

## David Livingston Brown

July 6, 1934 - January 26, 2019

David Livingston Brown, 84, passed away on Saturday, January 26, 2019 at Ascension Providence Hospital in Novi. He was born on July 6, 1934 in Joliet, Illinois; the son of Rev. Jesse W. and Harriet (Newkirk) Brown, who both tragically died in a car accident when Dave was 27 years old. Dave graduated from Canton High School (Canton, IL) in 1952. He attended Olivet Nazarene College (Bourbonnais, IL) and graduated from Pasadena College (Pasadena, CA). He received his Master degree from Eastern Michigan University in Educational Administration.

Dave enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves while attending college and was honorably discharged in 1963.

He married Jeridel Ann Hardy on December 28, 1957 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Upon graduation from Pasadena College, they moved to Kansas City, Kansas to pursue ministerial studies. Dave's course of vocation changed and he worked for General Motors; and then in 1966, moved to Michigan with Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Company. He eventually pursued a career in education and became a teacher in the Novi School District in 1968. In 1971, a new Novi school opened, Village Oaks Elementary, where Dave remained the principal for the next 31 years. Thousands of children walked through the doors of Village Oaks and their lives were positively impacted by a "kinder, gentler" principal. Dave retired in June of 2002 with 34 years of service in the Novi School District. After retirement, Dave served in a different capacity, the Novi School Board, giving direction to a growing school district.

At the time of Dave's passing, he was an active member of Hilltop Church of the Nazarene in Northville. Throughout his life, Dave has been a dedicated member of the Church of the Nazarene where he served for many years as a teacher and board member. He was dedicated to mentoring men in their lives and guiding them toward a meaningful relationship with God through Biblical study.

Dave was an avid sports fan and longtime athlete. He played baseball, basketball, and continued to play tennis until recently. He would often be seen at Novi sporting events cheering on the Novi athletes and wearing his Novi Wildcats jacket with pride, along with his Chicago Cubs cap.

David is survived by his wife of 61 years, Jeridel Ann; his sons Mark (Candace) Brown

and Gregory (Judy) Brown; grandchildren Kelli (Brandon) Juodikis, Logan Brown, Jacqueline Brown, Benjamin Brown, William Brown, Graham Brown, Tobin Brown, and Elizabeth Brown. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jesse W. and Harriet G. Brown; his sister, Betty J. Webster; and his brother, Robert W. Brown.

Visitation will be at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River, Novi, on Friday, Feb 1 from 4-8 pm. The family will receive friends and family on Saturday, Feb 2 at Hilltop Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty Rd, Northville from 10 am until the Memorial Service at 11 am.

Donations in Mr. Brown's name may be made to David L. Brown Memorial [[click here to contribute](http://www.ncm.org/dlbmemorial)][www.ncm.org/dlbmemorial](http://www.ncm.org/dlbmemorial)

# Cemetery

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## Oakland Hills Cemetery

43300 W 12 Mile Rd,  
Novi, MI, 48377

# Events

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**FEB 1** **Visitation** 04:00PM - 08:00PM  
O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home  
41555 Grand River Avenue, Novi, MI, US, 48375

**FEB 2** **Gathering of Family and Friends** 10:00AM  
Hilltop Church of the Nazarene  
21260 Haggerty Rd., Northville, MI, US, 48167

**FEB 2** **Celebration of Life** 11:00AM  
Hilltop Church of the Nazarene  
21260 Haggerty Rd., Northville, MI, US, 48167

# Comments

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“ Such a wonderful, kind principal who was admired by many and loved by his students! He will be dearly missed!! Thoughts and prayers to his family.

-Holly Presson - Williamson  
Class of 97' NHS

Holly - February 02 at 04:59 PM

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“ Our hearts both ache and celebrate with yours. What a legacy!  
Lovingly,  
Troy, Angi, Kennedy, Cosette, Chloe and Lucy Snyder

Angi Snyder - February 01 at 10:04 AM

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“ Jarretts:Gretchen,Lynne,Sean,Rachel,Cam,SteveE. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of David Livingston Brown.



Jarretts:Gretchen,Lynne,Sean,Rachel,Cam,SteveE. - February 01 at 05:57 AM

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“ With a steadfast love, Quen & Denise Dickey purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of David Livingston Brown.



With a steadfast love, Quen & Denise Dickey - January 31 at 08:17 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of David Livingston Brown.



