



## William "Bill" Brunner

March 14, 1933 - July 28, 2019

Bill Brunner, 86, of Fayetteville, Arkansas, passed away Sunday, July 28, 2019, in Fayetteville. He was born March 14, 1933, in Chicago, Illinois, to William Brunner and Marie Potocnic Brunner.

Mr. Brunner was a retired educator. He was a high school teacher and coach in Crossett, Arkansas. In Fayetteville, he served as teacher and coach at Hillcrest Jr. High; teacher, coach, assistant principal, and the first principal to follow M.O. Ramay at Ramay Jr. High; and in 1972, he moved to Fayetteville High School, where he served as vice principal until his retirement. At FHS, Mr. Brunner was in charge of student discipline and activities. He also coached girls' track and was Voice of the Bulldogs for a number of years.

Bill played football at Bacone Junior College, then transferred to Arkansas Tech from which he graduated. He was drafted to play for the Green Bay Packers, but prior to joining the team, he was drafted into the United States Army where he served with the Signal Company Special in Fort Riley, Kansas. Bill was an active member and deacon of First Baptist Church of Fayetteville. Over the years, he was a sponsor of youth activities and most recently served as Sunday School Department Director for Young Married Adults.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Marvin, niece Cheryl, and nephew Charles.

Bill is survived by his wife Sue Carol Brunner, daughter Bonnie Wood and husband Windell of Fayetteville, two grandchildren, Ben Wood and wife Kimberly of Fayetteville, Morgan House and husband Evan of Fayetteville, and great-granddaughter Maisie Faye House. Great-grandson Wyatt Vincent Wood will arrive in October.

Two services will be held. A graveside service will be held Thursday, August 1st, 11:00am, at McFadden Cemetery in Dover, Arkansas, and the Celebration of Life service will be Saturday, August 10th, 1:00pm, at First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Arkansas, with Dr. Douglas Falknor officiating. The family will receive friends at 12:00 on Saturday before the

Celebration of Life service and also afterwards. All are welcome to attend either or both services.

Memorial contributions may be made to First Baptist Church, 20 East Dickson, Fayetteville, Arkansas, 72701; Fayetteville High School Athletics Hall of Greats, 915 West Clinton Drive, Fayetteville, Arkansas, 72701; or Butterfield Trail Village Foundation, 1923 East Joyce Blvd., Fayetteville, Arkansas, 72703.

# Cemetery

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## McFadden Cemetery

Dover, AR,

# Events

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**AUG** **Graveside Service** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

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McFadden Cemetery

Dover, AR, US

**AUG** **Celebration of Life** 01:00PM - 01:00PM

**10**

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First Baptist Church

20 E. Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR, US

# Comments

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“ An external video has been added.



**Nelson Berna Funeral Home** - August 12, 2019 at 10:22 AM

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“ Mr Brunner, always smiling giant of a man. I remember seeing him walk down the halls of FHS. Even though most scattered when they saw him coming down the hall (usually walked right before the class time bell) those he talked with will remember his gentle approach always placing his hand on your shoulder or I think his favorite, around the backside of your neck. You would quickly realize how big he was when his hand reached so far around your neck. Always gentle he would remind students to get to class.

Being small I remember seeing the football players scatter as he walked the hallways. I'm not sure but I think Mr Holt was principle but the one I remember most is Mr Brunner. I look forward to seeing you again one day. Rest In Peace.

**Brent Walker** - March 28 at 06:36 AM

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“ I was a member of the first 7th grade class at Ramay Junior High. Mr. Brunner had an impact on every student he came in contact with and I believe he knew each of us by name. He was a firm disciplinarian with a big heart and a great sense of humor. He was well respected and definitely impacted the lives of thousands of students throughout his career and many years of service to the Fayetteville School System and the community. He was one in a million!

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mrs. Brunner and Bonnie and family.

Marilyn Crouch Noland, class of 1972

**marilyn crouch noland** - August 07, 2019 at 11:45 PM

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“ Bill and I were golfing friends for many years. Before he retired we would (with a few others) meet up at the golf course around 3:30 or 4 pm on week days and play sometimes until daylight expired. After he retired he became a regular member of our retired group of golfers affectionately referred to as "Senior Day Care." I always admired Bill for his consistent friendliness and his positive attitude. His influence for good touched many of our lives over the years and you always felt like a better person for having been around him. He left a legacy of love and kindness that will last for many, many years. His faith in the Lord was always evident and I look forward to seeing him in heaven one of these days soon. Best wishes to his family. Glen Ludwick

**Glen Ludwick** - August 07, 2019 at 09:19 AM

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“ I have always loved and respected Mr. Brunner. He always had time for his students in and out of school. He was such an influence. He spent several Saturdays fishing with my brother on the pond at Razorback Golf Course in a small homemade boat! My prayers for the family. Depend on the Lord. May He put His loving arms around you and guide you through this time of grief. Mr. Brunner will be missed by many.

