



## Verl Earl Petsch Jr.

November 11, 1941 - May 27, 2024

A celebration of life for VERL E. (BUSSIE) PETSCH JR, 82, will be held 1pm June 13, 2024, at the United Presbyterian Church in Torrington with Reverend Jeff Wayland officiating. Burial will follow in the Valley View Cemetery. Verl passed away on May 27, 2024, at Swedish Hospital in Denver, Colorado and cremation has taken place. Donations may be made in Verl's honor to the Torrington Volunteer Fire

Department or Eastern Wyoming College Nursing Program for scholarships. (Please make checks to the EWC Foundation/Nursing Scholarships.)

Arrangements are under the direction of the Colyer Funeral Home and condolences may be sent to [www.colyerfuneralhome.com](http://www.colyerfuneralhome.com)

Verl was born on November 11, 1941, at his grandmother's house in Gering, Nebraska, to Verl E. (Bus) Petsch and Grace McVay Petsch. Verl graduated from Morrill High School in 1960 and then attended the University of Wyoming where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Science and Physical Education.

While

attending the University, Verl married the love of his life, BonnieLou Lowry on June 5, 1965. The two welcomed their first son Wayne in November of 1965 and Verl began his teaching and coaching career at Bayard High School as an assistant football coach, assistant wrestling coach, and the head women's track coach. After three years in Bayard, they moved to Chadron so Verl could start working on his Master's Degree in Physical Education Administration.

During his time at Chadron State, Verl worked as a graduate assistant football

coach. After graduation from Chadron, Verl and Bonnie moved to Rock Springs, Wyoming to teach physical education and be an assistant football coach. In 1971, Verl and his family moved to Torrington, Wyoming where he started at Eastern Wyoming College (EWC) teaching physical education. In May of 1972 Verl and Bonnie welcomed their second son Lance. During Wayne and Lance's childhood, Verl coached them in Little League and Babe Ruth baseball. He was a dedicated and loving husband, and father who always attended as many of their functions as was possible. In 1974, Verl started the women's volleyball program at Eastern Wyoming College and a couple of years later started the women's basketball program. By 1979, he assumed the role of Athletic Director where he continued these programs until he retired from coaching, teaching, and athletic directing in 2014. It would be unfair to say that Verl and Bonnie did not have any daughters. Every year at the beginning of volleyball season the family gained 12 daughters who tormented and mercilessly picked on (in a good way) their sons. In his 40 years leading the EWC Women's Volleyball Program Verl established a career record of 1,085-699 (.608), placing him second in all-time career victories in National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Volleyball history. His teams won 6 NJCAA Region 9 championships, advanced to the NJCAA Volleyball Championship Tournament 7 times placing 5th in 1996, and 1998. The Team competed in 16 Region 9 title matches and won 13 Wyoming Community College Conference crowns. Verl coached 17 All-American players, 66 All-Region 9 players and 30 of his players earned NJCAA academic honors. During his career Verl was honored many times. The NJCAA named Verl Region 9 Volleyball Coach of the Year 6 times. The NJCAA inducted Verl into their Volleyball Hall of Fame in 1998. In 2002 the Wyoming Coaches Association named Verl to their Hall of Fame. Eastern Wyoming College named the Activity Center and Gymnasium in his honor in 2002. In 2014, for his work directing an athletic program exemplifying excellence both on the field/court and in the classroom, and service as the Region 9 Women's Director, the

NJCAA presented Verl their Loyalty Award. During retirement Verl and Bonnie enjoyed traveling. They took two cruises in Alaska and made many trips to Jackson Hole to visit Wayne and Sara and watch their grandson, Colton. They also spent as much time as possible at the family cabin at Laramie Peak, one of his favorite places.

Verl is survived by his wife Bonnie, sons Wayne (Sara), Lance (Aleighica) and grandson Colton, niece and nephew Karen and John Mueller of Portland Oregon and sister Jackie (Ron) Gallentine. He was preceded in death by his father

Verl Petsch Sr., stepmother Katie, mother Grace, stepfather Steve and sister Lois.

# Cemetery Details

## Valley View Cemetery

30th Avenue  
Torrington, WY 82240

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JUN 13. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (MT)

First Wyo United Presbyterian Church  
2972 Main Street  
Torrington, WY 82240

# Tribute Wall

LV

“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Coach's passing.  
Prayers to each of you.* ”



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**Linda Vosler** - June 11, 2024 at 08:35 PM

AC

“ *Angie Chavez lit a candle in memory of Verl  
Earl Petsch Jr.* ”



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**Angie Chavez** - June 09, 2024 at 05:45 PM

AC

“ *I am so sorry to learn of Verl's passing. His impact on his many  
players at EWC will long be evident. Soft spoken and humble, his  
ability to inspire the desire among his players to achieve excellence  
both on the court and in the classroom is a a profound legacy at  
EWC. Please accept my sincere condolences.  
Angie Babcock Chavez* ”

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**Angie Chavez** - June 09, 2024 at 05:44 PM

TL

“ Thomas L. purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Verl Earl Petsch Jr..



