



# Terry Lester Mendenhall PhD

MAR 12, 1933 - OCT 27, 2021



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# Terry Lester Mendenhall PhD

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## Terry Lester Mendenhall, PhD

Terry was a geese's goose... a people's person who was always quick to connect others with his wit and wisdom. Born early spring in Dunlap, Iowa to Lester and Mamie Mendenhall, Terry lived most of his early years in Wahoo, Nebraska with his sister Colleen (Lawrence) Lindquist. Working for the family dry cleaning business he somehow managed to graduate from high school early at age 16, after which he attended Midland College in Fremont, Nebraska graduating with an undergraduate degree. Terry was drafted into the army to serve in the Korean War and was stationed in Ansbach, Germany. He served as a parts specialist for the infantry's frontline defense along the German/Soviet border. After returning from the war Terry participated in the GI bill and received his master's degree from the University of Nebraska. While working one day in the dry cleaners he noticed 'the most beautiful woman in the world' walk by the storefront window. Shortly there after he married Ellen Olesen a local school teacher from Wisconsin. Upon graduating Terry took a position in Conoco petroleum in Prairie Village, Kansas. It was there that they started their family welcoming their first child Lori (Mitch) Patton. Not satisfied with a corporate desk job, he chased his desires to be an educator. In 1964 he took a position with Kansas State Teachers College (now Pittsburg State University). Making their home in Pittsburg, Kansas they enlarged their family with two sons Mark (Gayla) and Kent. With a full family in primary school, he worked double time half salary to receive his PhD from Kansas State University. Terry was known for walking the collegiate halls and over time he built a strong personal relationships with students and faculty. Ultimately retiring as one of the longest serving revered Deans of the Kelce School of Business.

After retirement in 2003, Terry made time for family, travel, and social activities. His family had grown considerably to include grandchildren Ashleigh (Adam) Kunshek, Erin (Alex) Stephan, Lane, Will, Maxwell and Samuel Mendenhall. Recently reached a milestone when he held his great granddaughter Harper Kunshek. He and Ellen traveled the world with friends and family until her death in 2007. After Ellen's death he met Norma Bailey Gnatzig and they were married



## Obituary

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in 2009. Once again Terry's family grew to include Scott, Marc and Matthew Bailey, Lisa (Marvin)Singleton and Lori Crimson. Norma and Terry continued to travel with family and friends spending time with the Gnatzig family at Bass Lake in Hayward, Wisconsin. Socially he was involved in the Kiwanis Club, SBDC Delta Mu Delta and the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternal organizations. He also was a longtime board member for the Kansas Teachers Credit Union.

A longtime member of St. John's Lutheran Church, services will be held on Monday November 1, 2021. A visitation for family and friends at 10:00am and a full remembrance ceremony will be held immediately afterwards at 11 AM, at the St. John's Lutheran Church, where friends, colleagues and entertainers are welcome to share their thoughts.

In Lieu of flowers the family suggests sending memorials to charities of their choice or the Kelce School of Business, which is currently raising funds for expansion.





# Events

**Terry Lester Mendenhall PhD**

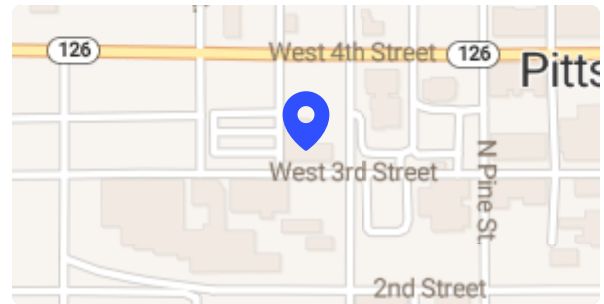
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## Visitation

 **Monday**, November 1, 2021

 10:00 AM CT


 **St. John Lutheran Church ELCA**  
304 W. 3rd, Pittsburg KS 66762

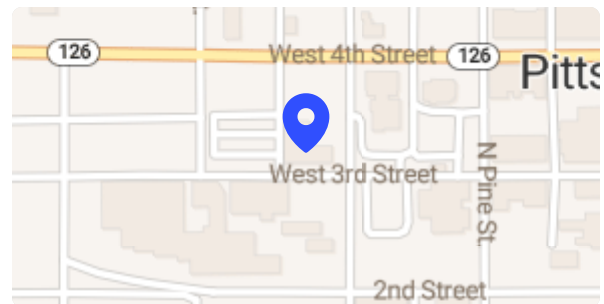


## Celebration of Life

 **Monday**, November 1, 2021

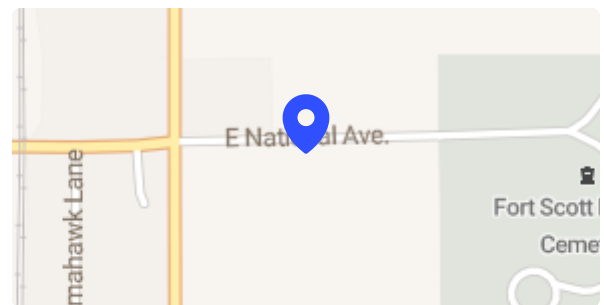
 11:00 AM CT

 **St. John Lutheran Church ELCA**  
304 W. 3rd, Pittsburg KS 66762



## Cemetery Details

 **Fort Scott National Cemetery**  
900 E. National Ave., Fort Scott KS 66701





## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** sent a Joyful Memory to the Mendenhall family.

November 4 at 6:37 AM



**Mike And Sharon Harrison** posted:

Sorry to hear of your Father's death, Kent. We became acquainted When you and Dave were classmates and in Cub scouts. We will miss your Father in the community. Mike and Sharon Harrison

October 31 at 10:38 AM



**Todd Biggs** posted:

What a fantastic person Mr. Mendenhall was. Always cheery and clever, he had a great laugh and was so very intelligent and approachable. God Bless you all.

October 31 at 10:00 AM



**Ron Freund** posted:

My uncle Terry Mendenhall will never be forgotten. A multi-faceted individual whose appearance reminded me of Bart Starr (no kidding), he and his family spent many vacations together with ours. I particular remember a Christmas break spent with him in a cabin in Colorado, and summer vacation/road trips camping in the Midwest. Terry had a wonderful sense of humor around the campfire, leaving all of us in stitches – or at least the adults. He and I did not always see eye-to-eye politically or on the role academicians should play, but in the end we respected and loved each other. Terry was in his element when he told stories of his travels with my parents – especially those that involved amusing situations which arose while trying to learn local customs on foreign trips with my parents. Others can comment on his time as a professor and Dean at the Pittsburg State College (now Kansas State of Pittsburg) business school. But I was privileged to know him as my uncle. Rest in Peace, Terry!

October 30 at 4:17 PM



## Tribute Wall

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**Mimi Morrison** posted:

Terry and Ellen Mendenhall, Lori, Mark and Kent were some of the very first people we met when my dad was called to serve St. John Lutheran in 1976. He was also one of my teachers in college. I'll miss sitting behind him in church, and visiting with him while he made coffee. May he rest in peace.  
Mimi Ide Morrison

October 30 at 3:31 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Fiery Lily and Rose to the Mendenhall family.



October 29 at 8:09 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Terry by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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