



## J. Rockne Calhoun

February 7, 1939 - April 6, 2019

Joseph Rockne Calhoun passed away on Saturday, April 6, 2019 at the Country View Nursing Home in Bowling Green, MO. A Celebration of Life will be held at 4:00 P.M. on Saturday, April 13, 2019 at the Collier Funeral Home in Louisiana, MO. Visitation will be held from 12:00 P.M. until time of service Saturday at the funeral home.

Joseph Rockne Calhoun was born February 7, 1939 at Pike County Memorial Hospital in Louisiana, Missouri, to Joseph and Eleanor (nee Carroll) Calhoun. His father named him after Knute Rockne, the former Notre Dame football coach, in hopes that his son would embody the spirit of the name he was given. Joe would prove to be right on the money.

Rockne grew up in a loving home with his younger sister, Peggy, who he would entertain and laugh with his entire life. He was a very active young man, as well. Thanks to his Uncle John B. Carroll, he acquired a love of nature and good-natured mischief at a young age. But it was in athletics where he began to lay claim to the name he was given.

Appropriately enough, Rockne excelled on the football field in high school and was awarded a scholarship to the University of Missouri. Rockne played at Mizzou from 1957-1960 and, at 5'7", 200 lbs., was undersized even in those days. However, Rockne continued to live up to his name, earning a starting position on the line his Junior and Senior years. His efforts helped the Tigers reach back-to-back Orange Bowls, while Rockne was selected 1st Team All-Big 8 Defensive Tackle along the way. His head coach, Dan Devine, would

later say “Rockne Calhoun was the toughest player I have ever coached”. After graduation from Mizzou, Rockne would spend several years coaching high school football encouraging in his players that same toughness his coach saw in him. Rockne’s coaching stops included: Grant City, Nashville, IL, Bowling Green, University of Missouri (as a graduate assistant while attending law school) and Centralia, Missouri. Rockne had many successes on the game field, but the bonds created with his players through his coaching career are what defined him in his player’s eyes. Many members of his Centralia teams made it an annual tradition over the last ten years of Rockne’s life to travel to Pike County as a group just to visit their former coach.

Rockne retired from coaching in the mid-1970’s and would eventually move back to Pike County where he was elected Prosecuting Attorney in 1982. He served in that role until 1990 when he was elected Associate Circuit Judge, until his retirement in 2002.

He is survived by his sister Peggy (Jim) York of Louisiana and his four children: Rich Eickelman of Bowling Green, Randee (Rob) Wahlgren of O’Fallon, Missouri, Rainee Sinroll of Columbia, Missouri, and Joe Calhoun of Louisiana, Missouri, as well as 14 grandchildren.

Rockne was a genuine, caring, and inspiring individual. As a friend, he was fun and dependable. As a judge, he was tough, yet fair. As a coach he was demanding, but cared deeply for his players. As a father, he was all a son or daughter could have asked for. Rockne lived up to his name and then some. He will be dearly missed by all those who knew and loved him.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in memoriam of J. Rockne Calhoun, to the Louisiana Alumni and Friends Scholarship Fund.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

APR 13. 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Collier Funeral Homes, Inc.  
117 Barnard Dr  
Louisiana, MO 63353  
(573) 754-4800  
collierfuneral@att.net

## Celebration of Life Service

APR 13. 4:00 PM (CT)

Collier Funeral Homes, Inc.  
117 Barnard Dr  
Louisiana, MO 63353  
(573) 754-4800  
collierfuneral@att.net

# Tribute Wall



“ *J. Rockne Calhoun*

November 08, 2022 at 10:35 AM



“ *J. Rockne Calhoun*

November 08, 2022 at 08:46 AM



“ *Best funny story I have ever heard came from this man. Don't remember what it was about, but I laugh to this day at how hard it made me and six court clerks laugh one afternoon in 1998 or so, Troy, Missouri. As a new attorney, I was so intimidated in his juvenile court. He was such an imposing figure, and I was very wet behind the ears. I remember the day distinctly that he looked down over his glasses at me and said, "you did a good thing today." One of the proudest days of my career. Thank you Judge. God bless you and may your family be comforted by his love and memories of your humor and caring. Amy Kinker, formerly of Lincoln County MO*

