



Steven Leon Goforth

August 26, 1944 - April 3, 2026

Steve Goforth, 81, passed away on April 3, 2026. Born August 26, 1944, in Pryor, OK, to J.P. and Wilma Goforth, Steve was a dedicated family man, educator, and coach who influenced many.

In 1965, Steve's life changed when he met Sandra Covey at Northeastern State University. On May 28, 1966, they married and began their educational journey at Drexel, MO. Steve continued teaching math and coaching in several Missouri schools, including Archie, Ray-Pec, and Harrisonville. While he served as a principal for a time, his true love for teaching brought him back to the classroom.

Steve was known for his passion and commitment as a coach. For over thirty years, he coached girls' and boys' basketball, softball, tennis, and as an assistant football coach in Missouri high schools. He especially loved championing girls' athletics, achieving exceptional success in girls' basketball. Notable highlights included taking Archie's AAU team to Nationals in New Orleans and leading Harrisonville to State Tournament regionals in 1982.

Off the court and outside the classroom, Steve found his greatest joys as a devoted husband, father, and beloved 'Papa'. Family meant everything to him. He is survived by his wife, Sandra; his children, Stephanie (Suzanne) and Scott (Kelly); and his cherished granddaughters, Teagan and Tayt. In

retirement, Steve enjoyed the simple peace of his stocked fishing pond, traveling the country in an RV with Sandra and the companionship of his furry friends, especially the family dog, Sam.

Steve will be remembered as a true friend and a man who measured success not just in points on a scoreboard, but in the lives he shaped and the people he loved. His family invites you to please share a special memory or story of his life.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date. The family suggests donations in support of the Liver Transplant Program at The University of Kansas Health System. Donations can be made payable to The University of Kansas Health System and mailed to Fund Development,

11300 Corporate Avenue, Mailstop 9241, Lenexa, KS 66219-1374 or by visiting given.kansashealthsystem.com.

Tribute Wall

DH

“ Steve was so supportive when my husband, Bill, was going through his cancer treatments. He would call to see how he was doing and give him words of encouragement. He was a kind, caring man. He touched many people’s lives and will be missed.

Debbie Harmon - April 19 at 05:51 PM

JL

“ Mr. Goforth was not only my high school calculus teacher in 1986-1987, but also the father of one of my dear friends in high school - Stephanie. Steve (I have trouble typing that - hew was always "Mr. Goforth") was an excellent teacher and a great parent who I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know outside of the classroom. Lunch fell during the middle of our calculus class and somehow Mr. Goforth came up with the idea for us to chip in (financially) so that we could keep a ready supply of Andes mints - ending lunch in a civilized manner before returning to the joys of math. Who would have thought that we could end school lunch with grace and civility, but that is what Mr. Goforth brought to our classroom. I wish to extend my deepest condolences to Sandy, Stephanie, and Scott.

John Ledgerwood - April 17 at 04:17 PM

MC

“ So enjoyed Steve as my math teacher and coach and later teaching with him at Harrisonville. In math he taught me to follow the mechanics, and as a coach he emphasized executing the fundamentals. I so appreciated the day he and Sandra came to Bolivar and visited with me for a while before Brendon’s baseball game at SBU. It was fun to introduce my son to my coach. I remember him telling me that they had been visiting Stephanie and she was coaching a girls’ basketball team. He had gone to practice with her and couldn’t just watch. He had to start running drills with the girls. He loved to coach! What a good man and positive influence on my life.

Mary Ann (Kauffman) Cox - April 13 at 03:01 PM

MD

“ Oklahoma South paw kid. Truly great man, passion for students. What you call "good people"

Mike Dawson - April 08 at 06:28 PM

BV

“ Sympathies and condolences. Bob VanMeter

Bob VanMeter - April 07 at 09:42 PM

BB

“ He was the first coach of girls’ basketball at Harrisonville when they restarted the program in the fall of 1974. He was a great coach—especially to start a new program. I learned a lot about coaching from him. He really knew how to coach girls at a time when most coaches had no experience with girls. I played for him and coached against him. He was a mentor for me as a coach.

Brenda Baker

Brenda Baker - April 07 at 09:16 PM

DG

“ Coach Goforth moved to Archie at the beginning of 67-68 school year when I was a 7th grader and began coaching my basketball team. He taught me so much about this sport. He was left handed and I wanted to dribble with my left hand. He kept working with me and I began play left handed and loved it. When I think of basketball and softball I think of coach. He also taught me Algebra and Geometry and I also loved that. I was one of the AAU girls that went to New Orleans. What a trip. So many other memories with Steve and Sandra that I will always remember.

Debbie (Dawson) Gilmore - April 07 at 08:00 PM

DB

“ Coach Gorth was an exceptional math teacher and basketball coach! One of the best! Condolences to Sandy, Stephanie and Scott, cherish all your memories!

Donna Bailey - April 07 at 06:56 PM



“ Steve was the definition of a good man. He cared about people, he was an encourager, his love for his wife and children was a certainty and he lived his life to his best every day. I realize I only knew him for a few years but I count it as a blessing along life's journey.

Deb Glazner - April 07 at 06:36 PM

RR

“ As a fellow “lefty” Coach taught me a lot of lessons on and off the court. He will be missed. Many fond memories. Sending my sympathy to Sandy and the family.
Rhonda Myler Rush



Rhonda Myler Rush - April 07 at 05:58 PM

CM

“ So sorry for his family’s loss. Mr Goforth is the only person who could teach math in a way I understood. I am grateful for his time in education.

Christine Micheals - April 07 at 05:23 PM