



## Dennis Douglas Sissom

October 19, 1942 - January 2, 2015

Sissom, Dennis D., January 2, 2015, age 72, of Bellflower MO and (formerly) Hazelwood MO. Survived by loving wife Lana (nee Hogan), Beloved father of Kirk (Tamara), Scott and Todd. Beloved grandfather of Gabriel & Benjamin. Beloved brother of Judy Cox(Jimmy), Donna Frost (Larry) and Mark (Melinda). Long time teacher and track & field coach at Normandy HS and Hazelwood West HS. Assistant superintendent Hazelwood School District. Missouri Track & Field Cross-Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame member (1997). 1964 Graduate of Northeast Missouri State Teachers College (Truman State) Four year letterman on football and track & field teams and Truman State athletic Hall of Fame member. An avid outdoorsman, adventurer and hunter. A long time member of Destiny Church of St. Louis.

Visitation and Funeral service will be held at Destiny Church of St Louis, 809 Des Peres Road, St. Louis, MO 63131.

The Visitation will be Wednesday January 7 from 4 to 8. The funeral service will start at 10 am Thursday, January 8

In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate donations to Destiny Church Missions.

# Cemetery Details

## Laurel Hill Memorial Gardens

2000 N. Pennsylvania Ace.  
St. Louis, MO

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 7. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Destiny Church of St. Louis  
1809 Des Peres Road  
Des Peres, MO 63131

## Funeral Services

JAN 8. 10:00 AM (CT)

Destiny Church of St. Louis  
1809 Des Peres Road  
Des Peres, MO 63131

# Tribute Wall



“ My condolences go out to all of coach Sissom's family. The last time I saw him was at a Rams game about 10 years ago and it was like we'd only been apart for 1 day and it had been 17 years. He was so much fun, always giving me trouble over teenage crushes etc. He also gave me great advice that changed my life for the better. I will be glad to see him again one day when he can give me trouble again. God bless those who loved him.

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**Rachael Krug Perry** - February 05, 2015 at 02:35 AM



“ The last time I saw Denny occurred during a reading workshop I led at Hazelwood Central High during the mid-nineties. There were about a hundred teachers in the room and Denny poked his head in, crooked a finger at me, and interrupted, "Holmes, I thought that was you. Come in and see me when you get a break." I began teaching at Normandy, our alma mater, in fall 1972. By that time Denny already established his reputation and was building a dynasty in track for the decade of the seventies. As coaches, we respected each other immediately. As competitors, I learned to admire his ferocity and will to win. We worked out, sweated and played together often. He always brought a smile and an observation. He found many ways to lead and develop young men. When I had a break, he ushered me in to his Assistant Superintendent office. It was a far cry from the basement locker room used by the coaches in Normandy's now vanished Big Gym. He told me, he recognized a familiar voice and came to find me. We enjoyed each other's company as if we had only been absent for a weekend rather than a couple of decades. Dennis Sissom knew what it took to build champions. Dennis Sissom was a champion. Jason Holmes

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**Jason Holmes** - January 20, 2015 at 10:47 PM

SW

“ I remember well when Dennis was born, and he was a cutie for sure. Doug and Laura and Dennis spent a lot of time at our house and of course we at theirs. I was the oldest of the bunch and Dennis and my sister Diane were raised together. We all went to church together, ate together, socialized and more. What a happy life it was back in Pagedale, Mo. I kept track of Dennis for many years up and until he married his sweetheart Lana, who I also knew most of her life. Of course I knew his grandparents and Lana's family as well. It saddens me to know that he has left us , but just for a short time. I will be happy to rejoice in heaven with him and all of God's family.

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**Sharon Stilwell Wachter** - January 14, 2015 at 11:33 AM

CW

“ Lana, Kirk, Scott and Todd - my heart goes out to you during this time. The funeral was beautiful with the photos, and Kelly's songs, Mark and Kirk's sharing, as well as the others. Seeing the pictures brought Dennis into a new light. I only remember him from church and remembering him tell of his adventures into Canada. But seeing pictures of his school years and knowing he was instrumental in reaching so many for Christ was amazing. You young men had a very unique father who touched so many lives. I am sorry I was unable to reach out personally with my condolences, but know that my prayers and thoughts are with you. I know he is still going wild over all the wonderous landscape in heaven.

