



Zack W. Hamilton

November 7, 1942 - April 14, 2025

Zack Walker Hamilton, 82, of Grove, OK, passed away on Monday April 14, 2025 at his home. Born on November 7, 1942, in Tahlequah, OK, to Harry and Lucille (Walker) Hamilton, Zack was an only child whose parents owned a popular local cafe, aptly named Zack's. He married the love of his life, Marty (Stevenson) Hamilton in 1966 in Phoenix, AZ, and together they raised their son, Christian, in Grove.

Zack was a man of order and intellect, known for his meticulous nature and love for the TV show "Jeopardy!" and crossword puzzles. He was an elementary school principal in Grove for many years, where he was cherished for his unique and caring ways of interacting with students, including his memorable method of dismissing the cafeteria with a golf swing. After retiring, he continued his passion for golf as a Pro Shop assistant at The Coves at Bird Island, humorously noting he went from "Hallways to Fairways."

A proud veteran, Zack served in the United States Air Force where he was a member of the USAF Men's Volleyball Team. His academic pursuits led him to NSU, where he earned a master's degree and was a member of the Phi Sigma Epsilon Fraternity.

Zack was a member of the Methodist church and besides being an avid golfer, he enjoyed hobbies such as playing pool, country dancing, and spending time at the casino visiting with friends. He was also a pretty good cook who knew his way around the kitchen. In his younger years he was a skilled calf roper and little league football coach.

His family was central to his life, and he leaves behind his wife, Marty; son, Christian; granddaughters, Courtney Jaquis (Kyle) and Jessica Hamilton (Delana); and three beloved great grandchildren, Lydia, Gary, and Kendall all of whom lovingly referred to him as 'Daddy Zack'. His cherished dog, Rae Rae, also survives him, along with a host of friends and associates.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Nichols-Stephens Funeral Chapel in Grove, OK, on Friday, April 18, 2025, at 2 pm. The family hopes that many will come forward to share stories of Zack, either in written form or in person. A reception will follow.

Nichols-Stephens Funeral & Cremation Services is assisting the family during this time. Zack will be remembered as a devoted husband, father, and friend to many, whose legacy of kindness and leadership will live on in the hearts of those he touched.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

APR 18. 2:00 PM (CT)

Nichols-Stephens Funeral and Cremation Service
10201 U.S. Highway 59
Grove, OK 74344
(918) 786-6761
nicholsfunerals@yahoo.com

Tribute Wall



“ Nichols Funeral & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Zack W. Hamilton



Nichols-Stephens Funeral & Cremation Services - April 18, 2025 at 02:05 PM

AT

“ Zack was the principal that helped hire me when Mike & I moved to Grove. Not only did he know his students well, he expected the best from his staff & the students. I believe I became a better teacher under his expectations. I loved that we would receive a weekly update from Zack every Monday!

Zack loved his family, golf, friends, & career. He will certainly be missed & remembered by all that knew him. I'm sorry that Mike & I were not able to be at his memorial Friday. I had an eye procedure & Mike was my driver. Please know that you, Marty, Christian, & family are in our thoughts & prayers. Bet Zack is playing golf in heaven right and teaching them a few things!!❤️

Ann Thompson - April 25, 2025 at 06:04 PM

MS

“ I remember Mr. Hamilton had a fondness for sports I would see him at most of the Football games showing his support for GHS. He was always a true gentleman very kind to others. My condolences on his passing and to Marty & Chris my prayers go out to you in this very emotional time. God bless.

Michael Sparkman - April 19, 2025 at 01:22 PM

KW

“ Thinking of my cousin Zack reminds me of fun, food, golf and cars. I've known him my entire life and one of my earliest memories is of him teaching me how to rope a fence post and lifting me up onto a horse. And then there was the summer evening when he pulled up to our house in a red Chevy convertible, had a brief conversation with my dad, and next thing I knew I was "dragging main" in Tahlequah. Wind in my hair, Zack cranking up the radio. He looked over at me and yelled, "Having fun, kid?" I was hooked on cars from then on. I briefly lived in Glendale, AZ, close to Zack, Marty and Christian. He would stop by on his way to or from the golf course and we would have a beer, laugh and have a good time. He would host cookouts, grilling delicious food in the Arizona heat, splashing in the pool periodically. He obviously loved his family, always. I will miss him; however, he had a wonderful long life with lots of love and laughter.

Kathy Walker - April 17, 2025 at 04:26 PM

FS

“ Mr. Hamilton principal from Kindergarten to 5th grade. I don't remember any other principal I ever had after him. He was kind and fair (I may have caused a couple of problems in 1st grade for Mrs. Robertson 😅.) I remember him being a towering figure, but was never intimidating. I felt and still feel that he cared for each of the kids and made us feel safe.
Amanda McKee (née Johnson)

Former student - April 17, 2025 at 01:37 PM

LD

“ When I was first teaching with Zack as my principal, I would eat lunch in the cafeteria with Zack and Chris Brewer a lot. We had many great visits together. When I had cafeteria duty, Zack would often tell me to go on, and he would dismiss the students to recess. He was always fair, and I knew I could count on his support. He taught me how to stand up for myself as a teacher and not let people run over me. That served me well throughout my teaching career. Thank you, Mr. Hamilton!

Lu Ann DuBois - April 16, 2025 at 09:27 PM