January 31 at 07:51 PM

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“ We created quite a stir when we requested Mr. Brown be the person to award our daughter her diploma. Evidently, no one had ever requested a special person until then. Thank you, Mr. Brown for the incredible impact you made on our whole family.



**The Lind Family** - January 31 at 04:49 PM

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“ What a warm and wonderful man Mr. Brown was. I worked in the VO Office my senior year of high school for co-op and loved every minute of it. I will always remember being amazed how he knew each child's name in that school, and how he treated everyone with kindness and respect. It is true that people won't always remember what you said, but they'll remember how they made you feel, because Mr. Brown made each student who walked through those doors feel important and valued. I loved my time there as a student, and working with him before graduating high school. My deepest sympathy to his family and friends. His memory and love for people lives on in the hearts of many.

**Natalie Freeburn (Corte)** - January 31 at 01:39 PM

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“ I send my deepest condolences to Jeri and the Brown family and I wish for your peace and the blessings of only fond memories.

Mr. Brown hired me when I began my teaching career at Village Oaks. He was a wonderful boss, a kind leader, a father figure, and a friend. The character and excellence of Village Oaks stands on the foundation that Mr. Brown built at that school, and in the community. He knew every child's name, every parent in the community, and everything about each teacher and his or her family. Our staff

laughed, and learned, and grew together over the years, and each of us changed for the better because of him. As principals go, he was the best, a true GEM.

I have many memories of Mr. Brown, but I'd like to share a few funny memories to help warm your hearts. When he retired, we created a hilarious video of all the teachers pretending to break rules behind his back and teasing him about some of his unforgettable lines, like, "Now...help me to understand..." I still laugh about the infamous way that he would announce over the P.A. that we were having a tornado drill. He would clear his throat and sound very serious then declare, "Boys and girls, it is now time for us to assume our Big Windy positions." We all loved him so! I still have one of his "school themed" neckties that I borrowed for some silly costume... and then never returned (please forgive me Dave). It adorns my Cat in the Hat stuffed animal in my classroom to this day. Not a day goes by that I don't straighten that tie and think, Thanks Dave. Shortly after he retired from Village Oaks, the building was remodeled. I opted to take Mr. Brown's beautiful principals desk rather than a new contemporary version. I loved that desk because it was from behind that desk that he made history. It was from the helm of that desk that he changed history.

One last thing, Dave... I am so happy for you now, for I know you are free from the ugly chains of Alzheimer's and you can once again feel the return of that brilliant mind of yours again. David, your force and love will be so deeply missed by everyone you ever knew, and in them, it will live on.

Much love,  
Jane Funfgeld

Jane Funfgeld - January 31 at 11:46 AM

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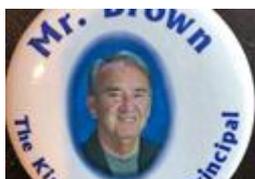
“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Mary Sorensen - January 31 at 10:27 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album





“ Dave will always be special in my heart. He was the one that believed in me and hired me into the Novi Community School district. I fondly remember meeting with him in his office at VO and just hitting it off. He wanted to hire me for the K-4 Spanish teacher. I had to go before all the principals in order to be hired. I remember him fighting for me, even though my Spanish was not as good as the high school Spanish teacher. He knew it did not need to be to teach K-4 students introductory Spanish. He believed in me as a teacher, regardless of the subject. I will never forget him for this. I was very appreciative to be hired into the greatest district in the state and I always felt that it was because of him. My he now rest in a kinder, gentler place.

Bridget Zahradnik

Bridget Zahradnik - January 31 at 09:21 AM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of David Livingston Brown.



January 31 at 09:12 AM

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“ Simply Chic Mixed Plant Basket was purchased for the family of David Livingston Brown.



January 30 at 08:03 PM

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“ Mr. Brown was the heart of Village Oaks. I remember seeing him every morning as we entered into the school. As a kinder-gardener, he made going to school a little less scary - and the honor of eating lunch with him one week is something I still remember. I also remember him getting on the PA at the start of the Persian Gulf

War, and leading the school in a moment of silence - he helped all of us young kids who didn't really know what was going on understand that we were safe and loved. May he rest in peace.