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**Carla Weatherford** - January 08, 2015 at 02:16 PM

LS

“ Where do I begin? According to my sisters and all my cousins. Uncle Dennis was our ' favorite' uncle. Growing up he lived across our grandparents house. One visit was always two since they were so close. Uncle Dennis used to throw coins in the pool for us kids to dive down and get. I did my first camping, hiking and fishing at his farm. And even got in my first car accident with a golf Cart a home trailer and my sister as the passenger. No one memory sticks out because there are so many. Certs breath mints will always trigger the memory of him standing behind us at church and jaguar cars will always be my favorite! I will always miss and love my uncle Dennis. Making me laugh n smile until the very end

lauren sissom - January 08, 2015 at 11:20 AM

MR

“ It saddens me greatly to hear of Dennis passing... I was fortunate to become aquainted with him through my best friend in college, his brother Mark. What an inspiration he was. His congratulations and words were motivation. His stories of the "old days" at Northeast captured my attention. His Passion, his Zest for life, and love of the outdoors, are certainly still alive in his three sons. My condolences, thoughts and prayers are with my friends Mark, Scott and Todd and the rest of the Sissom Family.....Mike Riley

Mike Riley - January 07, 2015 at 03:08 PM



“ Fields of Europe was purchased for the family of Dennis Douglas Sissom.



January 07, 2015 at 01:49 PM

TD

“ *Thuong Doan purchased the Silver Season Bouquet for the family of Dennis Douglas Sissom.*



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**Thuong Doan** - January 07, 2015 at 12:26 PM

TD

“ *May God help you in this difficult time. Our blessings and prayers are always with you. Tess Doan, Trish Tran and Kristina Tran!!!*

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**Tess Doan** - January 07, 2015 at 12:10 PM

JD

“ *I was shocked to hear about Dennis' passing. We would get together yearly at Comer's golf outing and I had no idea he had cancers. Dennis would always talk about his trips to Alaska to see Ed Schlieff and do some hunting. I will miss our yearly contacts. Jim Dattilo*



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**Jim Dattilo** - January 07, 2015 at 11:14 AM

JC

“ Denny and I were Normandy Football teammates and we both played offense and defense ends. We have grown to love the Sissoms and have shared many memories. We share a love of sports, the great outdoors, family, snow skiing and faith. Denny introduced us to snow skiing in Colorado and we sponsored the McCluer North ski club and made many trips to Winter Park under Denny's leadership. Many years ago Denny invited Kay and I to join him in a bible study at his church. The study was from September to May and at the end we were baptized together with Denny. It's been said that a coach influences more lives in a year than most people do in a life time. Certainly Denny had a profound effect in the lives of those he taught and coached. I look forward to spending eternity with Denny but will miss him greatly for a while, till we meet again. May the Good Lord shed his comfort and peace on all the Sissoms.  
Love,  
Jim and Kay Christian

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**Jim Christian** - January 07, 2015 at 01:12 AM

RS

“ I am saddened to learn of the untimely death of my cousin Dennis, you will be missed by many. Our sincere condolences to his family and friends. God Bless my friend.

*Randy & Kay Sissom*

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**Randy Sissom** - January 06, 2015 at 08:19 PM

PL

“ Coach Sissom is one of the few teachers you always remember. I was very fortunate to be called friend by him when he found out I was marrying Kathy Fowler class of '73. His assessment of Kathy was spot on! Godspeed Coach! Pat Lawton class of '71

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**pat lawton** - January 06, 2015 at 08:00 PM

BR

“ I have known Dennis ever since the early sixties when I was one of his football coaches at NNSU. Through the years, I often visited with Dennis whenever his travels took him to Kirksville. For the last many years, I spent one weekend each June with Dennis at the Comer Annual Golf Outing where Dennis would corner me and tell me of his many sojourns to Alaska with a former teammate and mutual friend, Ed Schlieff.

