



Bruce Alan Swanson

August 1, 1949 - January 5, 2026

Bruce Alan Swanson, age 76, of Henderson, KY, passed away on Monday, January 5, 2026, at the Lucy Smith King Care Center under the care of St. Anthony's Hospice.

Bruce spent 45 years in the field of Education working in various states settling in Henderson in July of 1998. He was the principal of Henderson County High School and under his leadership he graduated roughly 5000 students in our community. Bruce was always liked by staff, respected by teachers, and loved by students. He presented at state and national education conferences regarding the "school within a school" concept and strong career and technical education. Bruce loved the Lord and studying his Bible, doing devotionals, and praying were part of his daily life. He faithfully attended Corydon Missionary Baptist Church where he taught Sunday School. Bruce helped people in his orbit at work and in his personal life with medicine, Christmas for children, tuition, rent, and many more things. He was an incredibly generous man. This is the Bruce Swanson our town knows.

Bruce was preceded in death by his parents Arnold and Evelyn Swanson and his brother-in-law Thomas Phelps.

Bruce is survived by his wife of 25 years Jo Ann Golday Swanson of Henderson, KY; daughter Jenna Wieberdink (Eric) of Spicer, MN; son Joshua

Swanson (Nikki) of Boonville, IN; step-daughters Ashley Bruner-Bailey (Brian) of Henderson, KY and Whitley Southard (Paul) of Henderson, KY; sisters Sally Pemberton (Bruce) of Rolling Meadows, IL and Sue Phelps of Port Byron, IL; grandchildren: Nathan, Asher, Ellie, Kate, Gunner, Layla, Sophia, Katie, Abby, Mitchell, and Sammy; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends are invited to Bruce's Life Celebration from 4:00 until 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, and from 10:00 a.m. until the service time on Thursday at Corydon Missionary Baptist Church in Corydon, KY. The funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at the church with Reverend Rick O'Daniel officiating. Burial will follow at Fairmont Cemetery in Henderson, KY.

Pallbearers will be James Nobles, Brian Bailey, Paul Southard, Gunner Southard, Scott Nobles, and Neal Nobles.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may take the form of memorial contributions to Bruce A. Swanson Memorial Scholarship Fund: Field and Main Bank, 140 N. Main Street, Henderson, KY 42420.

Arrangements entrusted to Benton-Glunt & Tapp Funeral Home, A Life Celebration® Home, online condolences may be made at www.bentongluntandtappfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Fairmont Cemetery

Henderson
KY 42420

Previous Events

Life Celebration

JAN 14. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Corydon Missionary Baptist Church
Corydon, KY 42406

Life Celebration

JAN 15. 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Corydon Missionary Baptist Church
Corydon, KY 42406

Funeral Service

JAN 15. 2:00 PM (CT)

Corydon Missionary Baptist Church
Corydon, KY 42406

Tribute Wall

DM

“ Bruce was principal of the Indiana high school where I taught and was one of my favorites among many. He was unfailingly supportive of teachers and students alike, was a good listener, and made appropriate decisions as our leader. He was especially supportive of the Special Education teacher, her students, and her programs. His humanity may have been best shown by his compassionate care of a friend and fellow retired teacher, Miss Eleanore Britton, in her final days. I am happy to have worked with him and to know that he found a home and family in Henderson. I am saddened that he passed too soon. My sincerest condolences to Jenna and Josh and all his family members.

Donna Moser - January 15 at 11:25 AM



“ Sympathy Meat & Cheese Gift Crate was purchased for the family of Bruce Alan Swanson.



January 14 at 04:56 PM

JA

“ Jack & Gena Evans & Sue Austin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bruce Alan Swanson.

Jack & Gena Evans & Sue Austin - January 14 at 04:56 PM

JN

“ *Mr. Swanson was my principal when I graduated from HCHS in 2004. Wonderful educator and person. Students knew that he wanted the best for them. He will be greatly missed.*

Jennifer Toribio Naas - January 10 at 03:40 PM

CP

“ *From afar he was a dominant and scary figure for any incoming student. Then by senior year Swanson and you probably had a story, a moment, or a pretty great relationship. In a school of thousands, He could make you feel like 1 of 1. Bruce will be greatly missed by this entire community and every student he crossed.*

Cory Pedersen - January 07 at 12:00 PM

MG

“ *He was my principal at HCHS for two years while I taught there....he knew my name before school started which meant so much to me. Great principal.*

michelle guy - January 07 at 10:32 AM

BB

“ *Papa and Kate the day Kate was born. He was so proud!!!!* ❤️



Brian Bailey - January 06 at 03:11 PM