



## Wayne Roy Gutowsky

May 8, 1939 - December 2, 2025

Our Dad, Wayne Roy Gutowsky, passed away on Tuesday, December 2nd, in the comfort of his home in Fort Collins, CO, at the age of 86.

Dad was born in Chicago, IL on May 8th, 1939, to Albert and Christine Gutowsky. He graduated from Lane Tech High School in 1957 and later went on to graduate from Western Michigan University in 1961, where he was a track & field Athlete, excelling in the shot put. Following graduation, he drafted into the U.S. Army where he served in the Hospital Corp between 1962-64 and was fiercely proud to have served his country.

Following an honorable discharge, Dad moved to Southern California in 1964, where he began his cross country/track & field and teaching careers. He continued these passions until his retirement from Loveland High School in 1999.

In 1972, Dad met our mom, Susan Ludlum. He described the experience as “love at first sight.” Mom and dad married in 1972 in San Clemente, CA and would remain devoted to each other for the next 53 years. Together they had two children, daughter Karlee, and son Marty. He described us as his greatest legacy.

Our dad was a servant leader through and through. Giving of himself and

asking nothing in return. His impact on others has been felt over the years, whether in the classroom, on the track, or as an inspiration to family and friends.

Dad is preceded in death by his mother and father, brother Albert, and nephew Ronald.

He is survived by his wife Susan, daughter Karlee (Isaac), son Marty (Melanie) and his precious canine companion Teddy. Grandchildren: Mitchell (Kiley), Karson, Emmalyne, Eleanor, Evette and Fletcher. Great-Grandchildren: Adelaide and Eloise.

Join us at First United Methodist Church, 1005 Stover Street in Fort Collins, CO on Tuesday, December 16th at 1pm as we celebrate our dad's life and legacy. Wear a Hawaiian or Chicago Cubs shirt or Chicago Cubs colors(red/blue) in his honor.

In lieu of flowers please donate to the Larimer County Food Bank.

# Tribute Wall

GA

“ I taught at Loveland High from the fall of 1975-spring of 2001. I saw Wayne often. I taught in the Business Department. He was always an excellent person to add to discussions concerning the school. Very thoughtful. I feel his students, and athletes, and faculty respected him and had nothing but good things to say about Wayne. My wife and I are very sorry for your loss.

*Be well.*

*Respectfully*

*Gary and Karen Fentiman*

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**Gary** - January 08 at 03:11 PM

MR

“ I met coach Wayne back when I was in high school, in the 70's He coached Loveland and I went to Rocky. Even though we were competitors, he made time to develop a relationship. Fast forward 20 years at the Fort Collins Club, we reinitiated a great relationship talking about track and field, life, and how the two shaped our behaviors. Really enjoyed his passion for life and sharing his enthusiasm about other peoples successes! Come to find out that at Loveland he use to tell his runners to pace off of me, and my coaches to me to pace off his runners. Had a good laugh about that.

*I will miss the conversations in passing and the updates from the last person to have a subscription to Track and Field News!*

*Blessing to you and your family*

*Mike Rickett*

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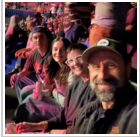
**mike Rickett** - January 04 at 07:47 PM



“ Coach Gutowsky was who I knew him as...sadly never got to have him as teacher. I was one of his distance runners and loved every minute of it...hard to imagine that when you're running 20x 200m intervals! He pushed us just enough and we knew he loved what he was doing and loved us. One of my fondest memories of teachers and coaches. Wish I could have had a chance to talk Army Med Ops with him!!

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**Chad Arthur** - January 01 at 11:12 AM



“ Truly one of the best teachers at LHS. I can remember 5 teachers from HS that I would look forward to each day I had their class and the Wayner was one of them. He made learning fun, he poked fun at his students and would take it in return, he just made those long block classes enjoyable.

He continues to have a huge impact on so many people in the community including myself. RIP my friend!

