



## James Richard Trout

December 12, 1942 - May 12, 2020

James Richard Trout, a former local school superintendent, U.S. Army veteran and beloved husband, father and grandfather, passed away early Tuesday morning at Southeast Missouri Hospital in Cape Girardeau. He was 77 years old.

A native of Kewanee, he was born on December 18, 1942 to Paul Trout and Verda Jenkins Trout. He played baseball and basketball at Kewanee High School, graduating in the top 10 percent of his class, among a class of 10. He went on to attend Arkansas State University, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in education and a Master's degree in guidance and counseling.

Mr. Trout was teaching high school in Peculiar and Winona, also coaching baseball and basketball, when he was drafted into the U.S. Army, joining the 1st Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War, serving as a medic and later advancing to the rank of Captain. Captain Trout nearly lost his life in combat in Vietnam, but was saved by his close friend "Bud" Willis, to whom the Trout family has always been grateful.

He met his wife, Annette Regan, during R&R in Sydney, Australia. After marrying in 1969 in Advance, Missouri, they had two daughters, Alisa and Jamee. An avid football and basketball fan, Mr. Trout even taught his older daughter, Alisa, to memorize the names of every NFL team in the nation at the age of three.

Mr. Trout worked as athletic director for Job Corps, then later became principal Bell City R-II School District, also serving for many years as a basketball coach, leading the team to a district championship. He later became principal of Woodland R-IV District High School. He then advanced to serve as superintendent of Woodland and later Bolivar R-1 Schools. He would then go on to serve in a statewide role, as an Area Supervisor for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, before he retired in 2011.

Never content to sit still, Mr. Trout remained active, helping his daughter and son-in-law with chores on their farm, even when they urged him to relax, and doting on his

grandchildren, who affectionately referred to him as “pappy,” as did their friends and schoolmates.

He is survived by his wife Annette of Cape Girardeau; daughter Alisa and son-in-law Steve Ritea of Los Angeles, Calif.; daughter Jamee and son-in-law Charles Cox of Olive Branch, Ill.; grandchildren Mary Beth and Brian Cox of Olive Branch; two brothers, Ronald Trout of Richardson, Texas and his wife Carole; Michael Trout of Sheridan, Wyoming and his wife Pat. He was preceded in death by another brother, Gary, whose surviving wife is Melody. He is also survived by many wonderful relatives across the nation and in Australia.

Cremation is planned and a memorial will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations in Mr. Trout’s name to either the Veterans Home, 2400 Veteran’s Memorial Drive, Cape Girardeau, Mo. 63701 or the Kenny Rogers Children’s Center, 300 Floyd Ave., Sikeston, Mo. 63801.

Inurnment will be in Missouri Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield.

Crain Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Cape Girardeau is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery

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## Missouri Veteran's Cemetery

Bloomfield, MO,

# Comments

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“ We are sorry for your loss. Thinking about when our families lived on the same cul-de-sac in Bolivar as your family. Remembering the kindness your family shown us and your Christmas caroling at our home. May God grant your family peace and comfort.

Mike and Pam Woolbright

Pamela Woolbright - May 22 at 11:14 PM

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“ My sincerest wishes for solace and peace for the family of Richard Trout. You couldn't find a better man than Richard and his brothers. Prayers for all.

Gail Fowler Duke

Gail Fowler Duke - May 20 at 07:15 PM

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“ Dear Anne, Alisa, Steve, Jamee, Charlie, Mary Beth and Brian. So sorry to hear of your father and grandfather's passing. I have great memories of Richard.

I visited Bolivar in 1993 and had Christmas with everyone. It snowed on Christmas eve just before we went to church that evening. Richard said that we gave Russell some Missouri Snow that evening.

I then spent 3 weeks in Cape Girardeau in 2005, Richard took me to some Education Conferences during that time. We had long talks in the car. I also remember on Memorial Day in November we visited a memorial park in Jackson, Mo and there were many American Flags planted on the hill by an Army Veteran and Richard was talking to that gentleman. On that same trip I remember that Mary Beth had been born for one month and we waited in line for the Sikeston Restaurant. Richard was there telling his jokes while we waited. (Richard had a great sense of humor)

I then visited Cape again in 2012 for a weekend in June. Richard drove me and Anne to Olive Branch Illinois to see Mary Beth and her beautiful horses and Brian was in school. We then all visited the restaurant at the Lands Between The Lakes.

