



Lawrence D. Jontra

January 7, 1939 - May 1, 2017

How does someone put 78 years of life and 56 years of marriage onto a piece of paper? Lawrence DeWayne Jontra age 78 of Rural Howard, died Monday, May 1, 2017 at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita. Lawrence was born on January 7, 1939 on the family farm in Rural Elk County north of Elk Falls, KS., the son of Ross E. and Goldie Lee (Barnaby) Jontra.

After high school, Lawrence attended Independence Community College and completed his bachelor's degree at Pittsburg State. Lawrence taught and coached school for 3 years in Moline. Then attended Emporia State where he received his Master's Degree in 1964. Lawrence completed his teaching career at Fredonia High School where he retired in 1979. Farming and Ranching was his main love in life, he owned and operated Oil Leases, Managed the Longton Co-op, worked at the Home State Bank in Longton and the Commerce Bank in Fredonia. Lawrence also served as a county commissioner for Elk County, and the Elk County Free Fair of Longton, where he served as President for the past 37 years.

On August 14, 1960 Lawrence married Vera Crowell, they have been married for 56 years and she survives at their home. Most importantly, Lawrence loved his 2 children and 3 grandchildren. Lawrence spent his "retired" years following his grandchildren's activities. He loved being their fan and was very proud of their accomplishments. He served many years for the Council on

Aging and strived to do good for others. He was humble. He was kind. He worked hard.

Survivors including his wife Vera are:

Son:

Terry D. Jontra

Daughter:

Juli Young and husband Randy

3 grandchildren: Sabetha, William and Wesley Young

Brother:

Roscoe L. Jontra and wife Sharon

Lawrence was preceded in death by his parents

Funeral services will be held Saturday, May 6th, 2017 at 10:00 AM at the Longton Fair Grounds, with burial to follow at the Longton Cemetery, with Pastor Michael Dershem of Yale, OK officiating. There will be no open visitation. Online condolences may be left at www.countrysidefh.com.

Memorials have been suggested to either the Elk County Free Fair of Longton or the Lawrence Jontra Memorial Scholarship and may be left with or mailed to the funeral home. Services have been entrusted to: Countryside Funeral Home 420 S. 20th St., P.O. Box 247, Fredonia, KS 66736

Cemetery Details

Longton Cemetery

Longton, KS 67352

Previous Events

Longton Fair Grounds

MAY **6**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Countryside Funeral Home - Fredonia
420 S. 20th St.
P.O. Box 247
Fredonia, KS 66736
(620) 378-2882

Tribute Wall

FS

“ Vera, while I was not acquainted with your husband, I enjoyed the years we were able to work together on elections. I consider you my friend and I send you sympathy, prayers and words of healing from our Father in heaven that He will be with you and help you face your difficult days of healing. God Bless You, Flo Smith



Flo Smith - May 08, 2017 at 12:53 PM

PB

“ Mr Jontra was a great teacher while I attended Fredonia Jr and High school. He was one you would never forget!



Patti Apollo Bays - May 06, 2017 at 08:02 AM

SF

“ Lawrence Jontra - I have know Lawrence for several years, and never forget the first time I met him. He wanted to know all about me and my family and very proudly told me about himself and his family and how proud he was of them and of the community in which he lived. It was though we were long time friends that hadn't seen each other for awhile. He saw the good in everything and made you feel good as well. We exchanged phone numbers; he told me where he lived and said to give him a call if he could ever be of help. From that day forward, whenever I was around Longton, I always hoped I would see Lawrence so we could visit. I was privlidedged numerous times to catch him in the pastures and fields of Elk county or in the café in Longton. While I was in the Longton area deer hunting this past year, there were several days we either had a cup of coffee or breakfast at the Longton café or visited along the roadside where we talked at length. What a man! I know his family, the folks of Longton, and the entire Elk county community, including the Southeast corner of Kansas, and myself are truly going to miss Lawrence's friendship and community involvement. He was a true leader and a friend to all.
With deepest sympathy,
Steve and Barbara Finley

Stephen Finley - May 05, 2017 at 09:50 PM

TB

“ I was saddened to hear of Lawrence's passing. I have known him for nearly four years through the SCKAAA. As a county director I had th privilege of attending meetings under his term as the Ten County Chairperson. He was very intuitive and open to everyone's views. Reading these responses, I see that Lawrence was loved and respected by many people. Please know many share yourvgrief and are praying for Lawrence's entire family.

