



Patrick "Rick" Cotant

March 11, 1948 - November 20, 2023

A celebration of life for PATRICK "RICK" COTANT, 75, will be held 1pm Saturday December 2, 2023, at the Eastern Wyoming College Auditorium with Reverend Jeff Wayland officiating and Pastor Ty DesEnfants co-officiating. A "Cookies and Cokes for Cotant" reception will follow the service. A private family burial will take place prior to the celebration of life. Rick lost his battle with pancreatic cancer November 20, 2023, at home with his loving wife, Marilyn, by his side and cremation has taken place. In lieu of flowers the family requests that memorials be given to the "Coke's for Cotant" account located at Pinnacle Bank in Torrington. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Colyer Funeral Home and condolences may be sent to www.colyerfuneralhome.com

Rick was born to James O. and Dorothy M. (Brower) Cotant on March 11, 1948, in Ft. Worth, TX. At approximately 1½ years of age, just after he contracted polio in his legs, the family relocated to Scottsbluff, NE. They then moved to Gering, NE where he attended Gering Public Schools. He participated in numerous school activities, including Cross-Country, Track, and Football. He graduated in 1966, which was the first class to graduate from the new Gering High School.

Rick married Marilyn Jean Lee of Mitchell, NE on December 27, 1968. In

1970, Rick graduated from Chadron State College with a Bachelor of Science in Social Studies. He was drafted into the US Army, and served as a Personnel Clerk in Bitburg-Spangdahlem AF Bases and was honorably discharged in May of 1972. Rick became an Elementary PE Teacher in Gering, then in 1974 began teaching Social Studies at Gering High School for 13 years. Rick was the Head Girl's Basketball Coach (1 year), and the Head Track/Cross-Country Coach at GHS for 13 years. In August of 1984, Rick obtained a Master of Science in Education Administration from Chadron State College.

Rick and Marilyn moved to Torrington, WY in 1986, and a year later he became the Assistant Principal at Torrington Middle School, where he worked with Principal, Marvin Haiman for a total of nearly 30 years. He retired from TMS in 2014, and worked as a substitute and interim Administrator/Teacher for GCSD#1 until June 2023. He was the Assistant Track/Cross-Country Coach at THS for 21 years, and the LFL Assistant Track Coach for 5 years. Rick's hobbies included collecting sports memorabilia, Coca Cola products, and various collectibles, including classic cars. Rick loved all sports, but particularly track and cross-country.

Rick will be forever remembered as helpful, hard-working, kind, generous, and dependable.

Survivors include Rick's wife, Marilyn Cotant; sons Casey (Kristi), Coeur d'Alene, ID and Brian (Becky), Buffalo, WY; grandchildren Landon, Camden & Logan, Coeur

d'Alene, and

Paxton & Kaelyn, Buffalo; Brother, Mike (Vonnie) Cotant, Gering, NE; Sisters-in-Law Idona,

Overton, KY, Pam Cotant, FL, and Linda Cotant, IN. He was preceded in death by his parents; Half-

Brothers, Don & Dale Overton; Brothers, William & James, Jr. Cotant.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

DEC 2. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (MT)

Eastern Wyoming College
3200 West C
Torrington, WY 82240

Tribute Wall



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Patrick "Rick" Cotant.*



November 28, 2023 at 12:22 AM



“ *Jenny Rees and the Fler Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Patrick "Rick" Cotant.*

Jenny Rees and the Fler Family - November 28, 2023 at 12:22 AM



“ *Holly Brown lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Rick" Cotant*



Holly Brown - November 26, 2023 at 10:05 PM



“ *Gayle Hascall lit a candle in memory of Patrick Cotant*



Gayle Hascall - November 24, 2023 at 04:59 PM

KR

“ *RIP Rick. You were such a good family friend and treated my parents with such respect and dignity. You were like a brother to my sisters and a big brother to me during my early life. You always had the knack for being knowledgeable and handling issues of complexity. You made the world a better place and will be missed by so many.*