Some fantastic times and great memories.

Love from Russell in Sydney Australia

Russell Kenny - May 20 at 09:12 AM

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“ Dearest Annette and family, Please accept our sincere condolences at this sad time. Richard was a mentor and friend to Ron and I. In all Ron's years in education he enjoyed working with Richard and respected his dedication to education. When Ron would go to school in the evening or on the weekend to check on something, Richard would often be there too. He worked tirelessly for the Woodland R-IV School District. Ron met with Richard at the monthly breakfast get together at Crackle Barrel. He never failed to ask about our children and how they were doing. Love and prayers at this sad time.  
Ron and Ginny Wene

ginny wene - May 18 at 02:41 PM

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“ Dear Family - Please accept my condolences. Richard was one of my most favorite people ever. I met him through our careers, but stayed friends with him long after we went in different directions. Richard was so funny. He always had a joke and a twinkle in his eye. Richard was also strong, ethical, and as a servant leader. I am a creative writer at heart. Richard helped me with sensory details for a story that had a partial setting in Vietnam. One time he came by to see me and asked me to help him buy music from the Internet. I said, "What music?" He laughed and said, "The best music ever! Malt shop music!" He was simply amazing and had a wondrous life. He often talked about his family; how proud he was of you. He is truly missed. Robin Smith

Robin Smith - May 18 at 01:28 PM

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“ Please accept my most sincere condolences on your loss of one of the best people I will ever know in my lifetime. As a retired superintendent myself, I had many occasions in the past 34 years to visit with Richard. Professional relationships with Richard rarely stayed that way -- because he had that unique gift that permitted him to become your friend immediately. He was one of the most encouraging and helpful "coaches" for students, teachers, administrators and community supporters to be found.

Richard and I shared many conversations, meetings and meals together. During those instances, it was evident that, in all the wonderful things he accomplished and for which he was responsible, he cherished his family most. His love for you was honest, pure and never faded. I always admired that, and due to his influence on me, I hope I can become at least a fraction of the husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend he was.

Take comfort to know he is in heaven, watching over all of us -- patiently awaiting when we will see him again. I pray God will continue to bless each of you. Thank you for sharing him with us.

Nick Thiele  
Leopold, MO

Nicholas Thiele - May 18 at 10:23 AM

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“ Annette, Steve and I are so sorry to hear about Richard's passing. Carol Jones called me and told me on Friday May 15th. I was so surprised because I would see Richard driving all most every day during this pandemic on Briarwood Drive. I respected Richard a lot and always looked up to him with his service in Vietnam and his long career in the school system. I always enjoyed talking to Richard about the neighborhood, when your house was built, when you had your rottweiler Kaiser and I had my rottweiler Baron and how they became nextdoor buddies. Richard always asked how I was doing and how my brother Steve was doing. A Great Man that will Greatly Missed!

God Bless,  
Your nextdoor neighbors  
Stuart and Steve Hoeller

Stuart S. Hoeller - May 17 at 04:38 PM

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“ My dad, Bob Gray, served on Woodland's School Board with Mr. Trout for several years. Dad always reflected positively on those experiences and only had good things to say about Mr. Trout. Throughout the years we'd run into Mr. Trout, and he'd never fail to ask how our family was doing. He had an amazing knack for remembering everyone's names. We're glad to have known him and Mrs. Trout. We're lifting your family up in prayer! Kim (Gray) Blackwell and family

Kim Blackwell - May 17 at 03:19 PM

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“ We're so thankful that we had the opportunity to know Richard. Our thoughts and prayers are with Annette and the rest of the family. Love, Cathy & Christy Bollinger

Christy Bollinger - May 17 at 01:24 PM



“ So sorry to the family

Sue Cannon Shackles - May 17 at 10:01 PM

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“ I remember him so well! Great principal. Fine man. So sorry for your loss. Prayers for Annette and family.