Terry Bolte - May 05, 2017 at 09:43 PM

KM

“ Vera, I am so sorry to hear about Lawrence. I will miss his smile and warm greeting whenever I come back to Longton. Was it a turnip that he would give me at Halloween? Lol...oh he was a hoot! I'm so sorry that I can't make it back for the funeral but know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Love you! Be strong and lean on the Lord! Kendra Murphy

Kendra Murphy - May 05, 2017 at 09:07 PM

KH

“ Kevan And Kim Hodges lit a candle in memory of Lawrence D. Jontra



Kevan and Kim Hodges - May 05, 2017 at 08:01 PM

KH

Our connection with Lawrence began at the Longton Coop where he always went up and beyond to assist! His quick wit will be missed. Prayers and heart-felt sympathy to the Jontra family.

Kevan and Kim Hodges - May 05, 2017 at 08:04 PM

JC

“ Janet Cox lit a candle in memory of Lawrence D. Jontra



Janet Cox - May 05, 2017 at 06:07 PM

JC

Vera and family, Kevin and I send our deepest condolences for your loss. I remember working with Lawrence many years ago. He was always so helpful. You are in our prayers.

Janet Cox - May 05, 2017 at 06:11 PM

FW

“*From Melinda & Steven Werder purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Lawrence D. Jontra.*



From Melinda & Steven Werder - May 05, 2017 at 04:59 PM

SL

“*Vera and family, we are so sorry to hear about Lawrence. Even though we haven't seen you all in a while, we always kept in touch at Christmas and I felt like we knew what was going on in each other's life. Lawrence was a special friend, doting grandfather and loving husband! Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family and just wish we were able to be there with you. All our love, Ben and Sue Loganbill*



Sue Loganbill - May 05, 2017 at 04:22 PM

SW

“ Dear Mrs. Jontra and Family,

We are very saddened to hear about your loss. Lawrence always inspired us with his commitment and solidness to others and everything that he did, community giving, hard work, and love for ranching and farming. We will miss his presence and his work on our land. Please accept our deepest sympathy for your loss.

Melinda and Steven Werder

steven werder - May 05, 2017 at 04:02 PM

FH

“ From Gwen, Sherry and Harmon purchased the Basket of Joy for the family of Lawrence D. Jontra.



From Gwen, Sherry and Harmon - May 05, 2017 at 02:52 PM

PG

“ Persinger Family, Ernest, James, Jeff & Glenda. purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Lawrence D. Jontra.



Persinger Family, Ernest, James, Jeff & Glenda. - May 05, 2017 at 01:36 PM

JK

“ He was such a good man. I know he will be missed. - Jean Ann Kariker

Jean Ann Kariker - May 05, 2017 at 12:06 PM

JP

“ Lawrence, one of my favorite cousins on the Barnaby side, will be greatly missed both family and community. He always treated me with kindness and respect as one of the younger cousins. I always looked forward to seeing him and Vera at our reunions or any of the family events we had. He loaned me money when he worked at the bank when I had a time of need. One of the funniest things we did as kids was when we went over one of the bridges when flood waters was going across the bridge. I felt the car move and I was scared to death and was really glad when we got off the bridge. A very dumb thing to do, but exciting so we thought. both of us would spank our kids today if any of them had done something like this today. A good friend always who will be missed greatly. Prayers to all of you. Judy Perrigo

Judy Perrigo - May 05, 2017 at 11:34 AM

DS

“ I am so sorry to hear about Mr. Jontra. He was one of my favorite teachers. He was a kind and patient man. I remember I had to write several "special" reports for him as i was usually doing something i shouldnt have been doing. He was very patient considering i was the 3rd Yeoman girl he had to put up with. I will remember his kindness and his smile.
Hold on to the memories.
Dava Yeoman Spohn

Dava Spohn - May 05, 2017 at 08:49 AM

CH

“ So sorry about Lawrence. Saw my sister and Teressa go through an unexpected death.
We will be thinking of you. The community will miss him.

