



Danny Eaker

May 24, 1957 - May 18, 2012

On Friday, May 18, 2012, Danny Eaker of Roswell passed away in Gallup, NM. A Service will be held at 10am, Thursday, May 24, 2012 at Anderson Bethany Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Adam Soliz officiating. Danny will be laid to rest following the service at South Park Cemetery.

Danny Ray Eaker was born on May 24, 1957 in Kansas City, Missouri to Betty McHenry. Danny valued education. He graduated from Ft. Scott Community College, where he wrestled on scholarship. He received his Bachelor of Arts in History from Eastern New Mexico University and his Masters in Education Administration from Western New Mexico University. He was a history teacher at Tohatchi High School in the Navajo Nation. He taught at Valley View Elementary School where he touched the lives and hearts of many young people. He was the assistant principal at Mesa Middle School in Roswell and the principal at Edgewood Elementary.

Danny spent many of his years around the sport of wrestling. He took much pride in being an athlete. He was captain of his high school wrestling and cross country teams. His teammates became his brothers and some continued to be a part of his life throughout his life. He went to college to wrestle and to be able to coach wrestling. He coached at Tohatchi High, Roswell High, and Goddard High and assisted with the New Mexico Military Institute wrestling team where he catapulted programs and the lives of many young men. He worked tirelessly at helping people to find their strengths on the mat and in their lives.

As he moved into Administration in the Roswell Public Schools, he served as the Federal Programs Director before taking on his dream position of being the Roswell Schools Athletic Director. He spent much of his time at games, watching athletes and cheering them on. He took great pride in the Roswell teams. He took the time to know the athletes and the families. Danny held that position until his retirement in 2010. He accepted a position at the Navajo Nation Choosghai Community School as an Administrator for the past two years, where again he supported academics and athletes. He had much respect for the Navajo culture and felt at home with the community in Tohatchi, NM.

Danny grew up in Midway. He loved history and as a child dreamed of seeing the world. Through education and hard work, he afforded those travels. He and Sylvia traveled the world together. Even though he left this world without visiting the last two continents, Australia and Antarctica, he did visit the other five. They saw Stone Henge, Paris, Rome, Athens, and Seville. They stood in front of the Coliseum and the Parthenon, visited the Taj Mahal and the Great Wall of China. They visited every Mayan ruin in Mexico that was listed on a Map and explored Machu Pichu and the Inca Trail. They visited the Pyramids in Egypt. They were preparing for a trip to the Bahamas.

Danny loved adventure and he loved to read. He collected the classics and his library is a sanctuary for the many tales of the great authors. He could often be found telling his granddaughters stories of Dracula or Beowolf. Books and literacy brought great pleasure to his later years.

Five years ago, Danny discovered a house in ruins that he fell in love with. It became his passion project and he restored it with the perseverance, attention and grace that he took on all challenges in life. His legacy lives on through his granddaughters and the values he instilled. They will always value family, education, literature, travel, and live their lives with integrity and with the Grace of God as Danny did.

Those left to cherish Danny's memory are wife, Sylvia Eaker of Roswell; only daughter, Teresa Eaker-Gray and her husband, Andrew of Watrous, NM;

granddaughters, Alyssa and Alia Gray of Watrous, NM; sisters and brother-in-laws, Tina and Dale Shields of Middleton, OH and Shelly and Matt Martinez of Tularosa, NM; brother and sister-in-law, Kent and Margie Eaker of Alamogordo; step-father, Norman Eaker of Roswell; mother-in-law, Esther Acosta; and other life-long beloved family, Arturo, Alonzo and Rudy Acosta, Victoria Garcia, Norma Archuleta, Yolanda Fuentez, Velma Acosta, and Lorene Montoya.

Preceding Danny in death are mother, Betty McHenry, father-in-law, Emilio Acosta and brother-in-law, Felipe Acosta.

Serving as Pallbearers are Alonzo Acosta, Arturo Acosta, Rudy Acosta, Andy Gray, Kent Eaker, Mike Foster, Mike Thomas, and Raymond Webb.