*Along with many of his Bulldog teammates, I always considered Dennis a friend. A friend is someone who reaches for your hand but touches your heart. Most people come into your life and quietly fade away. Dennis left footprints on our hearts that will always be with us.*

*His exuberance for life, his love for family and friends, his passion for teaching and the outdoors leave an eternal impression. Those who knew Dennis well and those who loved him will miss him dearly, and that is a pretty good legacy to have.*

*Bill Richerson*

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**Bill Richerson** - January 06, 2015 at 03:31 PM

GL

“ I got Dennis as a family member because he was lucky enough to get Lana as a wife! My mother and Lana's mother were sisters. Therefore, Dennis was my cousin-in-law, but so much more than that! What a character! What a memorable person! He was generous, funny, hungry to know God as a good and kind Heavenly Father, and very intent on being a man of God. He marvelled at miracles, knew his life and his grandsons were miracles, and loved to hear the testimonies of how God was working in people's lives. He liked me. He loved my husband and sons, and wanted them to enjoy turkey hunting on his farm anytime. He was a man's man. Men things were important things, but he had that crazy, soft-hearted side that he showed to some. I enjoyed that side of him. I sorrowed to hear of the diagnosis, but I rejoice now to hear his journey is complete and now he sees his Heavenly Father as he really is...loving, faithful, kind, true and enjoying the Dennis He created. I'm sure Dennis is enjoying Our Father, too! We love you Lana, Kirk and Tamara, Scott, Todd, and miracle boys.

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**Gaye Lisby** - January 06, 2015 at 01:08 PM

GL

“ Gaye Lisby purchased the *Eternal Memories* for the family of Dennis Douglas Sissom.



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**Gaye Lisby** - January 06, 2015 at 12:53 PM

BW

“ I have lost one of my very best friends, a teammate at Kirksville and a hunting companion from our college days. On a hunting trip to Colorado he taught me the art of bowhunting which has stayed with me throughout my hunting days here in Colorado. During our football and track days we lived in the old veterans apartments with our spouse's and became close friends with Lana and Denny. Even though our visits were few over the years, we remained close friends and Denny bow hunted on our property in Arkansas a year ago. We will miss Denny and our prayers are with Lana and their families..

*Bryan and Sue Waterman*

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**Bryan and Sue Waterman** - January 06, 2015 at 12:10 PM

MS

“ *Mai, Motoko, Ayano, DeShourn, Mariko T, Mariko S purchased the Cherished Memories - All White for the family of Dennis Douglas Sissom.*



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**Mai, Motoko, Ayano, DeShourn, Mariko T, Mariko S** - January 06, 2015 at 05:33 AM

JG

“ *It was my great privilege to teach with Denny from 1967 until he left Normandy. We had great times together--he had a great sense of humor-- and he had me help run track meets. My oldest and his youngest sons were classmates at Hazelwood West. My condolences to the family, and rest in peace,Denny*  
*Jim Grace*

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**James W. Grace** - January 06, 2015 at 12:40 AM

“ Dennis and I first met as 18 year olds in 1960 when we both made the Kirksville State Teachers College (now Truman University) varsity football team. We both lettered during our four years and had the distinction of playing in the only “double header” football game college history....and the last college team to wear leather helmets. As the team punter, I once saw him kick into a very strong head wind, only to have the ball be blown back, which he caught! Dennis also lettered on the track team, throwing the shot, discus and javelin. He could even run hurdles. Dennis was the best all-around athlete that I ever met in my life. He was inducted into the Truman University Hall of Fame in 1989. I once saw him walk the length of a basketball court...on his hands! One time he wrestled a guy who was the team bully (and would later become a heavyweight champion of the world) into submission.... within a minute. Early in these years we developed a “sophomoric” sense of humor towards each other that we kept for the rest of our lives. Also in those early days, Dennis was one of the first archery hunters (now called bowhunter) that I ever knew and was totally responsible for infecting me with the lifelong affliction.

