



## Paul Koppitz

January 7, 1923 - May 28, 2009

Paul Norton, son of Beulah Ruth (McMullen) and John Theodore Koppitz was born on January 7, 1923 near Alva, Oklahoma. He passed away at the Sterling House in Enid, Oklahoma on the 28th of May at the age of 86 years, 4 months, and 21 days.

He attended the High Springs Rural Grade School and graduated from Northwestern High School. He went to Northwestern State College where he lettered in baseball and basketball and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Arts.

Paul enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on September 10, 1942. He served in the Pacific Theater where he participated in the ceremony of surrender of the Japanese military in Tsintuo, China. Second Lieutenant Koppitz at Okinawa received two Purple Hearts and two Bronze Stars for his service to his country.

On June 20, 1950 in Alva, he was married to Georgiana Jean Barker. To their marriage, three daughters, Rinda Sue, Shelley Kay and Jonni Ann, were born.

Following their marriage, they lived and farmed north of Alva. He taught at Lambert High School where he coached baseball. Paul retired from the Alva School System where he taught science and coached baseball, basketball, and started the girls softball program. He was a member of the Alva First Christian Church, Alva Golf and Country Club, Black Wing Post of the V.F.W., Alva Elks Lodge, Oklahoma Education Association, Disabled American Veterans, American Quarter Horse Association, and American Hereford Association.

Mr. Koppitz was preceded in death by his wife Georgiana on September 6, 1981; a daughter Rinda on December 12, 1998; his parents; a sister, Margaret Haraughty; a brother, Burr, and an infant brother, John.

Paul is survived by his two daughters, Shelley Koppitz of Laverne and Jonni and her husband Richard Cinnamon of Garber; five grandchildren, Jodi and Wacy Sharp, Kristi and Scott Steinert, Ryan Paul Cinnamon, Lesli and Jason Bollman, and Ricki Cinnamon; four great grandchildren, Gunner, Anndi, Kennon Sharp and Colton Steinert; two cousins Harold and Dick Koppitz; a number of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.



# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

JUN 2. 10:00 AM (CT)

Wharton's Funeral Chapel

1302 Oklahoma Blvd.

Alva, OK 73717

(580) 327-1234

[whartonchapel@gmail.com](mailto:whartonchapel@gmail.com)

<https://www.whartonfuneralchapel.com/>

# Tribute Wall

JW

“ *I always had fun in his classes. Of course, I got into trouble for talking! He always had chalk all over his hands which we thought was so funny. He was a great guy! We are thinking of you in your time of loss.*  
*Julia, Sarah, Elizabeth and David Witherington*

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**Julia Ryerson Witherington** - June 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *So sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you.*

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**Jonna (Varner) Hines** - June 13, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ *Paul Koppitz was one of the finest men I've ever known. A kind and generous man who did everything he could to make my trips to Oklahoma wonderful. He would always saddle up the horses for a ride because he knew I loved it. Collected skulls from the pastures, packed big sacks of horse manure for me to take home to my compost pile. I can't count the ice chests full of meat and when Gorgiana was alive always a huge lunch packed for the trip home. So many memories. A big man with a big heart. I've seen him in his girls, their fathers daughters.*

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**Barbara Lilly** - June 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *Mr Koppitz was a special person in my life not only as my HS scienc teacher but also a family friend. My parents used to go out with him & Georgiana. I remember in my younger years going out to their house to play w/the girls. The girls also gave me & my 2 sisters their hand me downs. I admired the beautiful horses Mr Koppitz raised & eventually my family acquired one of the phillies named Poco Golden Glow. May all of your memories of the Paul Koppitz family be as pleasant as mine. Sincerely.*

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**Julie (Davison) Helm** - June 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ *Mr. Koppitz taught me in the Alve school system many years ago, but I never forgot him. He was very kind and funny and taught very well. He is with the LORD now, where he belongs and is teaching in heaven.*

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**Karen (Beckner) Brigham** - June 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ Dear Shelley and family, I am thinking of you during this difficult time. I am so thankful that I got to know your dad during these last few years. He was a true gentleman with a huge heart. I only wish I could have known him longer. The video that you put together captured him so well. A light has gone out in this world . . . but heaven is all the brighter. With love from your second cousin Mindy Werling

Mindy Werling - June 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ I am very sorry to hear of Paul's passing. I attended Alva High School and only new Paul as a kind and yet "firm" teacher. (I really needed that. Paul was one of those teachers that I had the upmost respect. He was an awesome guy. One I'll remember forever.