Honorary Pallbearers will be Rusty Gray, Jammie Burrell, Jason Stephens, Hector Ramirez, Arturo Alfaro, Alvin Mack, Gary Olfield, Charlie Rodriquez, Keith Butler, Peter Polaski all of his beloved nephews, and his students and wrestlers who he had the pleasure of knowing and teaching.

Please take a moment to share your thoughts and memories in the online register book at andersonbethany.com. Arrangements are under the direction of Anderson Bethany Funeral Home and Crematory.

Tribute Wall



“ *Danny Eaker*

December 29, 2022 at 05:26 PM



“ *Sylvia, I only got to meet you once and you and Danny were so gracious to invite me into your home upon my surprise visit to see him back in 2007. I was just looking him up to make contact with him again, when I found out the sad news of his passing. I am so very sorry. Danny and I were friends and roommates at Fort Scott Community College. I have so many many fond memories of Danny and he painted such vivid pictures of Roswell and his years growing up there. When I came to visit, it was everything he said and more. My heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to you and your daughter. I knew from my short visit with you, that he loved you both very much.*

*Lyndon Jennings
Claremore, Oklahoma*

Lyndon Jennings - April 14, 2014 at 02:46 PM



“ *I pray for Danny's family and I know that God is preparing the way for us as well. God's Word tells us that we will have eternal life in heaven so with that in mind I know we will see our loved ones soon. God Bless you!*

Mary E. Maes - June 06, 2012 at 04:29 PM

DW

“ You were a great man who was always there to help and assist your fellow colleagues, coaches, and players. My condolences to the family.

Dawn Warick - June 01, 2012 at 10:00 AM

SV

“ SYLIVA IM SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS ILL KEEP YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IN OUR PRAYS..

sophia vale - May 31, 2012 at 11:34 PM

TG

“ Thank you all for your kind words. My mother and I find great peace in knowing that he touched the lives of so many. I was blessed every day of my life because he was my father. God bless you all and thank you, again.

Teresa Eaker Gray - May 30, 2012 at 06:39 PM

DW

Teresa and Syliva I'm so sorry for your loss. I loved and admired coach Eaker. I wish I could have been there to say my final respects

David Westall - July 06, 2020 at 01:23 AM

RK

“ What a beautiful legacy this wonderful man has left us; many cherished memories for all of us left behind. Robert and I feel our lives are so much richer for knowing him during our children's elementary years at Valley View.
May God continue to give his family strength to get through this very difficult time, and may they find comfort knowing he was loved and respected by so many.

Robert & Cheryl Kautz - May 30, 2012 at 02:35 PM

CO

“ You were my elementary teacher, my favorite teacher... I will miss you so much! You will never be forgotten!

Courtney - May 29, 2012 at 05:48 PM

DG

“ Sylvia and Teresa I am so sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you at this time of sorrow. Danny was a great man and a great coach and teacher. May god bless your family.

Dorothy garcia - May 26, 2012 at 10:47 PM

GF

“ My greatest sympathies go out to all those who Mr. Eaker influenced and his family. Coach was a part of many students' formable years, including mine. I wrestled while attending Valley View Elementary from second to fifth grade, with Mr. Eaker overseeing and motivating every step of the way. He was also my fourth grade teacher. I have many great memories of field trips to Lincoln and other places of interest with Mr. Eaker. He was always in the playground kicking a soccer ball for us students... landing the ball in the next county, or doing pull-ups on the monkey bars. Mr. Eaker left many lasting impressions on me that I have carried throughout my life, such as physical discipline and perseverance. His dedication to youth was so lasting I truly believe he left a part of his soul with all of us. You will be truly missed by all Coach and this is not the end of this life's wrestling match, only the beginning. God bless.

Greg Filer - May 25, 2012 at 10:47 PM

TJ

“ *Danny's Family*

Although I did not know you I knew Danny while he worked as Athletic Director at RISD. We got acquainted when we met to discuss soccer and Cielo Grande. For some reason we hit it off and became friends. Oh, what a guy, I loved his laugh and nature.

Please know others have fond memories of your Danny and we can cherish those forever.