**Elizabeth Williams (Cissy)** - May 17 at 12:43 PM

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“ We gave him the Devil while in high school , but he gave it right back and we're the better for it. A great guy with a dry wit and awesome ability to pull the right prank at the right time. I'll always have fond memories of his tenure as principal at BCHS! Bill Knoderer Senior class 1971 RIP, Richard and Gid Speed. Prayers of sympathy and healing for Annette and the kids.

**Bill Knoderer** - May 17 at 11:01 AM



“ God Speed!!!

**Bill Knoderer** - May 17 at 11:05 AM

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“ Our sympathy for your loss to all family of Richard. He was our cousin. From my mother, Virginia Jenkins, who will be 100 years old May 24th, daughter Jorita Jenkins Black Clyde and Karen Jenkins and me LuAnn Jenkins Abner  
You are in our prayers

**LuAnn Abner** - May 16 at 10:15 PM

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“ I served with Mr Trout on Wodland School Board for several years. He always had the school's best interest at hart. He was a good friend to me. I leaned a lot from . He will be mid. God Bless the family Don James

**Don James** - May 15 at 08:29 PM

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“ I had the privilege to know Mr. Trout as my principal, superintendent and DESE Area Supervisor. He was a great mentor and role model to many educators across our state. Mr. Trout's wit and wisdom will be missed. I am thankful for the years I was honored to work with him and I consider it a blessing to have known him as a friend.

**Jennings Wilkinson** - May 15 at 07:05 PM

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“ It was a pleasure working with Richard at DESE. His warm heart and smile lite up the room. The practical jokes were always in the works. When he retired he gave me his folder of jokes. He knew everyone he met with a gentle touch. It was always about the people he served. What a wonderful person!

Cathi Rust - May 15 at 03:45 PM

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“ Annette and girls, so sorry to read of Richards passing. We both respected him so much and loved his dry sense of humor. We shared many wonderful times together in Sunday School with he & Annette, Bill & Aileen Mantooth, Harold Kuehle, Bill & Imogene Tinsley, Ms Gladys, Ruth Chenoweth, just to name a few. Richard's calm demeanor was one of his finest assets. He always asked about our kids when I would run into him at the grocery store, when he always said he'd volunteered to cook supper and was picking up fried chicken. He was a true delight and valued friend that we will always remember. Our hearts are enfolding your family in love at this time as heaven Celebrates his homecoming. Love you all.

Wynn & Linda Bollinger - May 15 at 02:59 PM

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“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of James Richard Trout.



May 15 at 02:50 PM

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“ I considered it an honor to know Richard and count him as a friend and fellow educator. He was always doing what was best and in the interest of his students and faculty.

Harold Tilley

Tilley Harold - May 15 at 01:41 PM

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“ I worked with Richard as the superintendent of Greenville RII when he worked for the state. I was always impressed with his ability to remember all the girls names in the office and what was going on in their lives. He will be missed by all that had the luck to work with him.  
Jim Morrison

Jim Morrison - May 15 at 12:55 PM

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“ Mr. Trout was my junior high principal and 7th grade PE teacher at Bell City. We reconnected when I started my teaching career at Puxico. When he visited my school as part of his area supervisor duties, he always visited my classroom. After I retired from teaching, I would see Mr. Trout at local stores once in a while. He always took the time to visit with me and ask about my family. He was a wonderful man, and I respected him tremendously. Rest In Peace Mr. Trout. My prayers are with his wife, children, and grandchildren. He enjoyed telling me about his family.  
Renee Hicks Murphy (Bell City graduate 1975)

Renee Murphy - May 15 at 11:45 AM

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“ I had the pleasure of knowing the Trout family during their years at Woodland and also their contributions to the Marble Hill community. Mr Trout was active in his student's lives and in his church family. He was well respected and a fair yet firm man who had a well hidden funny bone once you got to know him. My condolences and love goes out to his family.

katie - May 15 at 11:29 AM

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“ I first knew Mr. Trout as principal at Woodland. He could say more with his eyes than most with their tongue. When he spoke he could say more with a few words than most could with many; and everyone listened.

