



## Vance D. Baird

November 24, 2017

Vance D. Baird, 82 of Mason City, died Friday, November 24, 2017 while at work at the NIACC athletic department.

Memorial services will be held at 7:00 pm Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at Fullerton Funeral Home, 123 2nd ST. SE, Mason City. Personal remarks will be shared by Dan Mason of NIACC and scripture selections by Rita Baird. Visitation will be from 4:00 until 8:00 pm Wednesday. Vance would like you to dress for comfort – NIACC clothing/colors are welcome. Inurnment will be at Riverside Cemetery, Rockford, IA, at a later date. Memorials may be made to the Vance D. Baird Memorial Fund.

Vance was born on March 25, 1935 in Waterloo to Rex Irving and Esther Wood Baird. He graduated from Rockford High School in 1954. He attended Mason City Community College and then went on to receive his bachelor's degree from Upper Iowa in Fayette, and his Master's in Education from Drake. He taught school in Orange, Parkersburg, and Rudd Rockford Marble Rock Community Schools. Later he became an assistant Football Coach for NIACC and continued working in the Athletic Department until his death. At NIACC Vance was known as Mr. Everything because he did everything. He was also the "Den Mother" for years in the NIACC dormitories. For NIACC no job was too big or too small for Vance as he cherished being part of the NIACC family. In 2014 he was inducted into the NIACC Athletic Hall of Fame, receiving a

Distinguished Service Award.

In his early years Vance achieved his Eagle Scout Award and he was the summer baseball coach in Rockford. He owned a scuba diving shop in Mason City and enjoyed traveling to Key West to scuba dive. He also cross country skied, was an avid golfer, and Hawkeye fan. On several veteran's occasions he was the speaker for the VFW in Mason City.

Vance's love for music started at Rockford High School where he was a drum major. Vance was a long-time North Iowa Band Festival supporter. He served as the Band Festival Coordinator for 8 years and was the 'go-to' person to kick off the parade each year. In 2009 he was the Grand Marshall of the annual Band Festival parade. He also regularly volunteered at the Music Man Square.

Those thankful for being family to Vance are his brothers Richard and wife Rita, Manly, Dru Johnston and wife Sharon, West Branch, sisters Fonda and husband Gerald Collins, Van Meter, and Judith Deon Stadtlander, Mason City, eleven nieces and nephews, his NIACC family, and McDonald's morning coffee gang.

Preceding Vance in death are his mother & father, his step-father, Donald J. Johnston, and brother-in-law Lenard Stadtlander.

Arrangements are with Fullerton Funeral Home, 123 2nd St SE, Mason City, IA 50401, 641-423-8676 [www.Fullertonfh.com](http://www.Fullertonfh.com)

Facebook/Fullertonfuneralhomes

# Cemetery Details

## Riverside Cemetery

Rockford, IA

# Previous Events

## Gathering of Family and Friends

NOV **29**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Fullerton Funeral Home in Mason City  
123 2nd St. SE  
Mason City, IA 50401  
(641) 423-8676  
mail@fullertonfh.com  
<https://www.fullertonfh.com>

## Memorial Service

NOV **29**. 7:00 PM (CT)

Fullerton Funeral Home in Mason City  
123 2nd St. SE  
Mason City, IA 50401  
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# Tribute Wall



“ Vance D. Baird

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ Vance Baird was the ultimate "Friend of our family" in every respect and we loved him dearly! We met at a college tradeshow conference in 1984 and the bond was instant and genuine in every detail. My wife and I made several trips to Mason City on business and Vance was the perfect host in every respect. Vance made several trips to Florida for fun in the sun vacations and wild trips to wacky Key West, Florida. We had a ball every time! He showed us about underwater photography and wow, was he great at it! I captured a lobster, preserved it and hand delivered it to him with the inscription "Superfriend" on a gold plate to commemorate our friendship bond. One summer, he even brought a group of NIACC students to visit us in Merritt Island, Florida. We took them by boat to some local islands and showed them all about sea life, Florida birds and fishing.

Vance, wherever you are, we love you and miss you as a member of our own family! You will be loved and remembered by Chip, Joanne, Connie and Melissa Futch FOREVER! We really loved you buddy, you are the BEST! What an inspiration...my life is better having known you all these years!

Chip Futch - November 29, 2017 at 04:52 PM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Vance on Band Festival. Sorry to hear of his passing.  
Jorinda Brant

Jorinda Brant - November 28, 2017 at 12:19 PM

MZ

“ To Vance's family, I well remember Vance through all my growing up years in Rockford and consider him a good friend. I see by his "history" nothing has changed . He was always moving and into whatever what available. He visited Ted and myself at the Mill in Rockford many times when we would be up north. Thanks to Fonda for the call. I wish I could be there but will have to just send prayers and talk to him in heaven. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you and know God will give you peace. Fondly Margaret Knight Zeran. Burlington, Iowa

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**Margaret Knighth Zeran** - November 28, 2017 at 11:25 AM

DW

“ I played basketball for Coach Baird in high school 55 years ago....and we always Called each other on our birthdays. He always wanted me to just call him Vance , but to me he was just “Coach”. He earned my respect and I will forever miss his calls and our occasional visits when I would make it back to Iowa. RIP my forever friend.  
Denise Anderson White

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**denise white** - November 27, 2017 at 07:47 PM

PW

RIP Coach Baird. Always think of you with that blue T-Bird convertible 🚗♂️🏀♀️. Pat Frohling White

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**Patricia Frohling White** - November 28, 2017 at 08:42 PM

AB

“ Today I am saddened by the loss of a very dear friend and mentor. A friendship which started and grew from a love of the underwater world and football of course, Vance was a top notch player. Having taken my first SCUBA course from him, then many many certification levels later our business partnership began. As co-owners of our dive shop and after many dozens of dive trips to the Caribbean and other coastal destinations, all I have are fun sun filled memories of barracudas and manta rays in watery flight. Go now and enjoy the raptures of your final wall dive Vance. You will be missed. Your friend, Al.

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**Alan Bohn** - November 26, 2017 at 12:23 AM

AC

“ I meet Vance 32 years ago i'am now 54. I was a troubled young adolescent. i had just got back from waterloo iowa where i was placed for a year. i be came a board diver in waterloo. when i was placed back in my home with family . i started to work at the old YWCA where i meet Mr. Vance Baird . he had asked me if i need to be coached after a couple of days i saw him again and asked if he would coach me . needles to say he coached me to the point i could have taken mason city high to state . i had been a smoker of cigarettes, so the coach of MCHS. said i couldn't be a diver . Mr baird came to me and help me deal with something i wanted so bad. This man helped me become the person I'am today out of trouble. we just talked last week ! He had been wanting me to go meet his friends in Florida . i had told him we could go this year, so he booked us to go march 10-17 . iam sadden cause we didn't go do something he wanted so bad for me to go.please. if any of his family read this please call Abraham Colon 720-921-4465.

*Mr.Vance Baird is avery good man .  
god has a place for him*

*thank Abraham Colon*

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**Abraham Colon** - November 26, 2017 at 12:22 AM