Danny and all of his family and friends are in my thoughts and prayers. There will always be a warm spot in my heart for this wonderful man who I got to call a friend. Although only brief, I felt as though it was life-long.

With kind regards and deepest sympathy.

Respectfully, Tom Jennings

Tom Jennings - May 25, 2012 at 05:47 PM

GR

“ *Danny will surely be missed by one and all. He coached many kids in his life, including my son, Kerry Riley. He was a great role model for all the kids, especially in this age where there are so few good ones. He never displayed anger or animosity, he showed fairness, generosity, an ethical basis, leadership. Thank you Lord for blessing our lives with this man. Glenda Riley*

Glenda Riley - May 25, 2012 at 11:44 AM

BG

“*Danny Eaker was a man of respect, dignity, and honor. I had the privilege to serve with him as an assistant coach for Danny with Roswell Coyote wrestling for three years. What astonished me the most about him was his ability to work with others and his vision. He took a very defunct program and revitalized it through his ingenuity and ability to motivate. If anyone in Roswell has a wrestling medal, bracket, or trophy, believe it or not you owe a great deal of that success to Danny Eaker. He pioneered the youth program in Roswell, developed the Roswell Coyote program to one of distinction and honor, but more importantly he inspired many, including myself, to be a better person daily and to never settle for less than the very best you can offer. God bless Danny and his family.*”

Billy Gallagher - May 24, 2012 at 10:18 PM

LB

“*To the Eaker Family, Please accept my deepest condolences. I had Mr. Eaker as my teacher at Tohatchi High School many years ago. He was so active in student enrichment and sports, that many of us called him "daddy" Eaker. It makes me smile to remember the impact he had on our day to day education. He will truly be missed.*”

LaVerne Bitsie-Baldwin - May 24, 2012 at 03:31 PM

AG

“*To the Eaker Family, I am so sorry for your loss. Mr. Eaker was my 5th grade teacher at Valley View and is one of two of my teachers from that school that when I think about the good times in elementary will pop into my head. I wouldn't know how to multiply if it weren't for him. :) He was a loving and caring individual and I am privileged to have know him.*”

Angelica Gonzalez - May 24, 2012 at 02:02 PM

MT

“ I have been with the family in this time of loss and they would like me to let those who have posted that they appreciate everyone who sent their love and compassion. Danny was a man of achievements who set goals for himself and then pressed forward to achieve them. He taught his students the importance of an education and setting goals. He is dearly loved and will be forever missed. I have always been proud of my friend and have always loved him and I let him know it everytime I talked to him. I know one day I will see him again and we will take up where we left off....

Michael Thomas - May 24, 2012 at 09:25 AM

DB

“ Danny was an amazing person, so dedicated to his work and family. My thoughts and prayers to Teresa and Sylvia, he loved you two and would want you to stay strong and know how special you are. Many blessings to the family. Love and prayers, Denise and Dude Burrola

Denise Montoya Burrola - May 24, 2012 at 12:59 AM

MR

“ To The Eaker Family, I would like to express my deepest sympathy to you all for your loss. I am the Vice President for the Chooshgai PAC and would like to say that he will be missed greatly. I was fortunate to have him as my teacher in High School here at Tohatchi years ago and fortunate to work with him while he was the Vice Principal at Chooshgai Community School here in Tohatchi. He was an inspiration to all our children and always showed his support. I know he had a deep love for our kids. Many of our students were sadden of the news we received. Just know you are in our hearts and in our prayers. He will be missed greatly.

Matilda J. Roberts - May 24, 2012 at 12:44 AM

ST

“ To The Eaker Family,
Please know what an inspiration Danny was to so many, his legacy
will continue through the people he touched.
He was a great inspiration to our boys and will be greatly missed. It
is with heavy hearts we wish you our deepest sympathy.
The Tubbs Family

Stacey & Crystal Tubbs - May 23, 2012 at 07:04 PM

CB

“ Our deepest sympathies go out to Danny's family. He left a
wonderful legacy of caring & giving to all those he came in contact
with. It was our pleasure to know, work and be friends with him. We
pray God will wrap all of you in his loving arms.
Claude & Shirley Burba

Claude & Shirley Burba - May 23, 2012 at 06:51 PM

DC

“ Sylvia, Teresa and Family. I am truly saddened by Danny's death.
Danny was an amazing person that was always so kind, caring and
full of life. He always talked about his many travels and the love for
his family. I know that his passing will leave a void in the many
people who knew him.
May God shower you with Peace, Prayers and Blessings during this
difficult time.