He was highly respected not for his title but because of who he was.

Mr. Trout served America in the military, education system, and numerous civic organizations and in so doing changed countless lives for the better. He certainly made a positive impact on me.

Stan Crader - May 15 at 10:52 AM

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“ Richard was a great asset and impactful person for me and my career in education, especially during my administrative years. Richard always worked with me during his time with DESE to reach solutions and solve whatever problems existed. He conveyed a sense of someone in the trenches with you as opposed so someone that had authority over you. More importantly and beyond the career responsibilities both during my career and afterwards, we always enjoyed a great conversation of genuine personal friendship and interest that provided a true sense of comfort, relaxation and enjoyment. Richard, thank you for everything and especially your friendship, you will be missed.

Troy Bollinger

Troy W Bollinger - May 15 at 08:39 AM

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“ Mr. Trout was a great superintendent and principal at Woodland. Not only that, he was a great man and a great neighbor. I started baby sitting Alisa and Jamee when I was around 11-12 years old so I got to see a lot of Mr. and Mrs. Trout. I lost touch with them until about 5 years ago when Jamee's son and my daughter were competing together in Special Olympics and cheerleading. Mr. and Mrs. Trout made it seem as if no time had passed. The last time I saw Mr. Trout was a year ago at a Special Olympic event in Cape and he asked how my parents were. Luckily my parents were watching my daughter so he and my dad were able to talk and remanence. Mr. Trout would always ask about my family and my brother's families - he seemed like he never forgot anything including the sports that I played while attending Woodland. It was always a pleasure getting to talk to him and Mrs. Trout (and Mrs. Trout I don't think I will ever be able to call you Annette, even though you asked me to numerous times!). Mr. Trout, you will be missed by all, but I know you will be missed most by your wife, girls, and grandkids. Praying for all of you during this time.

Gayla (Leadbetter) Schubert

Gayla Schubert - May 15 at 08:18 AM

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“ Richard always took the time to ask about others. He was genuinely interested. John ran into him just 2 weeks ago at Menards and he remembered our grown children's names, inquired about their lives and talked about his family with delight. A great man. John and Pat Johnson.

Pat Johnson - May 15 at 07:21 AM

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“ I am Joan Kenny, the Australian sister-in-law of Richard Trout and sister of Anne, his loving wife. My husband Nick and sons, Greg and Russell have kept in touch all these year. One of our highlights when Nick and I had an extended tour of the US was when we were joined by Anne and Richard for a couple of weeks and we first met Richard. We were impressed by the love and respect his friends and neighbours had for him and his sense of humour. He even laughed at Nick's corny jokes. What beautiful memories we have.

Gregory Kenny - May 15 at 04:57 AM

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“ Very saddened to hear of Uncle Richard's sudden passing. All of his beloved relatives from down under Australia had great 'respect' for a man who portrayed such a calm manner. I can recollect how calm Richard was during an occasion when I picked him up in his car from his office on my visit to the US in 1990. On that occasion I momentarily forgot that in the US you drive on the opposite side of the road to that in Australia. Richard calmly reminded me that I 'may like' to cross over to the correct side of the road. No panic stations, that was the type of guy Richard was.

RIP Capt Richard Trout.  
Love & respect from your loving Aussie relatives

Rohan Toner - May 15 at 01:40 AM

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“ Many prayers for the family!  
Sandy Branstetter

Sandy Branstetter - May 15 at 12:30 AM

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“ I will always remember Richard my Brother In Law.

I talked to Richard every 2nd week regarding his family & the Regan's Family from Down Under, Australia.

Richard & I talked about time he served in Vietnam as I missed out going to Vietnam in my "Tank Unit" when I was in the Army.

On behalf of Richard's "Aussie Family from Australia" I send our "Deepest Sympathy" to our Sister Annette & her family, daughter Alisa, Steve & daughter Jamee, Charley & Family.

R.I.P Richard.