Charlie and Janis Hawk - May 05, 2017 at 08:40 AM

JC

“ *Judy Clubine lit a candle in memory of Lawrence D. Jontra*



Judy Clubine - May 04, 2017 at 08:48 PM

TK

“ *The Kaminska Family- Fred, Donna, and Kids purchased the Vivid Recollections for the family of Lawrence D. Jontra.*



The Kaminska Family- Fred, Donna, and Kids - May 04, 2017 at 08:32 PM

MK

“ *Vera and family - So So Sorry to hear of Lawrence's passing. He will be missed in many ways by many people. Our thoughts are with you during this difficult time. Condolences to you and your family. Marilyn and Myrna Kramer, Independence, Ks.*

Myrna J. Kramer - May 04, 2017 at 07:47 PM

AW

“ *Vera Beth, I'm thinking of you and your family at this time of sadness. It has been many years since I'd seen Lawrence but I can hear his voice as he had such a distinctive voice. You will have many good memories of all your years together. Sincerely, Arlene Williams*

Arlene Williams - May 04, 2017 at 06:33 PM

JP

“ *Lawrence was my favorite teacher and a very nice person I will miss Him, prayers for His family*

juan powers - May 04, 2017 at 06:03 PM

TJ

“ *My deepest sympathies for Lawrence's family. I will always have fond memories of Lawrence giving my son, Jamie White, his first job at the Co-op when he was in high school.*

Terri Jacobs - May 04, 2017 at 05:55 PM

TJ

“ *Terri Jacobs lit a candle in memory of Lawrence D. Jontra*



Terri Jacobs - May 04, 2017 at 05:53 PM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lawrence D. Jontra.*



May 04, 2017 at 05:52 PM

HT

“ *The Jontra family: It was sad to hear of Lawrence's passing. I have known him for only a short time serving on the board of directors of SCKAA and enjoyed visiting with him and serving with him. He is one of the finest gentleman I have had the privilege to know and serve on a committee with.*

May our Lord comfort and surround you with His peace in the days ahead.

Harris Terry, McPherson, SCKAA board chairman.

Harris Terry - May 04, 2017 at 02:26 PM

BW

“ *My heart hurts for your family Vera Beth. I will miss my uncle Lawrence more than I can say. So many times we let life get in the way of keeping in touch with extended family we loved seeing as we were growing up. So many great memories at the fairgrounds during reunions and at your house when I use to come down to turkey/deer hunt. Memories I will always hold close to my heart. I use to love the way Lawrence would tease me in his slow deliberate tone. The (ornery) sense of humor in this gentle giant was something I could not get enough of. He was such a giving person. I deeply regret letting these past years go by without coming down to see you guys. We can KNOW that he is catching up on old times with old friends and family. I can imagine the reunion with my mom, grandma, shorty and others he is having. As they wait patiently for the rest of us to join them, I hope you can look up to the heavens and smile knowing they are looking over us all. Many, many prayers.*

Love you all.

Brad Weilert

Brad Weilert - May 04, 2017 at 11:53 AM

CC

“ *Chip&Nancy Crum lit a candle in memory of Lawrence D. Jontra*



Chip&Nancy Crum - May 04, 2017 at 10:49 AM

JM

“ *Jane Reinhart McGinnis lit a candle in memory of Lawrence D. Jontra*



Jane Reinhart McGinnis - May 04, 2017 at 10:48 AM

JM

I remember Mr. Jontra as my Life Science and Biology teacher in high school. He always used my notebook as an example to the class. I always liked him as a person as well as a teacher. My deepest condolences to all of his family.

Jane Reinhart McGinnis - May 04, 2017 at 10:51 AM

HH

We are so sorry to hear about Lawrence. He was a wonderful teacher who inspired so many students to go on and pursue careers in science. He was a good friend and a good co-worker. Our sympathies go out to Vera and the family. You are all in our thoughts and in our prayers.
Homer and Louise Holmes

Homer & Louise Holmes - May 04, 2017 at 05:02 PM

MA

“ I consider myself blessed to count Lawrence as a friend. And when I think of him I'll hear him calling me wiled Mary and smiling at me. I pray for Gods comfort and peace for the family.

Mary - May 04, 2017 at 10:14 AM

DC

“ Our deepest condolences to Lawrence's family. He was an awesome person. God be with you all.

Don and Velma Conklin - May 04, 2017 at 09:32 AM

BB

“ Barbara Loether Brummitt lit a candle in memory of Lawrence D. Jontra



Barbara Loether Brummitt - May 04, 2017 at 09:24 AM

BS

“ Becky Schwatken lit a candle in memory of Lawrence D. Jontra



Becky Schwatken - May 04, 2017 at 09:13 AM

BS

So sorry for your loss. Lawrence was a great guy and I always enjoyed visiting with him. Prayers and condolences from the Schwatken family.