- Beth (Bovair) Schill, VO ('88-'93)

**Beth Schill** - January 30 at 10:56 AM

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“ I met Mr. Brown in 1988 when our oldest started Kindergarten at VO. I was so impressed with the school led by the compassion, gentleness and kindness of a man who cared so much for his students, their parents and his staff. It truly felt like family. A wonderful place to learn. Later he helped me get two jobs in Novi Schools, first as a lunch lady and later as a paraprofessional. In 1999 our youngest son, a 4th grader, had a serious medical crisis. A trying time to be sure. Along with much of the staff Mr. Brown brought food to our door, a smile and words of encouragement. He will be missed and I am grateful he was in my life. God bless you all during this difficult time.

-Terri Schleuder

**Terri Schleuder** - January 30 at 09:01 AM

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“ Our family attended Village Oaks in Novi starting in 1985 . Mr. Brown loved , cherished & built the character of every student . A treasure & a blessing as principal . Well done good & faithful servant . Lois Hancock ( formerly Schultz )

**lois hancock** - January 30 at 08:40 AM

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“ Jim Smith purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of David Livingston Brown.



**Jim Smith** - January 29 at 01:40 PM

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“ Corrine Wedge purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of David Livingston Brown.



Corrine Wedge - January 29 at 11:19 AM

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“ Dave Brown was my principal when I taught at Village Oaks. I was started there in just my second year of teaching and I cannot tell you how fortunate I was to be part of Dave's faculty. There was an amazing cast of "characters" on his team - Greg Carnacchi, Marie Renner, Sara Sass, Julie Lassila, and of course, Dee Weber who ran not only the office but all of us. Thanks to Dave's leadership he gave me a foundation that served me well.

God's speed, my friend.

Gregg Balko

Los Angeles

Gregg B Balko - January 29 at 10:29 AM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of David Livingston Brown.



January 29 at 10:29 AM

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“ Share the Health was purchased for the family of David Livingston Brown.



January 29 at 09:52 AM

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“ A terrific fellow, great neighbor and friend. My sons all went through Village Oaks and not a day went by that I was out in the yard did Mr. Brown not stop and ask about Matthew and Michael. I remember at Matt's Graduation Mr. Brown stood to shake hands and hug him as he walked off the stage. With deepest sympathy to Mrs. Brown and your family in this time of sorrow.

Larry & Wanda Ciancio

Larry G. Ciancio - January 29 at 08:56 AM

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“ When Dave was principle of Village Oaks Elementary (Fall of 1999) I was working on planting trees in my yard across the street from Village Oaks. Dave was heading home after work one day and he stopped his car rolled down the window and asked me if I needed some help. I was covered in mud and must have looked like I needed help while rolling some large trees into their holes. As usual he was dressed up in a top coat, dress pants and dress shoes. I told him (jokingly) that I'd let him know the next time I needed help. It was a good thing he did not help me that day because 2 weeks later he had his first heart episode. That's just one example of the kind of person that he was. He was just a great all around guy! They don't make them like that anymore.

Ted Mech

Ted Mech - January 29 at 05:23 AM

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“ Dear Brown family,  
My family was one of the lucky ones that were a part of Village Oaks. The school was a kinder, gentler school because of the leadership of a great man, David. He was a kinder, gentler man. We moved here from Ohio and he made us feel like part of the VO family from the beginning. Thank You Mr. Brown for your love and passion of teaching, it showed everyday. Thank you Mrs. Brown and family for sharing this wonderful man. Please accept our deepest condolences. RIP Principal Brown, you deserve it!  
With sympathy,  
Judy and Greg Morris, Derick Becker

Judy Morris - January 29 at 12:05 AM

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“ It’s impossible for me to think of Dave Brown without smiling. I will always cherish his incredible presence in my life. He made everyday at VO better, every conversation more meaningful, and every difficult situation a little easier. He was a leader, a friend, and a father figure all rolled into one! I am forever grateful for the kindness that he showed to me and my entire family. He will always be remembered with love, appreciation, and a smile!  
My deepest condolences to the entire Brown family.

**Christine Sparling** - January 28 at 07:42 PM



“ This is so true. If I were to describe him to a stranger I would say he was the Mr. Rogers of Village Oaks Elementary School.

**Stephanie Hoops Blaine** - January 30 at 11:21 AM

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“ I am deeply saddened to hear this news. My kids went to Village Oaks when Dave was Principal. He truly made that school feel like family. Our memories are special because of him. Condolences to his family. His memory will live on in our hearts.

The Burgol Family

**Shelli Connolly-Burgol** - January 28 at 05:42 PM