After I moved to Alaska, Dennis made many trips with me bowhunting for moose, caribou and bears and fishing for halibut and salmon. However, our most memorable trip was the nights we spent on a remote coastal beach and where “bothered” by Nanushka, the local ...Bigfoot. Dennis loved to relate that story... sitting around an outdoor campfire... at night.

Once Dennis bought the farm, his life changed, as if it couldn't get any better. Not only was he a great husband and father, he was very good at many things in his life but absolutely loved being a farmer...and all the hard work that it involved. Dennis was my very best and dearest friend who I'm going to miss very much.

Ed Schlieff

**Ed Schlieff** - January 05, 2015 at 10:30 PM

RC

“ *Robert Camp sent a virtual gift in memory of Dennis Douglas Sissom*



**Robert Camp** - January 05, 2015 at 08:27 PM

RC

“ *Dennis and I became friends within an hour of our first meeting on the parking lot of Normandy High School. He was surrounded alone by a group of outside racist rioters intent on attacking him but didn't have the guts but were getting closer. I looked out of my third floor classroom saw him and decided to join him. We were the only two teachers present. Needless to say we survived, that was an experience we never forgot. Later I met his wonderful family. My family and I went to church with them once. We kept our friendship alive for many years.. In early December, 2014 he called me saying, "If we never see each other again we'll always be friends" had an extended conversation. This opening remark was what I had said to him when he left Normandy to eventually become an Asst. Supt. of Schools in Hazelwood.. Then he continued saying that he had decided to fight the disease with God and his son's help and every bit of guts he ever had. ..and he did. He will always be my friend and a hero who helped thousands of kids be better human beings. My love to Lana ,her sons, and their fine families We were blessed to have known him. ...a life well lived and shared. Sally and I had hoped to make it to the Wake to honor his life with his family..but we don't want to leave all with the gift of flu...a minor epidemic in Carbondale IL  
Love to all, Bob Camp*

**Robert Camp** - January 05, 2015 at 08:22 PM

TF

“ *The McArdle Family lit a candle in memory of Dennis Douglas Sissom*



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**The McArdle Family** - January 05, 2015 at 07:56 PM

DC

“ *I met Dennis 71 years ago. Went to same church, High School same neighborhood. Hung out all the time. Dennis was my "BIG BROTHER". He was always protective. I will never forget the great times we had together. I will really miss you Dennis. Say Hello to your mom and dad in Heaven.*

*Dave Chitty  
Tampa, FL*

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**Dave Chitty** - January 05, 2015 at 02:23 PM

RC

“ *To family of Dennis Sissom, our deepest sympathy to all of you. Dennis will sure be missed by many. We have lots of good school memories at Normandy, and reunions. Our prayers are with you. Sincerely, Ruth Cutright and Family*

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**Ruth Cutright** - January 05, 2015 at 10:28 AM

BC

“ *Our thoughts and prayers from Bob and Toni Corno. Thinking of so many fond memories of days in Kirksville in the 60s. So long ago. Rest in Peace Denny.*

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**Bob Corno** - January 05, 2015 at 09:11 AM

CA

“ 1 file added to the album Rodhouse farm, May 2014



Chris Alford - January 05, 2015 at 07:09 AM

ES

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Ed Schlieff - January 05, 2015 at 12:49 AM

ES

*The caption of the above picture should read...."Ed,.... tell me again about how much fun we are having".*

Ed Schlieff - January 05, 2015 at 12:56 AM

ES

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Ed Schlieff - January 04, 2015 at 11:58 PM

ES

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Ed Schlieff** - January 04, 2015 at 11:49 PM

ES

*Dennis & Lana during the 1st year on the Sissom Farm.*

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**Ed Schlieff** - January 04, 2015 at 11:50 PM

ES

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Ed Schlieff** - January 04, 2015 at 11:43 PM

ES

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Ed Schlieff** - January 04, 2015 at 11:30 PM

ES

“ Denny and I attended Normandy High School - he was class of 1960; I was 1962.