Denise Cuellar - May 23, 2012 at 05:31 PM

CR

“ Danny was a lot of things to many people and will be missed tremendously. I don't know where to begin with the words to describe Danny and the impact he had on all those who had the pleasure to know him other than to say Danny always wished the best for everyone in every aspect of their lives and constantly providing positive and motivational words of encouragement to succeed. Danny, you are still here in all our hearts and thoughts always, Charlie Rodriquez

Charlie Rodriquez - May 23, 2012 at 01:12 PM

JD

“ To the Eaker family, I was so saddened to hear of Danny's passing. He was truly a kind soul. Sleep well, my friend.

Jeannie Davis - May 23, 2012 at 11:52 AM

JR

“ To all the family my heart goes out to you. Danny will be dearly missed by everyone who ever met or knew him. He will always be in our hearts. He will be missed dearly by all. God Bless You Danny.

Joe D Rodriquez - May 23, 2012 at 11:41 AM

MM

“ Danny was a special friend to us for the longest time. I cannot remember not knowing him. I was a freshman at RHS when Danny had just graduated and left behind some big wrestling shoes to be filled. Years later, after college, I came back to Roswell to work and raise a family. Coach Danny was working with the youth wrestling team and trained my boys. For the last 20 years since I moved back I have had the honor of calling on Danny when I needed a friend. I worked with him on some special projects and was able to help him decipher some medical questions he needed answered. He never complained about any of his challenges that were going on in his life. He always looked forward....never back, except to smile. I am going to miss a great friend. There is not going to be anyone able to fill that void. I was glad to hear of his travels and of his accomplishments. I know he would tell any kid that he came across to get educated, it's your ticket to the world. Thanks Danny, see you on the other side. M2

Mag & Viola Martinez - May 23, 2012 at 11:16 AM

AH

“ Mr. Eaker was my 4th grade teacher as well as the assistant principal at Mesa when I attended. He was an amazing mentor who showed true passion in teaching and a love for what he did. I thank him with my whole heart for everything he did for me. I still hold on to the memories of all the great things he taught me and of his kindness... God bless...

Amanda Rae Hickman - May 23, 2012 at 10:13 AM

MF

“ Sylvia, Theresa and Family, Our hearts are broken today. I wish that there were words to say how sorry we are for the loss of Danny. We will never forget him and he will forever have a place in our hearts and memories. Love you all, Alvin, Brenda, Dominic, Mariah, and Jasmine

Macks Family - May 23, 2012 at 12:39 AM

JM

“ May God bless the family of Danny. He was an inspiration to the students of Edgewood Elementary School. His love for classic cars was a means of encouraging high risk students to achieve. He would bring his classics to school at the end of the year so they could experience a "cruise". As a principal, he united his teachers to better the standards of the school and the students. He made training in the best programs available a priority for his teachers. He was a man of great ambitions and goals for others and himself. His students and staff will not forget his approach to life aspirations. Rest in Peace Danny.

Janie Mendoza - May 22, 2012 at 11:53 PM

AH

“ I will truly miss Coach. The greatest man I ever got to know. He saw the good in all and didn't ever judge. I thank God for his with us.