**Amy Kinker** - April 10, 2019 at 03:30 PM



Randee Wahlgren

*Amy, thank you so much for sharing this story!*

**Randee Wahlgren** - April 11, 2019 at 12:49 PM



“ *Coach Calhoun may you rest in the loving arms of our loving Savior. RIP*

**Ken Kessler** - April 10, 2019 at 05:15 AM



Randee Wahlgren

*Thank you, Ken.*

**Randee Wahlgren** - April 11, 2019 at 12:49 PM



JS

“*Jackie Stockamp lit a candle in memory of J. Rockne Calhoun*



**Jackie stockamp** - April 09, 2019 at 09:14 PM



“*Prayers for Peggy and the family. I first knew them when we attended a country school. Sorry that I won't be able to attend the celebration.*

**Nancy Jensen** - April 09, 2019 at 03:01 PM



“*Renee Skaggs Brown lit a candle in memory of J. Rockne Calhoun*



**Renee Skaggs Brown** - April 09, 2019 at 02:58 PM



“ I first met Rock in 1957. A team bus came out to our farm to pick me up to go to Sedalia, MO to stay a week and play in the Missouri State Fair Bowl game. When I looked at Rock I thought 'What in the hell am I doing trying to play with guys like this!'"

Rock was a very good buddy. He and I hitch hiked to Atlanta, Ga. to see his girlfriend during collage. We could often be found at some very memorable spots around Columbia such as Andy's Corner and The Stables (where we kept horses of course).

Rock was smart and we studied hard, went to class, played hard on and off the field, and enjoyed life very much. Good By Rock---You will be missed but not forgotten.

Joel Case

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**Joel Case** - April 09, 2019 at 01:21 PM

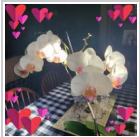


Rande Wahlgren

Thank you for sharing this Joel. He enjoyed sharing stories of your escapades; however, I'm sure he edited it for the audience. :)

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**Rande Wahlgren** - April 10, 2019 at 01:17 PM



“ I had the pleasure of knowing Rockne Calhoun. he helped me with some legal stuff back when I had my daycare and then became a friend. He was a very caring and giving guy. I didn't really know a lot about his younger life was interesting reading his obituary. I know his family is very proud of him. May he rest in peace.



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**Kim Radabaugh** - April 09, 2019 at 12:32 PM



*Thank you for sharing, Kim.*

**Randee Wahlgren** - April 10, 2019 at 01:18 PM



“ *Carolyn Swope lit a candle in memory of J. Rockne Calhoun*



**Carolyn Swope** - April 09, 2019 at 10:43 AM



“ *One great judge and man. He will be missed dearly*

**Lisa Lawrence** - April 09, 2019 at 12:27 AM



*Thank you, Lisa.*

**Randee Wahlgren** - April 10, 2019 at 01:19 PM



“ *Bobbi Shinn lit a candle in memory of J. Rockne Calhoun*



**Bobbi Shinn** - April 08, 2019 at 10:16 PM

 Cheryl  
Litton

“ Cheryl Litton lit a candle in memory of J.  
Rockne Calhoun



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**Cheryl Litton** - April 08, 2019 at 09:06 PM

AR

“ Adam Ritter lit a candle in memory of J.  
Rockne Calhoun



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**Adam ritter** - April 08, 2019 at 09:02 PM

LR

“ Had so many great conversations with this  
sweet guy.. and Rockne and his Pepsi



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**Leslie and Adam Ritter** - April 08, 2019 at 09:00 PM

 Randee  
Wahlgren

*He certainly loved his Pepsi. Thanks for sharing, Leslie and Adam.*

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**Randee Wahlgren** - April 10, 2019 at 01:20 PM

CB

“ *Candy Burnett lit a candle in memory of J. Rockne Calhoun*



**Candy Burnett** - April 08, 2019 at 08:20 PM

BG

“ *Betty Green lit a candle in memory of J. Rockne Calhoun*



**Betty Green** - April 08, 2019 at 08:02 PM

JE

“ *Janet Elliott lit a candle in memory of J. Rockne Calhoun*



**Janet Elliott** - April 08, 2019 at 07:29 PM



“ *So many good memories of Rockne at the Courthouse!*

**Jerri Harrelson** - April 08, 2019 at 07:26 PM



*He loved his time there! Thank you, Jerri.*

**Rande Wahlgren** - April 10, 2019 at 01:21 PM

RN

“ *Can't help but think of all the memories & good times. You are special, RIP my friend.*

**Ralph Niemeyer** - April 08, 2019 at 06:39 PM



Randee Wahlgren

*Thank you, Ralph.*

**Randee Wahlgren** - April 10, 2019 at 01:21 PM

GC

“ *Ginger Cafer lit a candle in memory of J. Rockne Calhoun*



**Ginger Cafer** - April 08, 2019 at 05:16 PM