Ken Roth - November 24, 2023 at 08:39 AM

DH

“ *Rick and I coached a little baseball league team together he coached the pitchers and catchers I coached the infielders, and we won all the games. Rick and I worked together at the sale barn in Gering, and I considered Rick as a close friend. My wife and I have known Rick and Marilyn for many years and treasure their friendship. I brought my grandson back to Scottsbluff and he wanted to say he was in Wyoming so off we went to Torrington. While we were there, I wanted to get him a Wyoming shirt. We looked around and could not find a store that sold just Wyoming shirts. Well later we had lunch with Rick and his lovely wife Marilyn, I told him the story about our grandson well not thinking too much of it later in the mail was a shirt with Wyoming and his size. He loves to wear that shirt. That is Rick with a very kind heart boy my wife and I will miss him.*

Really sad since living in Topeka I won't be able to be there for Rick's family. Buddy rest in peace and someday I will see you again. Our prayers are with your family Darrell and Wendy Hessler

Darrell Hessler - November 24, 2023 at 12:43 AM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Patrick "Rick" Cotant.*



November 23, 2023 at 08:24 AM



“ *Tom & Cindy Cooper planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Patrick "Rick" Cotant.*

Tom & Cindy Cooper - November 23, 2023 at 08:24 AM



“ *A heavy heart, as a teacher he knew how to connect to his students. He encouraged me with my studies, to believe in myself and keep trying. It was an honor and privilege to have him as my teacher. Most important lesson he taught me for life, was compassion. Angel hugs to his family...*



Sophia (Soto) Beck - November 22, 2023 at 09:14 PM



“ *My deepest sympathies. Mr. Cotent was a great coach and wonderful man. He was incredibly patient with teens and gave much more than he ever received. He had tremendous gifts and the world is not as full without him. I am gals to have known him as a coach and man.*

W. Kent Barnds - November 22, 2023 at 02:40 PM

LC

“ I'll be celebrating the life of this singular Coach and mentor.

Coach, thank you for convincing me to join the Cross Country team ("running's more fun than tennis"), for teaching me how to harness ambition into a daily practice, weathering defeat with grace, and celebrating effort over victory. I'll always treasure memories of summer morning runs in the country, pre-season breakfasts at Hardees, "stepping into your office" for a roadside pep talk. Your kindness and love will continue radiating out into the world through all the lives you touched. Rest in peace, Coach C. You will be dearly missed.

Lisa (Warren) Carney, THS 2003

Lisa (Warren) Carney - November 22, 2023 at 11:49 AM

LM

“ I'm so glad I got to visit with you the last time I was home for a reunion. You're one of the teachers who inspired me to teach. It couldn't have been easy to work with high school kids, but you always made us feel important and cared for. You were always in a good mood and cheerful! Some of us kids needed a teacher like that on rough days. I'll never forget you, Mr. Cotant. Thank you for being a great teacher and an even greater human being. Rest in peace.

Lisa (Forsythe) Martin - November 22, 2023 at 11:12 AM

RH

“ Rick,
You will always be in my heart. One of the first people I met when I arrived in town and you always showed me and my children all the respect and friendship. I will miss you and all your coke displays.

Rick Hoppal - November 22, 2023 at 10:02 AM

TM

“ Coach Cotant was my teacher/track coach at Gering High School in the 80's. He was part of a great deal of coaches that took us to state in Class B, then A. He knew our potential and pushed us to be better. He then moved to Torrington Schools and we still had a great relationship, just wish we could have talk more. I heard so many great comments about him and how was great with students. I could go on and on with some great stories, but he will be greatly missed. Prayers to Mrs. C and the boys. Thanks to Mike Peterson for putting together a gofundme page for Coach C. RIP Coach!