Albert Hernandez - May 22, 2012 at 10:48 PM

DH

“ I was so saddened to hear of Danny's passing. Everyone that had the honor of knowing Danny, was touched by him. When he talked of his granddaughters, he would just glow. My thoughts and prayers are with you all in this difficult time. Dana Howse

Dana Howse - May 22, 2012 at 08:59 PM

JR

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you. Danny will always be remembered by me as the person who led me on the path to success.*

Jeremy Rottman - May 22, 2012 at 06:27 PM

DD

“ *Teresa your dad was a good person & friend. God needed a special angel in heaven. Gog bless you & your mom . My prayers are with you*

Dan Duarte - May 22, 2012 at 05:13 PM

BM

“ *Danny, you will be sorely missed. I'll always remember Danny's cheerfulness and beautiful smile. May Danny's family be comforted and treasure their memories of Danny.*

Brenda Miller - May 22, 2012 at 03:53 PM

KS

“ *To the Eaker family. I am so sorry to hear of your loss. May God comfort you and bring you peace in the days to come. RIP Danny.*

Kathy Melancon Sudduth - May 22, 2012 at 03:19 PM

CL

“ *Sylvia, Teresa & Family Words cannot express our heartfelt sympathy for your loss. Danny was an awesome person! He showed such dedication to the students, athletes and parents. We felt a great loss for his retirement, this even more so. Please know you are in our prayers.*

Cecelia & Jeremy Leaton - May 22, 2012 at 02:32 PM

BF

“ *Enjoyed working with Danny during his tenure with the RISD. He will be missed by many former employees, students and friends. Condolences to the family,*

Bill Glen Family - May 22, 2012 at 01:25 PM

DS

“ *Danny greeted everyone with a warm smile that would reach from ear to ear. He will be truly blessed. May god bless his family at this time.*

Dawn Scott - May 22, 2012 at 12:53 PM

RR

“ *Coach was a greatest man that I ever had meet in my life and you will be deeply missed.*

Ramsey Rottman - May 22, 2012 at 12:51 PM

JT

“ *My husband was lucky to call Danny his best friend. They wrestled together in high school and I have been blessed to hear stories of all their good times together. Danny was like a brother to Michael, I am grateful they were able to spend one last Easter together. There is nothing I can say that will ease this pain, but cherish the great memories and rejoice in the fact that Danny is in heaven. My prayers are with your family and may God bless you in this difficult time.*

Julie - Michael Thomas - May 22, 2012 at 12:39 PM

GR

“ We could never thank him enough for all he did for my boys as a coach. Our boys to this day look up to Danny with love & respect. He may be gone but the memories will live on.

Condolences to the family

The Rottman Family

GA & Jiny Rottman - May 22, 2012 at 11:53 AM

ME

“ Sylvia and Terry, I am so sorry to hear about Danny. I really enjoyed being able to work with him at Edgewood and getting to know him as a person. He will definitely be remembered for his shining personality and wonderful smile. My thoughts and prayers are with your family. Love, Mary V. Espinoza

Mary V. Espinoza - May 22, 2012 at 12:29 AM

DW

“ Dan Eaker was a good man and great coach. He cared about all the young athletes that he took under his wing. He hauled me all around the state going to every wrestling tournament in that old VW bug he had. He was an out standing coach and mentor to me. I know he will be missed by all the people around him. I could never say thank you enough for all the things he did for me My deepest sympathies and condolences go out to his family. I know Teresa and syliva will miss him.

David Westall - May 22, 2012 at 12:20 AM

CF

“ Please know our loving thoughts embrace you. I wish I knew what to say to make things better but sometimes words just aren't enough.

May it bring you solace to know how many lives have been deeply touched by coach Eaker.

Our thoughts are with you and the family.

Charles & Jo Ann Foster/ Michael & Tara Foster - May 21, 2012 at 11:33 PM

LS

“ The Eaker Family,

He was the Best ! I will miss his smile. And His words of wisdom.

Thank you for Being an Who you were., and being a part of My girls lives while they were in school.

Thoughts & Prayers go to your family.

Lisa Shipman&Family - May 21, 2012 at 11:26 PM

JT

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. Danny was a wonderful, caring person.

Joan, Brittany, and Danica Tempero - May 21, 2012 at 09:17 PM

SA

“ To the family of Danny, he was loved by many, and will be missed by all who knew him, God truly only takes the best. My sincere condolences to danny's family. sincerely Susie Adams.

susie adams - May 21, 2012 at 08:18 PM

CH

“ We will miss you coach watch over us ok !!!

chad - May 21, 2012 at 05:28 PM