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**Zachary Meiu** - December 16, 2025 at 01:46 PM

AS

“ The Wayner!!! Gutowsky taught me so much! Absolutely one of my most favorite teachers ever. I still use his note taking style to this day. Loved talking about Buddy Holly, the day the music died, how he was way tougher and better looking than Jeremiah Johnson, Battle of The Little Bighorn, gave me a background on AJ Duhe a great linebacker for the Dolphins, and just so many more things about life. He was what a teacher should be. I'm so thankful for the countless stories and memories.

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**AJ Stoneburner** - December 15, 2025 at 07:24 PM



“ I was lucky to be both coached and taught by Mr. G. He made a big impact on me- strengthening my work ethic and igniting my interest in history. One of my fondest memories is winning the district 2 mile and looking up at coach G in the stands with his huge smile. He was as proud of my win as I was- we worked hard together to get it. I've since won several district track titles as a middle school coach, all using coach G's time tested workouts. Great man who made lots of positive impact on many people

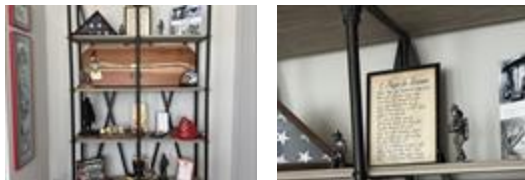
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**David Laing** - December 14, 2025 at 09:45 PM

JK

“ I met Mr. Gutowsky at the Fort Collins Club. Seeing each other frequently we got to know each other very well. There were many times we spent more time talking then working out. Mr. Gutowsky was so proud of his family. I loved listening to him proudly talk of their accomplishments and his life as a teacher and coach. I was a PFA firefighter at the time, so we had a special bond as his father was a Chicago firefighter. He told me stories of big fires his father fought and growing up as the son of a Chicago firefighter. He told a story of how Chicago firefighters could get in the Bear's games for free with a firefighter ID. His father borrowed a coworkers ID and got them both into the game even though he was a young boy. Mr. Gutowsky visited me at the station on several occasions. He gifted me his father's framed Firefighter Prayer that was hung over his fathers bed at the fire house. I kept it by my bed at the station until my retirement. It's now displayed with other firefighter memorabilia I have in my home. This was an incredible gift that means so much and was so special, as I new how much it meant to him! We moved out of state so I have not seen Mr. Gutowsky in several years. In September I ran into him at a CSU game. Although it was brief, it was great to see him and that big smile!

*Mr. Gutowsky it was great to get to know you and I thank you for your friendship! You will be missed, God Bless You!*



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**Jay Klassen** - December 14, 2025 at 04:29 PM



“ *Mr Gutowsky was an exceptional educator, a track and cross country coach who didn't coddle and told it like it was. His stories of LA, his quick wit and no-BS attitude was exactly what we needed in 82-84. I borrowed many of his go-to phrases while raising my own kids, like: “now you're thinking! Now you're dangerous!” Everyone loved him, everyone respected him. He had a presence about him that was different from the rest. May you rest in peace Mr Gutowski and may your family have peace and comfort and know that he made an impact on many lives during his time here.*

*Mark Mills*

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**Mark Mills** - December 13, 2025 at 10:52 PM

MR

“ *One of the finest teachers I ever had. The KISS principle stays with me to this day.*

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**Michael Risch** - December 12, 2025 at 08:29 PM

JF

“ I’ve thought about Mr. Gutowsky so many times over the years since I had him in ‘96. He was such a memorable stand out educator and human. I can’t believe all the good-natured crap he would give us at school. If you fell asleep during class? Pow! - you could expect a chalky erasure thrown at you. I got hit many times... Once I showed up 5 mins late for class, but rather than write me up he said I could get out of it if I could tell him what “Fulton’s Folly” was. Because it’s also my last name, I just happened to know - and he was impressed. It’s a good memory... I remember how brilliantly he interacted with all types of kids - the A students, the jocks, the confrontational, and the troubled. I wish every teacher understood his magic.

As an adult, one of my biggest interests is history, geopolitics, and sociology and I can’t help but think he planted some of those seeds.. I would have loved to have gotten to know him as an adult.... God bless you Mr. G!