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Thomas L. - June 09, 2024 at 04:38 PM

AA

“ Amy Busch Altmaier lit a candle in memory of Verl Earl Petsch Jr.



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Amy Busch Altmaier - June 08, 2024 at 09:45 PM

KM

“ Kelly M. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Verl Earl Petsch Jr..

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Kelly M. - June 06, 2024 at 06:28 PM

KS

“ Verl was a pristine man; an excellent role model who's integrity was immersed into everything he did. I was honored to work under and with him as he was dedicated to develop and enhance EWC's athletic program. Best regards to Bonnie and family. Karl Salscheider (EWC's men's basketball coach, 1978-81)

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Karl Salscheider - June 06, 2024 at 12:36 PM

CM

“ Chris Miskimins lit a candle in memory of Verl Earl Petsch Jr.



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**Chris Miskimins** - June 05, 2024 at 05:44 PM

MS

“ Mary Sullivan lit a candle in memory of Verl Earl Petsch Jr.



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**Mary Sullivan** - June 05, 2024 at 01:37 PM

BP

“ Bonnie and Family - A life well lived ! A coach lives on for a long time in the memories of the many lives they touch, Verl will not be forgotten soon. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you all. I am so glad our youngest son, JT was able to meet him at dad's ceremony in Scottsbluff. JT was very excited to meet him. Buddy & Julie Petsch

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**Buddy Petsch** - June 05, 2024 at 01:05 PM

BB

“ Bonnie and Lance, I am so sorry that the man who built the EWC volleyball program into one of the finest in the country has left us. I am sure Verl is now teaching and coaching the angels in heaven. God Bless

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**billy bates** - June 05, 2024 at 11:41 AM

BB

“ *Billy Bates lit a candle in memory of Verl Earl Petsch Jr.*



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**billy bates** - June 05, 2024 at 11:34 AM

SD

“ *Sue Davis lit a candle in memory of Verl Petsch Jr.*



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**Sue Davis** - June 04, 2024 at 12:09 PM

NK

“ *Niece and Nephew John and Karen purchased the Rose Garden Heart for the family of Verl Earl Petsch Jr..*



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**Niece and Nephew John and Karen** - June 03, 2024 at 01:43 PM

NK

“ *Niece and Nephew John and Karen planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Verl Earl Petsch Jr..*

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**Niece and Nephew John and Karen** - June 03, 2024 at 01:43 PM

DH

“ Deanna Hill lit a candle in memory of Verl Earl Petsch Jr.



Deanna Hill - June 03, 2024 at 09:59 AM



“ Gayle Hascall lit a candle in memory of Verl Petsch Jr.



Gayle Hascall - June 02, 2024 at 09:39 PM

DH

“ DeeAnn Sims Hankins lit a candle in memory of Verl Petsch Jr.



DeeAnn Sims Hankins - June 02, 2024 at 08:29 PM

KE

“ Karin Eisenhauer lit a candle in memory of Verl Petsch Jr.



Karin Eisenhauer - June 02, 2024 at 05:22 PM

KE

“ Bonnie, Wayne, Lance and families,  
We were saddened to learn of the passing of Verl.  
What an amazing career he had through out his professional years.  
It has been our pleasure to have attended many of his coaching  
events.  
When Wayne and Lance were in school, Howard worked with them  
in the classroom and with Wayne in track. Years later, Wayne  
visited us at Horseshoe Creek actually coming down that steep dirt  
hill to say hello. What a joy for us. It all seems like yesterday.  
We will always hold Verl and your family in high regard.  
Unfortunately we will not be able to attend the services.  
We send our sincere condolences along with our love and prayers  
at this different time.  
Karin & Howard Eisenhauer

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**Karin Eisenhauer** - June 02, 2024 at 05:20 PM

ST

“ Sandy Thompson lit a candle in memory of  
Verl Petsch Jr.



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**Sandy Thompson** - May 31, 2024 at 02:38 PM

AC

I am so sorry to learn of Verl's passing. He was truly an icon at EWC.  
Soft spoken, humble...and able to inspire his team members to excel at  
the highest level both on the court and in the classroom. He has left an  
amazing legacy. Please accept my sincere condolences.  
Angie Babcock Chavez

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**Angie Chavez** - June 09, 2024 at 05:34 PM