Becky Schwatken - May 04, 2017 at 09:14 AM



“ *He was a good friend and a pillar of our community.*
Randy and Sheree Hart



Sheree Hart - May 04, 2017 at 09:04 AM

TB

“ *Tom And Kim Buttler lit a candle in memory of Lawrence D. Jontra*



Tom and Kim Buttler - May 04, 2017 at 06:17 AM

 Rocky Duke

“ *Rocky Duke lit a candle in memory of Lawrence D. Jontra*



Rocky Duke - May 04, 2017 at 03:13 AM

SH

“ *Stefni And Danny Hebb lit a candle in memory of Lawrence D. Jontra*



Stefni and Danny Hebb - May 04, 2017 at 02:34 AM

DK

“ You will be missed Brother , Rest with Heavenly Father in Peace.



Dennis Klamfoth - May 04, 2017 at 12:45 AM

AK

“ Vera and family,
I am so sorry for your loss. May the Lord Jesus give you strenght and comfort for the days ahead. I feel your pain. Lawrence was a friend to all and I remember him as always being kind. I want to express my deepest sympathy to you all. Love you,
ARLENE KOLB



Arlene Kolb - May 03, 2017 at 10:54 PM

PR

“ I have always thought of Lawrence as a good example for young men to look up to. He will surely be missed. God be with the family during this time.



Perry Russell - May 03, 2017 at 09:23 PM

AC

“ Our family was blessed to know Lawrence for many years. He had a kind and generous heart. We will miss seeing him leading the Longton parade and visiting with him in Longton. Our community is a better place because of Lawrence's leadership. Prayers for the Jontra family. ~Steve and Aimee Cook and family

Aimee Cook - May 03, 2017 at 08:41 PM

 Tina
Fletcher
Beougher

“ So sorry for your loss may you find comfort in knowing he's in God's hands. Roger and Tina beougher

Tina Fletcher Beougher - May 03, 2017 at 07:16 PM

JC

“ To a great family friend and co-worker you will be missed greatly.
Jaylene Chaplin



Jaylene Chaplin - May 03, 2017 at 07:03 PM

TM

“ I will always remember how Lawrence would pull his horse out of pasture the day of the Longton parade and carry flag to lead the parade. He was a good person to know, one who always had time to visit. He loved his family and was very proud of them. A good example to the community. He will be missed

Tammie (Cook) McDow - May 03, 2017 at 06:41 PM



“ *Ronda Fischer lit a candle in memory of
Lawrence D. Jontra*



Ronda Fischer - May 03, 2017 at 06:01 PM

TF

“ *The Wunderich Family lit a candle in memory
of Lawrence D. Jontra*



The Wunderich family - May 03, 2017 at 04:20 PM

TF

“ *The Wunderich Family lit a candle in memory
of Lawrence D. Jontra*



The Wunderich family - May 03, 2017 at 04:18 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss. He was a great man.
He will be truly missed.*



Rachelle Wehling-Boyle - May 03, 2017 at 04:05 PM

BM

“ Our family has always appreciated the friendship and fun times we have shared with Lawrence and his family, throughout many years. Our hearts are heavy, with sadness. He will be sadly missed.

Bonnie Mustoe - May 03, 2017 at 03:56 PM

MC

“ Lawrence was such a big part of my childhood. I'm fortunate to have spent many years of my early years just down the road from him and his family. He never failed to have a smile, a wave, or a kind word for me - and that voice...I will always hear his voice when I think of him because it was so distinctive. Lawrence, thank you for your years of friendship, for pulling me out of the ditch so I didn't have to confess to my dad that I'd been driving too fast, and for raising one of my best friends in this world. Vera, Terry, Juli and family - My heart aches for your loss. Lawrence will always be in my heart.



Meg Cannon - May 03, 2017 at 03:18 PM

KH

“ I was blessed to have Lawrence jontra as a teacher in 1968 and as a commissioner for many yrs and even more than that a good friend .for many many yrs.....

kenny hughes - May 03, 2017 at 02:19 PM

AM

“ Anita Martin lit a candle in memory of Lawrence D. Jontra



anita martin - May 03, 2017 at 01:50 PM