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**John Fulton** - December 12, 2025 at 05:51 PM

PB

“ Aside from my own father, Wayne will forever be my biggest mentor and supporter. He challenged me to become the man I am today and has left a legacy that will forever be remembered. I will miss him very much.

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**Paul Benkendorf** - December 12, 2025 at 09:55 AM

RC

“ Great coach, great teacher. I hope he knew how much he meant to me. My friends and I have talked about him for 30 years. Great impact.

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**rich Childers** - December 12, 2025 at 03:32 AM

BB

“ Mr. Gutowsky was the best. Amazing educator, and what a great sense of humor he had. Also cared deeply about his students. I have thought often about him over the years. He was my favorite teacher of all three years at LHS. Rest in peace Wayne. You left a mark on so many lives. Godspeed friend.

Bruce Bridgeman - December 12, 2025 at 12:06 AM

JT

“ Mr Gutowsky was my absolute favorite teacher. Of all the classes I took throughout high school, his classes are the only ones I remember most fondly. He was such a a gifted teacher. He truly loved what he did, and loved the students he taught. A teacher that can make laugh and learn is a true gem.

Jayne Tomlinson - December 11, 2025 at 07:55 PM

NM

“ When I was a newbie spec Ed teacher at Loveland, I'd walk into the social studies dept and Wayne would say, "What the hell do you want Meredith?" It scared me to death until underneath that gruff voice came the biggest smile. He was truly a great man and teacher as well as friend. I feel blessed to call him co-worker and friend. Heartfelt condolences to Susan and family! 💕💕

Nancy Meredith - December 11, 2025 at 05:31 PM

CL

“ Wayne was my husband's mentor teacher and such an inspiration to both of us. Remember department get together at Wayne and Sue's home. A wonderful man with a sharp wit, great sense of humor, and huge heart. So much love to Sue and the family at this difficult time. Remembering a beautiful soul.

Carrie Linville - December 10, 2025 at 09:04 AM

JO

“ Sue, Karlee, Marty and your families, I am deeply saddened to hear of Wayne's passing. I thoroughly enjoyed my visits and chats with him while I was living in Colorado.. He was an all around wonderful and warm man who made you feel welcome and comfortable. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.. Much love!

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**Jennifer Ward Ostramder** - December 10, 2025 at 03:46 AM

KE

“Simply put” , as he would often say, Wayne was a brilliant husband, father, teacher and coach. I loved him and his impact on me was as powerful as any colleague/friend I've ever known. Simply put.

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**kellet** - December 11, 2025 at 12:31 PM

JC

“ Dear Susan, I am so deeply sorry for the loss of your beloved husband, Wayne. He was truly cherished by many, and it has been touching to read the heartfelt statements from his former students. Wayne was one of those exceptional teachers/coaches who leave a lasting impression—someone remembered fondly for years to come. There is nothing more meaningful than the love and admiration of those whose lives he touched through his dedication and kindness.

*This must be an incredibly challenging time for you. I hope you can find some solace in knowing that Wayne passed away, deeply loved and in the comfort of your home. Please accept my deepest condolences and know that you and your family are in my mind during this time of sorrow.*

*Jeannie Craft*

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**Jeannie Craft** - December 09, 2025 at 07:00 PM

DW

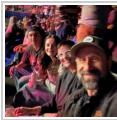
“ So sorry for your loss Sue. My condolences.

Doug Wilkerson - December 08, 2025 at 12:09 PM

MF

“ I loved Wayne Gutowsky. I tried to be him when I taught me classes. No games, no bullshit, just content with stories attached to the lesson. Something new each day so the Honors kids wouldn't get bored. He was the best I ever saw. God bless you Wayne Gutowsky. You are my mentor. Thank you.

Michael Felton - December 07, 2025 at 05:23 PM



Well, you did an incredible job following in his footsteps as a teacher/coach. You were also one of the special teachers to come out of LHS!