Tim Marquez

Tim Marquez - November 22, 2023 at 09:49 AM

KF

“ Kathie France lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Rick" Cotant



Kathie France - November 22, 2023 at 09:37 AM

DP

“ Thank you for all of the love you showed me during high school! I will never forget the endless things you did to help me!! You will be missed! Rest in peace Coach!! Condolences to the Cotant family!!

Daniel Palomo - November 22, 2023 at 04:05 AM

LK

“ Lisa Lawrence (Kelly) lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Rick" Cotant



Lisa Lawrence (kelly) - November 22, 2023 at 12:12 AM

MS

“ I have known Rick for 69 years. He was a hard worker, cared for others, and was a team player. He always had a heart of gold and put others before self. He definitely touched the lives of many people and left the world a better place because of his love and care. Thanks for being a friend and for caring, my dear friend!

Mike Smith - November 21, 2023 at 11:40 PM

WK

“ Rick was my assistant principal over 30 years ago at TMS. I was very new to the profession. He was nothing but kind and professional to me. I have never forgotten him over the years. He once invited me to join him in riding on the train some summer, sorry I never took him up on this adventure! Peace and blessings to the family. Wayne Kindle

Wayne Kindle - November 21, 2023 at 10:57 PM

SP

“ Sending our condolences to the family! I remember when we first moved to wyoming, my kids were in 7th, 8th and 9th grade. You two welcomed us into your beautiful home and showed us your coke collection and gave us some old bottles of coke. And, I remember the cereal box of collection as well. He will be missed for sure! Hugs and prayers to all of you. The Shahinian family.

Shawn Puzzo - November 21, 2023 at 07:34 PM

MD

“ Rick was such a wonderful person. He was so good to our boys. He will be missed.

Mike and Linda Dawkins - November 21, 2023 at 07:09 PM

MD

“ Mike And Linda Dawkins lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Rick" Cotant



Mike and Linda Dawkins - November 21, 2023 at 07:03 PM

K(

“ Thoughts and prayers with his family 🙏



Kelly Coulimore (Ramsay) - November 21, 2023 at 06:24 PM

SM

“ You were always with a smile and amazing to all the students that graced your halls. Thank you for everything you did for all of us. You will be missed!



Sena McCoy - November 21, 2023 at 05:56 PM

MO

“ A heart of gold ..thanks for always seeing the good in the kids. You will be truly missed by many .RIP

marielena Ojeda - November 21, 2023 at 05:38 PM

ST

“ Sandy Thompson lit a candle in memory of Patrick Cotant



Sandy Thompson - November 21, 2023 at 02:58 PM

HH

“ What a beautiful soul you were. God truly shined through you in all the things that you did in this life, as a coach, mentor and friend to so many people. A true "Christ Like Person" Thank you for your love, I know you were welcomed home with a "Well done good and faithful servant!" Gods Speed Mr.Cotant.
With love, Hunter Hattan



Hunter Hattan - November 21, 2023 at 02:43 PM

DJ

A great teacher, coach and man! God gained another beautiful angel. My condolences to Marilyn and family.

Debbie John - November 21, 2023 at 08:02 PM

JA

Rick was a special person and a great educator!!! Condolences to the family. He will be deeply missed. RIP my friend! With Sympathy, Junior Alvarea

Junior Alvarez - November 22, 2023 at 03:29 PM

RS

I remember Rick from our days together at GHS, he was a good guy. While sad to see his passing, I was pleased to see that he led such a meaningful and productive life. RIP

Richard Sievers - November 24, 2023 at 12:42 PM

TB

So proud to say we were friends. As I read the tributes from all of the people Rick touched over the years, it is evident how his sacrifice to help others will always be remembered.

TIM BASTRON - November 27, 2023 at 04:06 PM

DH

I met this fantastic man only 2 years ago after hearing many plaudits of him. We reveled in sharing stories of hopping freights! He was an expert coach and excelled in working with kids, and also helping children and families in need. Rick Cotant left a towering legacy!

David Haines - November 29, 2023 at 02:31 PM