



William "Bill "KAZ" Kaczmarek

April 27, 1934 - November 20, 2025

William "Bill" Anthony Kaczmarek, of Salem, Missouri, passed away peacefully at home with his family by his side at the age of 91. He was born in Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania, on April 27, 1934, to the late Joseph and Pauline (Ovitsky) Kaczmarek.

Raised on the East Coast, Bill developed a love for sports early in life, excelling especially in football. He went on to play college football at Southwest Missouri State. His talent on the field led to his being drafted by the San Francisco 49ers—at the same time he was drafted into the United States Army. Bill served his country and proudly fulfilled his duties in the U.S. Army. After returning home, the Philadelphia Eagles invited him to join their team, but because he was still under contract with the 49ers, and they would not release him, he decided to move on. Bill headed north to Canada, where he continued his football career playing for the Calgary Stampede.

On June 17, 1960, Bill was united in marriage to Miss Roberta Reser. This union was blessed with two sons. Bill began his high school coaching career in Osceola, Missouri, coaching basketball, later moving to Houston, Missouri, to coach football, and eventually settling in Salem, Missouri. There he served not only as a football coach but also as athletic director, teacher, and driver's education instructor. He was deeply committed to the students and communities he served.

In 1971, Bill and Roberta purchased twenty head of Polled Herefords from Texas, vowing to never own more than twenty head. After Bill's retirement, the

farm grew steadily, eventually becoming one of the largest and finest herds of Polled Herefords in Missouri. Bill often joked that he had a three-word vocabulary: “work, work, work”—and that is exactly what he and Roberta did, side by side, as they built and ran the farm together.

Above all, Bill loved his family. He treasured every moment when the grandchildren and great-grandchildren came to visit. He attended the Salem United Methodist Church and will be forever remembered by all who knew and loved him.

Bill is survived by his wife of 65 years, Roberta Kaczmarek, of the home; his children, Joe Kaczmarek and wife Lori of Springfield, MO, and Dr. Tony Kaczmarek and wife Julie of Rolla, MO; grandchildren, Kirk (Riley) Kaczmarek of Springfield, MO, Tate Kaczmarek of Ventura, CA, Katie (Aaron) Troll of St. Louis, MO, Jessie Kaczmarek (Liam Jennings) of Cincinnati, OH, and Anna (Garrett) Fels of Rolla, MO;

great-grandchildren, Blair Kaczmarek, Gabie, Elsie, and Rhys Troll, and Lee Fels;

and sisters, Josephine Graft and Loretta Keefer, both of Mount Pleasant, PA.

He is also survived by a host of extended family members and friends.

Funeral services will be held on Sunday, November 23, 2025, at Northlawn Cemetery in Salem. Visitation for family and friends will be on Saturday, November 22, 2025, from 2:00–4:00 PM at the Salem Chapel of James & Gahr Mortuary. Memorials are suggested to the Love Pack Program, and cards are available at all James & Gahr locations.

Cemetery Details

North Lawn Cemetery

Hwy 19 North
Salem, MO 65560
(573) 729-3117
dcjames@fidnet.com
<https://www.jamesgahrmortuary.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **22**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

James & Gahr Mortuary - Salem
103 West Center
Salem, MO 65560
(573) 729-3117
jgsalemmo@hotmail.com
<https://www.jamesgahrmortuary.com/>

Graveside Service

NOV **23**. 1:00 PM (CT)

North Lawn Cemetery
Hwy 19 North
Salem, MO 65560
(573) 729-3117
dcjames@fidnet.com
<https://www.jamesgahrmortuary.com>

Tribute Wall

LW

“ Coach “Kaz” was a great guy! I have so many great memories of him on the football field! He taught me a lot about football but also a lot about being a good man! I’ll always remember one of his signature coaching comments “ Line em up and run one more” and “Get up, I’ll tell you when you’re hurt” Brenda and I send our deepest condolences and prayers to Roberta, Tony, Joe, and all his family! I truly wish I could have been able to come for his service but won’t be able to come! Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers! He was “one of the good guys”!!!!
Larry and Brenda Wofford

larry Wofford - November 22, 2025 at 10:05 AM

JH

“ Kaz was a good man who I admired. Hadn’t seen him in years but ran into him at the barber shop after moving away many years earlier. Spoke to him and he looked up and said “Jim I didn’t recognize you.” Amazing memory so many students so many years. He was my coach.

jim higginbottom - November 21, 2025 at 09:22 PM

KC

“ Coach Kaz was the athletic director at Salem HS, when during my junior year, we got up a petition to get a girls' basketball team. It was approved between my junior and senior year, and he agreed to coach us. The boys had the gym after school, of course, so we had to come in the dark before school in the mornings for practice. We didn't have a whole lot of games compared to today's standards, but we did have a winning season with only two main plays, besides special plays. We all loved him. He was very kind and sweet.

Kim Cooper - November 21, 2025 at 06:20 PM

DN

“ Tony, Julie, and family,

I am so very sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

-Darla Noble

darla noble - November 21, 2025 at 03:12 PM

VE

I loved Coach Kaczmarek so much! He taught me driver's ed at the end of my sophomore year. I was the last in the class to go b/c I was one of the youngest. My time was extended then bc most of my fellow students, were driving by them. We had about 7weeks together and we drove to the most interesting locations and had the best chats. He showed me and my partner in dr.ed., all over the local area on our driving routes He was a fun, interesting man with a dry and clever wit, very intelligent and he called it like he saw it. He made me laugh and I thought about him often over the years.

As a student, you always remember those who had an impact on your life, and he did!

RIP Coach Kaczmarek. You are not forgotten. You made a difference.

VeeBee - November 23, 2025 at 11:23 PM