



## Robert M. Hazlett

August 11, 1928 - September 11, 2019

Robert M. Hazlett of Fort Collins passed away at his home on September 11 after a lengthy illness. He was 91. Robert, or “Coach” as he was known to thousands of New Mexico State University students moved to Fort Collins with his wife Kathryn in 1993 after his retirement from 28 years of service as an educator at NMSU.

Robert was born August 11, 1928 in Wheeling West Virginia, where he excelled in many sports, winning state championships in swimming, diving and wrestling. In Wheeling, Bob learned tumbling and acrobatics at the YMCA while working at the Wheeling Steel Company.

A chance meeting with Mr. George Nissen, founder of the Nissen Trampoline Company at an Indiana county fair led to his attending the University of Iowa as a student-athlete. Bob won many competitions at and for SUI, most notably winning the first SUI NCAA Men's Gymnastics National Championship gold medal in the trampoline event, and 2 Big Ten Conference gold medals in the tumbling event.

Bob earned a Bachelor and Master's degree in Physical Education while at Iowa and was commissioned in the Army as an Infantry Second Lieutenant. He met his future wife, Kathryn Sedlacek, at the Iowa Student Union bowling alley.

Bob and Kathy were married September 8, 1956.

Bob and Kathy left Iowa for Socorro, New Mexico and the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, where Bob served as intramural and Swimming Pool Director from 1957-1959. They then moved to Elmhurst, Illinois and York Community High School, where Bob taught physical education and health, and coached the boy's gymnastics team to 2nd, State Champions of Illinois, and 3rd finishes respectively in the Illinois State Championship in 1959-1962.

Las Cruces and New Mexico State gave Bob the opportunity to educate physical

educators. At NMSU, Bob coached men and women gymnastics teams, taught physical education, physiology, and human anatomy, served as a noted student advisor, advised the NMSU cheerleading squad, served as an advisor for Phi Epsilon Kappa, served as the circus club advisor, taught children's gymnastics classes for 17 years, and earned his doctorate at North Texas State University. He enjoyed being in the Sunrise Lions Club (charter member) and serving as a trustee and ruling elder of the First United Presbyterian Church. He was active in Camp Fire and Boy Scouts, and church youth activities.

After coming to Fort Collins, Bob was active in fishing, gardening, Kiwanis, Westminster Presbyterian Church, and enjoying his family. In 2003, Bob was selected and inducted into the Iowa Varsity Lettermen's Club Hall of Fame for athletic achievement.

He and Kathy celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary on September 8.

Bob is preceded in death by his parents, Maurice and Elgie Hazlett; his brother, Charles "Jack" Hazlett, and his sister, Ruth Ann Carnahan. He is survived by wife, Kathryn and son, Mark of the home; daughter, Kim Beierl (John); granddaughter, Bethany Folsie (Dan); grandson, Brian Beierl, all of New Orleans, LA; daughter, Karen Martinez (Alex) of Wellington; granddaughters, Alex Marie Rios (Pedro) of Fort Collins; granddaughter, Marisol Martinez of Wellington, and 5 great grandchildren.

A Memorial Service will be held at Timnath Presbyterian Church of Timnath at 11AM, Saturday, October 12, 2019 followed by a luncheon and program honoring Bob's life. In lieu of flowers, the family request that memorials be made to the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital, Iowa City, or make a memorial by doing a kindness for a child or veteran in need.

# Events

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**OCT**   **Memorial Service**   11:00AM  
**12**

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Timnath Presbyterian Church  
4020 Main Street, Timnath, US, 80547

# Comments

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“ I remember Bob from the summer of 70-71. He worked with me to fine tune my tumbling skills - even though gymnastics had been cancelled at NMSU in 1970. He had some sort of gymnastics summer program where he worked with children (I regularly attended). He also installed a trapeze over the indoor NMSU swimming pool. It was used during the annual aquatics show. During the aquatic show, Bob did this skit where he showed the audience the world's highest back-flip on the trampoline. In reality, it was the LOWEST flip - but always got lots of laughs. Bob was very social, and everyone liked him.

**Terry Wood** - August 04 at 10:08 AM

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“ The Hazletts are a fine family, and I know Bob (Mr. Hazlett to me and my siblings) will be missed. My parents, Louella and Earl, held them in high regard. Kathy (Mrs. Hazlett), Kim and Mark, you are in our prayers.