Susan Lancaster Lawrence

**Susan Lawrence** - August 06, 2019 at 05:12 PM

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“ Elizabeth West lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Brunner



**Elizabeth West** - August 04, 2019 at 02:36 AM

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“ Mr. Brunner always pushed my Yankees cap down. Unlike my brother, Richard, I never went to his office for any disciplinary issues. I wish his family all the best and they are in my thoughts.

Elizabeth West  
FHS class of 1981

Elizabeth West - August 04, 2019 at 02:33 AM

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“ Thank God for educators and humans like Bill Brunner chosen to work with young people. Such a strong, powerful, sensitive spirit. I appreciated his presence in my life more and more as life moved on. Mike Thomas  
FHS Class 1981

Michael Thomas - August 01, 2019 at 10:57 AM

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“ Mr. Brunner was in charge of discipline at FHS. I remember my first encounter with this legendary disciplinarian. His large hand grabbed the back of my neck while playing in the hallway. With my chin on my chest he explained the rules and sent me in my way. Enjoyed him as AP. Have always enjoyed our talks when we met at FHS ballgames. Prayers for the family.

Henry Childress - July 31, 2019 at 03:28 PM



“ Prayers to the Family

Valerie Blackburn - August 04, 2019 at 02:07 PM



“ Mr. Brunner was the principal at Ramay Jr. High when I went there, then he came to Fayetteville High East campus. He was always a fair man and he was in the right profession.

Donna Stewart Bolinger  
Class of 1974

Donna - August 07, 2019 at 03:53 PM

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“ I'll always remember him as being a kind and gentle man...Always had a smile...Condolences to his family and friends

Craig Wilson - July 31, 2019 at 02:52 PM

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“ Coach Brunner has been a coach , a friend , and someone that I will always love and respect!! He saw potential in me when I was young and has given me some great advice thru the years! He was involved in so many young people’s lives and he will never be forgotten!

**Sherman Brooks** - July 31, 2019 at 01:30 PM

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“ My heartfelt condolences to the entire Brunner family. Mr. Brunner was a giant of a man.

Kim Salsbury Pendergraft  
Class of 1974

**Kim Salsbury Pendergraft** - July 31, 2019 at 11:46 AM

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“ Bill nourished fledgling teachers (I was one) with kindness, humor, and respect. Not only did he make a huge impact on thousands of young people, but he also elevated a whole generation of teachers. My heartfelt condolences to Sue Carol and his whole family.

**Barbara Stripling** - July 31, 2019 at 07:52 AM

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“ Wonderful, wonderful man. I'm so sorry.



**Ron Townsend** - July 30, 2019 at 07:58 PM

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“ Coach Brunner was a one of a kind coach!! I always wanted to do my best at track for him. He always taught us to never give up on our relay team. Keep pushing. I've carried that thru my life. Big man kind heart. My sympathy goes out to coach Brunner(Sue) and daughter . Karen Adams graduate of FHS 1975.

**Karen Adams** - July 30, 2019 at 07:55 PM



“ Rest in peace.

**Connie milmore morris** - July 31, 2019 at 07:54 AM



“ Rest in peace from connie milmore class of 1974

**Connie milmore morris** - July 31, 2019 at 07:55 AM



“ Sue Carol and Bonnie i'm sorry about the loss of your husband and father. We planned to go to the services at Dover but misread the date. If at all possible will try to come to the services in Fayetteville. Prayers for the family and praise God for the comfort and peace that Bill is Home in heaven! Love y'all! Vicki and Kenneth Johnson

**Vicki Johnson** - August 03, 2019 at 09:28 AM

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“ Karen Adams lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Brunner



**Karen Adams** - July 30, 2019 at 07:47 PM



“ Lit a candle in memory of bill brunner

**Connie milmore morris** - July 31, 2019 at 07:56 AM

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“ Mr. Brunner would get me out of class an have me run errands in his van. Not only did I get out of class he made me feel like I was special and always thanked me for doing his errands. This was back in 1983-1985. Loved this guy! He was a big guy with a big heart!

**General Mills** - July 30, 2019 at 05:42 PM

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“ Mr. Brunner touched a lot of lives over the years in the Fayetteville school system and he did so with great dignity and class. I have never heard a bad word about him but have heard some funny stories. He will be missed. Prayers for the family and friends and RIP Mr. Brunner.

**Sheri Hardin** - July 30, 2019 at 03:35 PM

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“ "Let's All Go Nuts About Football" Mr. Brunner you were firm, fair and cared about all students. Thanks for being our V.P. Jason Watson - Class of 1981

**Jason Watson** - July 30, 2019 at 03:07 PM