Zachary Meiu - December 16, 2025 at 01:50 PM

JL

“ Dear Susan and family,  
Our condolences. We are sorry to hear of your husband's passing. He was fortunate to have such a wonderful family. We are thinking of you and sending love.  
Jean Lehmann and Ray Nelson

Jean Lehmann - December 07, 2025 at 03:26 PM

KC

“ We are so very sorry to hear of Wayne's passing. He was always so welcoming to visitors in his home. He had such a sharp wit and strong, knowledgeable opinions about the world. And he was so very proud of his family, especially of Susan. We hope you find comfort in your memories and knowing all he gave to the world.

Kris Cafaro - December 05, 2025 at 08:28 AM

AD

“ Susan and family: I am so very sorry to hear of your loss. Please know you are loved and thought of, especially now. Be brave in these difficult days.

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**Alicia Durand** - December 04, 2025 at 08:25 PM

KI

“ Susan and family,  
My sincere condolences on the passing of Coach Wayne. He was my Coach at Loveland High School in the early 83 & 84 for cross country. He made a huge impact on my life during those years in helping to form me into the man that I am today. He was always there to support me through some tough times in my life and helped guide me through them with wisdom and grace that I look back on now and realize how blessed I was to have known him. May God bring you comfort and peace during these difficult days.  
Ken Becker II

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**Ken Becker II** - December 04, 2025 at 02:23 PM

DL

I was so fortunate to get to teach with Wayne when I was at LHS! I taught students with special needs and he always welcomed and included anyone who wanted to be on the track team! He was one of my own three sons favorite teachers! So lucky to have known him! My prayers are with you all!

*Deb Lepera*

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**deb LePera** - December 11, 2025 at 03:00 PM

RM

“ Dear Susan and Family,

*In this time of profound sorrow, we extend our deepest sympathies on the passing of Wayne Gutowsky—a remarkable man whose life was a testament to unwavering dedication, boundless compassion, and quiet strength. Wayne was the epitome of a lifelong educator and mentor, pouring his heart into teaching and coaching countless students over the decades. Not content merely to impart knowledge, he approached every interaction with genuine humility, always eager to learn from those he guided. His classrooms and fields were sanctuaries of growth, where young minds and spirits were nurtured not just in skills, but in character and resilience. Generations of students carry his lessons forward, a living legacy that will echo far beyond his years.*

*As a devoted husband of over 40 years, Wayne was the steadfast anchor of your family, a pillar of support through every joy and trial. His love extended effortlessly to his children, grandchildren, and all those fortunate enough to call him friend or kin. He cared deeply for people—not in grand gestures, but in the everyday acts of kindness that made others feel seen, valued, and uplifted. Wayne's warmth, his quick wit, and his unyielding belief in those around him touched lives in ways that words can scarcely capture. He built a family not just by blood, but by the quiet heroism of presence and encouragement.*

*Though his absence leaves an aching void, Wayne's legacy endures in the lives he shaped, the family he cherished, and the community he enriched. May the memories of his laughter, his wisdom, and his gentle guidance bring you solace in the days ahead. In this season of grief, hold close the truth that he lived fully, loved fiercely, and left the world brighter for it.*

*With heartfelt condolences and prayers for your comfort,*

*Ray Martinez, former mayor of Fort Collins*

**Ray Martinez** - December 04, 2025 at 12:06 PM

BM

*Hi, Susan & kids:-(..., ohhh dear our wonderful teacher friend & buddy left for eternity! I'm so sorry! Thank you for posting on FB ... I'll be at the funeral tomorrow at first united Methodist!!! At 1... I visited Wayne often in his classroom while I was counselor at good ole LHS... and we laughed and always had the greatest of times! 1976-1986... I'll always remember ole buddy for this classic quote: "if you think this class is boring..., just wait till you might have to stand in an unemployment line"... ha ha... totally our dear Wayne.. requiescat in pace, dear friend ... Latin! And you now join dear Linda in perfect eternity! Prayers and love always, bill Murphy here..*

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**bill murphy** - December 15, 2025 at 06:57 PM

JG

*“ Wayne was such an inspiration to me on his views, values and how he was such a wonderful friend. My sincere prayers to Susan and family. Rest well my wonderful friend.*

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**Jerry Gavaldon** - December 04, 2025 at 11:43 AM