Chris & Lynne Ray, Santa Fe, NM

**Christopher Ray** - November 06, 2019 at 12:10 PM

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“ Coach worked with me on Saturday mornings at NMSU doing gymnastics when I was about 10 years - 45 years ago. He was a fabulous coach and a wonderful man. He worked with me doing extra, super cool tricks and always made me feel special. I will never forget coach, the wonderful man he was or how much I looked forward to working with him on Saturday mornings. Rest in Peace Coach. My condolences to his family. Denise DeArmond

**Denise DeArmond Anderson** - October 31, 2019 at 11:38 AM

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“ I first met Coach Hazlett in 1980 at NMSU when I decided to take a sports acrobatics class. He was such a warm and funny personality that we became friends. He encouraged me to try out for cheerleading which I thought was a crazy idea at the time. Turned out to be one of the best things that ever happened to me since I met Tina while cheerleading.

My best memory of Coach was when he invited me to go to Tempe for the Sports Acrobatics World Championship. Coach introduced me to his good friend George Nissen of Nissen trampoline fame. We were in the arena and 50-year old Coach was walking on the gymnastics floor which was spring-loaded. He was really enjoying walking on the floor and then suddenly decided to do some backhand springs! You should have seen the big grin on his face. I was truly amazed.

Coach Hazlett was a wonderful person and I look forward to seeing him in heaven! Rest in peace Coach.

Don Hardenbrook  
NMSU 1979-1983

Don Hardenbrook - October 29, 2019 at 08:42 AM

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“ I have many fond memories of Dr. Hazlett during my years at NMSU. I helped him “teach” beginning golf in the summers - we had a blast. Was amazing what he could do on the tramp. Won't forget when we had his Teaching Gymnastics class and someone was talked into getting in the harness belt, then he was hauled up to almost the ceiling and the rope was tied, Dr. Hazlett came in and yelled at him -“what are you doing up there, get down now”, never laughed so hard.

scott sparks - October 28, 2019 at 07:44 PM



“ Many wonderful memories with this man from college days in sports acro. His safety skills with talent always stayed with me through the years teaching my own children. You will never be forgotten coach. RIP

Teresa Tapia  
NMSU

Teresa Tapia - October 29, 2019 at 02:14 AM

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“ Coach was always there to help. He got alot of us on down the road, when we might not of made it!:) Fond memories working with him when he had the student teaching program for P.E. The Aquatics Program each spring was a Thriller!:)

Kip Bullock - October 28, 2019 at 04:57 PM



“ I met Dr. Hazlett when I was 4yrs old and continued Gymnastics with him the next 18 years all the way through Graduate School at New Mexico State where I was his teachers assistant for 5 years - and then taught Gymnastics when he retired. He was my mentor and friend and a truly great man. He molded my life and Gymnastics took me to places in the world most can only dream of. Gymnastics was the foundation of who I became as a person and he built my self confidence and esteem. As a teen in the summer I would go to the gym every day and spend all day there with Dr. Hazlett. He would teach me skills and we would laugh and talk. As a kid Mark and I would do a gymnastics routine together that we would perform all over Southern New Mexico. Both of my kids continue to do gymnastics today. As I sit in front of my keyboard crying and remembering the thousands of hours we spent together, It is hard to explain how much he meant to me - I grew up in the gym and I loved Dr Hazlett so much that his death brings me much sadness, but also memories that will last a lifetime. - Ernest Wagley email: ewagley@verizon.net Cell: 469-767-7666

**Ernest Wagley** - October 28, 2019 at 08:27 AM



“ I had the pleasure of having Dr. Hazlett as a professor for numerous teaching of P.E. classes. Also had the privilege of teaching beginning swimming at NMSU with him. He was a great motivator for all of us who took his classes. I also remember the last extra credit question on his exams, true or false, your professor is tall,dark and handsome. RIP

**Bob Vandiver** - October 28, 2019 at 09:41 AM



“ "He flew through the air with the greatest of ease, the daring young teacher on the flying trapzee (trampoline!) It was a joy to be a student in his classes - he never "talked down to us" (unless he was on his trampoline!) He was an excellent teacher and a wonderful person that all his students admired and loved. The world was a better place with him in it.

He will be missed,

Merle Osborn  
Class of 1971 / NMSU  
Las Cruces, NM

**Merle Osborn** - October 27, 2019 at 11:00 PM

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“ I was a freshman athlete At NMSU in 1968 Dr Hazlett was very encouraging and supportive to a nervous freshman. I will always appreciate his kindness. Don Beasley Aggie 72

**Don Beasley** - October 21, 2019 at 12:24 PM