Ralph

Ralph Haltom - June 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Gentle memories of the special times that you always shared will live forever in your heart as a reminder that you cared. And since time is a great healer eventually you will find, a beautiful peace and lasting comfort in the gentle memoies left behind.

Danette and Mark Hague - June 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Coach Koppitz had the most influence on me than any other coach during my athletic career in Alva Oklahoma. At the early age of 11 or 12 years of age coach Koppitz taught me the fundamentals of playing the game of basketball that I carried with me through my college days. Not only did coach impact my athletic playing career but also my teaching, coaching and educational adminstration philosophy during the past 42 years I have been in the education profession. It took me a long time to be able to call coach "Paul", but coach was truly a friend, mentor, and a great role model for all of those students he touch during his life long mission of teaching and coaching. I have said it before to you personally Paul, but I will say it one more time, "Thanks coach for all that you did for me and my family!" Alva Goldbug 1963

Bill Beierschmitt - June 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

IE

“ Dear Shelley & Jonni, It was with deep sadness that I read about your father's passing. He was a gentle man and a beloved teacher. I wish every kid could have learned from him as you and I did.

Ida Evans - June 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ Just wanted to let you know I'm thinking of you. Lots and lots of memories of your dad. gail

Gail (gum) Bliss - June 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RE

“ Coach Koppitz was one of my favorite teachers and certainly my favorite coach at AHS. He expected a lot out of us, which we didn't always appreciate [especially running up and down that hill behind the field at Hatfield Park] but he probably got better results than our talent should have yielded. One of my best memories of high school is winning the regional tournament and going to the state baseball tournament my junior year. Fuzzy, you were a great man and had more of an impact on my life than you ever knew. I've thought about you often and know that you are now in the eternal dugout calling the plays. Rest in peace my friend.

Randy Evans - May 31, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you. Mr. Koppitz taught me alot through high school, he was an admiral man, coach and teacher. He definitely left his mark on many kids through the Alva school system. May all the memories comfort you in the days ahead.

Robin (Keele) Lewis - May 31, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ What an awesome man. Coach Koppitz was someone who truly made a difference in my life. He will always hold a special place in my heart. There is a new Angel in Heaven watching over us.

Kimberley Fisher - May 31, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ coach Koppitz was a good man always. He coached me from 7th grade up through my senior year. He truly enjoyed being around kids. He really enjoyed baseball. He was easy going but yet he had a way to reach us and expect our best all of the time. I had no idea at all of his decorations from the great war. If i had known I would have loved to have asked him about his experiences. I know he would have liked that. He was a gentleman always. Fuzzy, I will always remember you. Thank you for you.

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mike perkins - May 30, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KO

“ Shelly and family,  
I have such great memories of your Dad. I think he was the most caring coach I ever had. I always enjoyed talking with him and looking at his horses. I remember playing summer softball for Shelly...and wanting Coach to help..he always had a way of making you the best you could be. May God bless your family and give you comfort during these difficult days to come. You are in our thoughts and prayers.  
Kim

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Kimberly Oake-Wildeman - May 30, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ shelley and jonni,  
your dad was a very special man.i thought the world of paul.my first dealings with him was my freshman year at alva high.he was a good teacher,that i enjoyed very much.after high school,we ran a rock shop across the road from one of his alfalfa fields.my cousin and i bought two blinds calves from him.with the intent of starting our own cattle company!of course we were always broke and couldnt afford feed for these cows.and everytime your dad would bale hay,we would sneak across the road and help ourselves to a couple bales.your dad knew what we was doing because after a while he would leave some hay out in the field,knowing we would be out to get it.  
the last time i seen your dad was a couple months ago as i was heading into town.he was walking into town to mail some letters.i turned around and picked him up and drove him to the post office and then back home.i am so glad i came back and picked him up that day.i so enjoyed our conversation on the way to town and back.

**REST IN PIECE MY FRIEND.I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU.**

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raymond knabe - May 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM