

Vernon Victor Dietz

September 15, 1933 - February 21, 2025

Vernon Victor Dietz, 91, passed away peacefully at his home on Feb 21, 2025.

Born in Quincy, Mo on Sept 15, 1933, Vernon was raised and worked on the family farm until moving to the Amourdale area of Kansas City, KS in 1947. At the age of 16, he joined the Kansas National Guard, serving in Company F, 137th Infantry for 2 years. The day after he completed his service, Vernon joined the US Air Force and served during the Korean Conflict from 1951-1953. He then completed his service to his country in the Air Force Reserves (inactive) after the war ended, receiving his third Honorable Discharge in Nov, 1958.

Coach Dietz was a successful and popular football and baseball coach for many years, leading his teams to numerous championships and more important, leading boys to become men. He was a beloved mentor, a 2nd or only father figure, and teacher to many kids and young adults who crossed his path.

Vern was employed for over 30 years at Colgate-Palmolive in Kansas City, KS, where he was elected President of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Union local 5-114. For more than 16 years, Vern proudly represented the workers at Colgate. In 1985, he was elected to lead the OCAW

International Union in a labor alliance formed with US and Canadian workers.

Together with his beloved wife, Louise, Vern retired in 1991. A few years later, they started Dietz Thoroughbred Racing & OCI Ranch in Linwood County, and for many years, enjoyed traveling, training & racing horses whenever they weren't busy with their family or spoiling grandkids at the ranch or at home.

Vernon was preceded in death by his parents, Alta Fay (Relaford) and Marshall Mann Dietz, his wife, Helen L. Dietz, son Marshall R. Dietz (Sarah), grandson, Christopher Grinstead, infant sister Veda Marie Dietz, sister Leta Shaumeyer, and brother, Leonard Dietz. Dad was recently preceded in death by our mom and the love of his life, Edith "Louise" Dietz, to whom he was married for 52 years and together raised a beautiful blended family of 9.

Vernon is survived by his sons, Victor Dietz (Camdenton, Mo), Greg Holmes (Shelly), Basehor KS, Daughters, Barbara Dietz-Ray and Caren Nagy, both of KCK, and Carol Porras and Teresa Grinstead (Bob) of Hurst TX, his sister, Ruth Bakarich of Edwardsville, KS, and dozens of nieces & nephews, including his beloved Bakarich, Day, and Carroll kids.

Papa will be missed deeply by his grandchildren, Erica Nagy, Jessie Knight, Heather Dietz, Bridget Dietz, Erin Nitz, Lauren Bennett, Max Ray, Taylor Porras, Lucy Dietz, Tommie Hester, Jake Nagy, Hannah Bacon-Dietz, Carlie Holmes, and Natalie Holmes, as well as his 9 great-grandchildren, Damien Griswold, Mackenzie Bennett, Michael Bennett, Kylie Dietz, Taygen Hester, Tommie Hester, Traycen Porras, Stella Knight, and Bailey Knight.

Our dad lived a life built on love, laughter, & leadership. And he lived it well. His legacy will live on in our family through our memories, but also through the memories of the many lives he touched and families he lifted.

Visitation is Friday, Mar 14th 9am-10am & the Celebration of Vernon's Life is from 10-11am at Maple Hill Funeral Home, 3300 Shawnee Dr, KCK 66106.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in dad's memory to the Kansas Special Olympics or your local youth sports league.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

MAR 14. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Maple Hill Funeral Home
3300 Shawnee Dr
Kansas City, KS 66106
(913) 831-3345
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com
<https://maplehillfuneralhome.com>

Memorial Service

MAR 14. 10:00 AM (CT)

Maple Hill Funeral Home
3300 Shawnee Dr
Kansas City, KS 66106
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Tribute Wall



“ *Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery created a Tribute Video in memory of Vernon Victor Dietz*



Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery - March 12, 2025 at 11:45 AM

DC

“ *Diamond Contractors purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Vernon Victor Dietz.*



Diamond Contractors - March 13, 2025 at 04:17 PM

JK

“ *So many! When I was young and being naughty! Granny would say she was going to get me with the yard stick and I would run and sit on papa and he said that when you sit on papa no one can spank you.*
During high school and college I would always go to granny and papas house to watch KU basketball!
As I got older and had my own kids- he was the best great grandpa ever! He taught my girls their numbers by having them play solitaire.
They would sit in his lap and play on his computer.
When we would visit we would always bring him donuts or McDonald's!

Jessie Knight - March 13, 2025 at 08:03 AM

TK

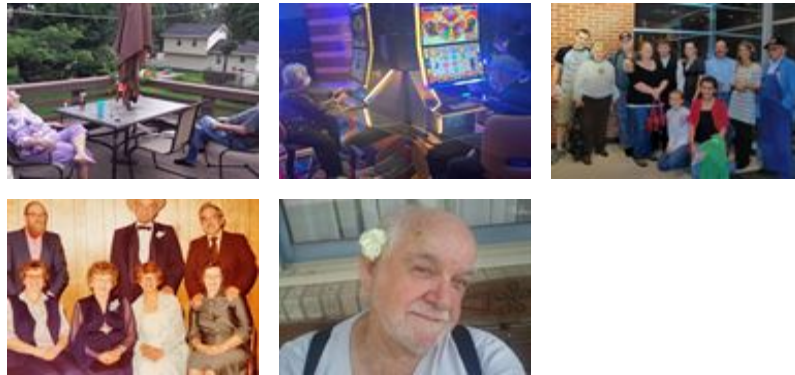
“ Ted and Vickie Knight purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Vernon Victor Dietz.



Ted and Vickie Knight - March 13, 2025 at 07:55 AM



“ 134 files added to the album LifeTributes



Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery - March 12, 2025 at 11:38 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Vernon Victor Dietz.



March 11, 2025 at 02:19 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Vernon Victor Dietz.

March 11, 2025 at 02:19 AM

YF

“ *Your PNC Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Vernon Victor Dietz.*



Your PNC Family - March 10, 2025 at 02:30 PM



“ *When I first moved into the Turner School District, I was in 6th grade. Holmes lived next door, and Dietz lived about a block away. We used to play football together and often Vernon was there to watch and give pointers. I remember him as always cracking jokes and making me (everyone) laugh. I wished we could have stayed around there instead of moving in my senior year, as by then they were our neighbors. I miss them days, but so glad I still have the memories to fall back on for today. He will surely be missed...*

Craig Rothlisberger - March 06, 2025 at 12:11 AM

DG

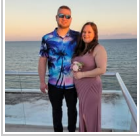
“ *Vernon and Louise and their family lived down the street from me growing up. After Louise passed, I thought how much Vernon would miss her. I am so sorry that the Dietz/Holmes families have now lost Vernon but confident he is happy again being with Louise and Marshall.*

Debbie Gagnat - February 28, 2025 at 11:01 PM

MG

I remember Marshall. he was always a good friend. I'm sorry I never knew his family. Sounds like a Turner guy and family to me.

Marty Graham - March 07, 2025 at 03:34 AM



“ I enjoyed spending so much time and making all the memories with my papa his last couple months staying with him on and off. I will cherish our time forever. One of the last things he said to me was, "I love you ALL!" and that he did. He never met a stranger, always a new listening ear. I miss you so much already, Papa! Glad you got to see me ;) until I see you again. Love you forever <3

Lucy Dietz - February 27, 2025 at 10:25 AM