*Years after graduation, we met again. I was President of Hazelwood School District's PTA Council and I wanted each high school's mascot to participate in our Million-Dollar Scholarship Celebration.*

*At Hazelwood Central we had the Hawk, Hazelwood West had the Wildcat - Hazelwood East was known as the Spartans, however, they did not have a student or costume to represent them.*

*Being Greek and my Grandfather came from Sparta, Greece, I called Denny and gave him a lot of trouble about it and teased him because he had a "bigger-then-life" knight in shining armor standing in his office!*

*We both agreed it was too heavy to consider forcing a student (even a student on detention) to wear; so he helped me convince the building principal to pay for a helmet that I offered to buy when we went to Greece that year and we came up with a toga in burgundy and gold; that year we had three high school mascots participate- it was great.*

*Like Denny and Lana, we had three sons and throughout the years we kept each other in our prayers.*

*I shall forever fondly remember Denny and thank Lana for being such a sport and sharing him with me all these years.*

*May his memory be eternal.*

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**Elaine Petrides Scott** - January 04, 2015 at 09:31 PM

LC

“ *Such a sweetheart! I remember when he was my Phys Ed teacher at New Life. Plus he just always had the right thing to say.*

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**liz pruit christman** - January 04, 2015 at 07:58 PM

ES

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



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**Ed Schlieff** - January 04, 2015 at 05:11 PM

ES

*Number 86 - Forever*

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**Elaine Petrides Scott** - January 04, 2015 at 09:32 PM

CS

“ *I USED TO GO SKIING WITH DENNYS GROUP. THE LONG BUS RIDE OUT TO COLORADO, BUT THE GREAT EXCITEMENT TO GET THERE. MY SISTER AND I WENT TO NORMANDY. RIP DENNY CONNIE HANASAKI*

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**CONNIE SHOEMAKER** - January 04, 2015 at 04:55 PM

ES

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



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**Ed Schlieff** - January 04, 2015 at 03:35 PM

TS

“ Terry and Nancy Salfen purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Dennis Douglas Sissom.



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**Terry and Nancy Salfen** - January 04, 2015 at 12:38 PM

JG

“ Lana and Boys, Thinking of you and your family and memories of Dennis from Kirksville. Jerry and Linda Germain.

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**Jerry and Linda Germain** - January 04, 2015 at 10:40 AM

TF

“ The McGhee Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Dennis Douglas Sissom



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**The McGhee Family** - January 04, 2015 at 02:20 AM

ES

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



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**Ed Schlieff** - January 03, 2015 at 09:35 PM

ES

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Ed Schliet** - January 03, 2015 at 09:34 PM

ES

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Ed Schliet** - January 03, 2015 at 09:18 PM

ES

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Ed Schliet** - January 03, 2015 at 08:57 PM

ES

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Ed Schlief - January 03, 2015 at 08:36 PM

JU

*Really cool pic of what looks like a peaceful place. Thanks for sharing so many great pics of my uncle!*

julie - January 04, 2015 at 10:15 PM

RW

*The above picture is ALMOST the right pic for Coach Dennis---- I think that the "Captain" would just just peacefully be "sailing away" in the boat behind him, like the True VIKING that he was! Good Sailing 'Coach' and the winds will be behind you all the way to the 'pearly gates'!*

Rich Westrich - January 08, 2015 at 10:56 PM

ES

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Ed Schlief - January 03, 2015 at 08:30 PM

ES

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Ed Schlief - January 03, 2015 at 08:28 PM

ES

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Ed Schlief - January 03, 2015 at 08:22 PM

ES

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Ed Schlief - January 03, 2015 at 08:15 PM

KS

“ *Ken McGhee And Archway Staff lit a candle in memory of Dennis Douglas Sissom*



Ken McGhee and Archway Staff - January 03, 2015 at 12:25 PM