Kevin Regan

Kevin Regan - May 14 at 11:48 PM

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“ I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Trout. I got to know him as the Area Supervisor for the Delta R5 School District, where I work. I also served on an MSIP team with him. He always had a calming voice and a listening ear during his visits. After he retired, we would run into each other shopping or at my kids/his grandchildren's ball games. You could see the pride in his eyes as he filled me in on how his grandchildren were growing. May he Rest In Peace. My prayers go out to the family.

Heather Elfrink - May 14 at 11:10 PM

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“ Richard worked tirelessly for the betterment of our schools while in Bolivar, MO. My late husband, Duane, was on the school board during Richards time here. Not only were they both very dedicated to do the right thing for the youth of our community but also for the parents to assure their children had a great education. Praying you feel the presence of God and his Holy Angels circling around you during this journey of life.

Wilma Williams

Wilma Williams - May 14 at 11:09 PM

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“ I was so saddened to hear of the passing of Richard. I was on the Board of Education when he was retained for the superintendency of the Bolivar R-1 school district. I had the privilege of serving with him during his tenure in Bolivar. He served the school and this community in an exceptional way. He was an exemplary public school finance administrator. He was an outstanding educational leader and was respected and admired by his administrative team, the faculty and his board members. He was a patriot. And he was my friend. His finger prints remain all over the Bolivar schools and I will always remember his multiple contributions to the educational advancement of so many children. To Annette, his daughters, grandchildren and other family members I am so saddened by the loss that you are experiencing. Please know you will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Jerald Andrews - May 14 at 10:29 PM

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“ I worked for Richard as a teacher at Woodland High School in the early 70s. I moved on to Jackson as an assistant principal in 1976 and he wanted me to come back to Woodland as the high school principal. I wanted to go to graduate school and declined. Without a doubt, he was the best principal I ever worked with or for in the public school system. He was firm but fair. Integrity and honesty, caring and helping, ethical in every since, and most of all he made the students and teachers better people. I will miss him. We are all poorer with his passing, and heaven becomes even richer with this wonderful man joining the ranks. Please accept my condolences. Remember this about him: When he shall die, take him and cut him out in little stars...and he will make the face of heaven so fine that all the world will be in love with the night...and pay no worship to the garish sun. Carl L Davis, PhD

Carl Davis - May 14 at 09:02 PM

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“ Very sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Trout. I had the pleasure of working with him in his role as Area Supervisor. I have so much respect for him and will always remember him as the very definition of professional educator. Above all he was kind and respectful of all. Thoughts and prayers for the family.

Dr. Kyle W. Dare - May 14 at 09:00 PM

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“ Richard was a wonderful educator, mentor to many, and a friend to me. His wife, Annette, is a wonderful lady. I know she will feel lost without him. My prayers are with all of you. I pray for peace. -Sandy Austin Todt

Sandy Todt - May 14 at 08:14 PM

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“ I remember Mr. Trout well. I was a student at Woodland during the time he was Principal and Superintendent. He was a firm but fair man. My condolences to his family.

Gina Page - May 14 at 08:03 PM

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“ To Annette And the girls, I think of your family often. Richard was one of the best superintendents Bolivar ever had. He was a man of honor and a man you knew you could trust his word. I have fond memories of your time in Bolivar. Kathy Drake

kathy Drake - May 14 at 07:57 PM

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“ I worked with Mr Trout as Assistant Principal in the Bolivar R-1 school district. I have great respect for him as a leader. He always stood for what he believed was best for the district. Prayers to all his family and friends.

**Mary Gregory** - May 14 at 07:53 PM

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“ As the parent of a daughter in the Bolivar schools, I was privileged to work with Mr. Trout on school events. He and his wife were exceptional members of our community and he was well respected as our Superintendent. Sincere condolences to the family.

**Sandy Jones** - May 14 at 07:51 PM

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“ Mr. Trout was a wonderful man n principal his daughters we're always good friends of mine n Mrs Trout has always been a wonderful beautiful lady I have many fun memories of Mr Trout my sympathy n prayers are w ur family much love to u all

**Melanie Marquis** - May 14 at 07:50 PM

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“ I am so sorry to hear about Mr. Trout's passing. I was honored to work with him in the Bolivar R-1 School District and to attend church with the Trout Family at the Bolivar United Methodist Church. I always thought of him as a mentor and friend. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family at this difficult time.

