher and a wonderful man. He always had a smile and glad to see you.*



curtis carter - August 08, 2021 at 11:19 PM

JA

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



John Altland - August 08, 2021 at 11:06 PM

BH

“ Norm had a great sense of humor and often made a joke on himself. Bruce remembers the time he came into the teacher's lounge at Gentry High School and showed how his belt had come apart saying " I have gained weight and I've just blown this belt up "

.  
He was a dedicated teacher and truly cared for his students . He and Mary Lou were both long time friends and we enjoyed visiting with them where ever we happened to meet ,if it was a restaurant or Walmart we could catch up on the time we had been apart since the last conversation.

We want to send our best wishes and ask for God's comfort for each of the family during this time of loss.

Our love in Christ's name ,  
Bruce and Mary Ellen Holland

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**Bruce and Mary Ellen Holland** - August 08, 2021 at 07:46 PM

BA

“ An excellent teacher of mine who turned into a valued friend.

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**Bill Altland** - August 08, 2021 at 05:48 PM

PC

“ He was a great teacher. I went to Gentry an,knew,him. Prayers for all

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**Pamela k. Elliott Cross** - August 08, 2021 at 03:42 PM