Laura Boyd

**Laura Boyd** - May 14 at 07:47 PM

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“ It was a pleasure to work with Mr. Trout during his tenure as superintendent of Bolivar R1 schools. I am sorry to hear of his passing. Prayers for peace go out to his family.  
Magda Neill  
Bolivar, MO

**Magda Neill** - May 14 at 07:17 PM

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“ I remember Mr. Trout fondly from my elementary years at Woodland. He was a wonderful and fair Superintendent. Annette, Jamee and Alisa - I have great memories of you. My deepest sympathy. May all the great memories you have give you comfort.

Christy VanGennip Roberts

Christy Roberts - May 14 at 04:45 PM



“ A wonderful compassionate man who loved his family. He was always kind and a true gentleman. He will remain in the heart of MaryBeth and Brian. He was a wonderful grandfather.

Mary Susan Worthington - May 14 at 05:05 PM



“ Annette, Alisa, and Jamee, we are sorry to hear this. May you receive comfort from family and friends. You are in our hearts and memories.

Noah, Rachel, and Mary Rhodes Ross

Rachel Rhodes - May 14 at 07:34 PM



“ Mr Trout was so military like in school got to know him more and more because of his brother Gary and mother down at Advance. Then he kinda lighten up. Good man and we are so sorry for your loss! Prayers are coming for y'all!



Mary Jane Graham-Craft - May 14 at 04:37 PM



“ Mr. Trout was a great principal at Woodland. He will be missed. RIP.



Charlotte 'Killian' Selfridge - May 14 at 03:54 PM



“ Prayers to the family, he was a great Superintendent at Woodland.

**Carrie Edgar** - May 14 at 04:01 PM



“ I was a student at Bell City when Mr. Trout was the principal. He was a fair man who required students to act appropriately. Later I worked with him as he was the state supervisor for the SE area and he was a friend to all the school districts. He was always willing to help out the schools and was a strong supporter of this area. My thoughts are with Annette and his girls.

**Rhonda Niemczyk** - May 14 at 09:05 PM



“ Annette, Alisa and Jamie Our hearts are sadden at Richards passing. We have such wonderful memories of the times our families spent together. We will never forget the evening we all went to Silver Dollar City and the laughter and fun Jamie and Gelin had, Remember so many other times our families got together. Gene and Richard shared such a wonderful friendship.. During those "stressful" superintendent times, Gene and Richard could always talk through them. Our hearts and prayers are with you all

**Linda Rice** - May 14 at 11:20 PM



“ Richard Trout was a role model to all administrators in the Southeast Region. He listened first, then with great pause, would give heart felt advice and encouragement to anyone who would listen. It never stopped with a single conversation either. If he knew you were struggling with something, he would follow up until the issue was resolved. A blessing to be touched by his career of caring for generations of students, staff, and the education community of Southeast Missouri. He will be truly missed!

Dr. Adrian Eftink, Oak Ridge School District

**Adrian Eftink** - May 15 at 11:16 AM



“ You have role models as a kid that usually focus on sports and celebrities. As you age you should become more selective in whom you admire and choose as a role model. As I aged, I had the fortunate opportunity to meet Richard and to continue to see and work with him over many years. He was always available to others with an open mind and an open heart. In recent years, I enjoyed our visits on the 1st Fridays of each month when a small group of retired superintendents had breakfast and swapped stories of how it used to be. Richard always asked about others and had kind words for everyone. I am proud to say he was one of my role models over the years. He had the courage to say what needed to be said, the fortitude to carry through even when decisions were difficult and the wisdom to do it in a way that made others better. Richard you deserve a high place in the hearts of the many that knew you and an even higher place in your new home.

Rick Hoffman

**Rick Hoffman** - May 16 at 10:20 AM



“ Dear Annette, You will remember me as Mary Rahm. I am so sorry to learn of the death of Richard and you and your family have my sincere sympathy. I was a school nurse in Bell City when I first met you all and then I lived in Marble Hill when you came there. Thinking of you during these difficult times.

**Mary Frerker** - May 16 at 11:42 AM