



## Frank L. Bruning

April 21, 1926 - June 1, 2020

Frank L. Bruning was born to Fred H. Bruning Frieda C. (Bunting) Bruning in Bruning, Nebraska on April 21, 1926. He passed away on Monday, June 1, 2020 at Hebron, Nebraska at the age of 94 years, 1 month and 11 days.

Other than the years he spent serving in the US Marines or on campus at the University of Nebraska, Frank has spent his entire life in Bruning. He attended school in Bruning, graduating from high school in 1943.

Following high school, he studied at the University of Nebraska for one semester until he enlisted in the Marines and served in Guam for 14-months. Upon his discharge, Frank returned to the University of Nebraska where he majored in Animal Science. In 1949, he received a bachelor's degree in agriculture. During his time there, he was instrumental in forming the rodeo club and was a member of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. He was honored with the Animal Science Block and Bridle award in 2002 and the Nebraska Cattlemen Silver Spur Award in 2001. He also felt strongly about and has donated to the UNL-Animal Science Department for the Teaching Chair that helps support the beef industry.

In June of 1949, Frank married Mary Reiss. They started a registered Hereford herd in 1950. In 1975, he and his son, Fred, added registered Angus cattle to their operation. Besides farming and ranching, he had a passion for

native grasses for use with livestock. In 2017, he received the first annual Lifetime Achievement NE Grazing Lands Coalition award.

In 1961, Frank and Mary created a unique business, Feedlot Fencing Inc., which grew out of the innovative use of oilfield pipe and rods. This business provides steel rods and pipe, along with gates and panels that Feedlot Fencing manufactures for feedlots, ranches, dairies, buffalo and horse operations across the Midwest.

In 1891, Frank's grandfather started the Bruning Bank, which was originally called the German Bank. Frank became President of the bank in 1965 and was serving as Chairman of the Board Emeritus. He was an active member of the Nebraska Bankers Association and at one time served on the Nebraska-Kansas Schools of Banking. He and his wife were honored in 1998 with the Nebraska Bankers Association Agribusiness award for outstanding contributions to agriculture and Agri-business. He also was a member of the Independent Community Bankers and the American Bankers Association. In 1997, the American Bankers Association created an award to be given to an agriculture banker that proves to have strong dedication to rural ag banking. Frank was the recipient the first year of this award. The award each year given is named in honor of him, the Bruning Award.

Throughout Frank's life, he has been a creator of educational opportunities for both young and old. He helped start the Farmers and Ranchers College, which includes annual educational opportunities supported by agribusiness and the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension. He was always a strong supporter of area 4-H and FFA program, the LEAD program, Thayer County Livestock Feeders Association, the Bruning Community Foundation and was an active member of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Bruning.

Frank was preceded in death by his parents Fred H and Frieda Bruning, sister

Marjorie and brother Herb and their spouses, Brother in law Dr. Walter E Reiss and son in law, Dr. Tom Tonniges.

He is survived by his wife of almost 71 years Mary of Bruning, daughter Jane Tonniges of Omaha and son Fred D. Bruning (Penni) of Bruning. He is also survived by six grandchildren, Christopher (Lindsey) Tonniges, Emily Tonniges of Omaha and Elizabeth Tonniges (Jesse Bergman) of Lincoln, Adam (Carley) Bruning of Holdrege, Abby Bruning (Dr. Nick Branting) of Bend, OR and Reiss (Heather) Bruning of Bruning. He also enjoyed eight great-grandchildren. Alyssa, Rachel, Zac and Hallie Tonniges, Chloe and Elise Gomez, Annika and Lukas Branting.

On Friday, June 5, 2020, a Funeral procession went past Frank's favorite routes: the bank, the farm and the Bruning cow camp near Reynolds before concluding at the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery for a private Graveside Service with Military Honors provided by the Bruning American Legion Durham-Mammen Post 166 and the Marine Corp Honor Guard. Following the Graveside Service, a private Memorial Service was held at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Bruning. Pastor Stuart Sell and PMA Jim Germer officiated the services. Janice Fintel was the organist and Jamie Luttrell was the vocalist for the Memorial Service. Jamie sang "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" and "Softly and Tenderly."

Pallbearers for the service included to Adam Bruning, Reiss Bruning, Chris Tonniges, Zac Tonniges, Dr. Nick Branting, and Jesse Bergman.

Farmer & Son Funeral Home was in care of the arrangements and online condolences can be left at [www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com)  
Memorials are suggested to the Bruning Community Foundation, PO Box 100, Bruning, NE 68322.

# Cemetery Details

## Trinity Lutheran Cemetery

Bruning, NE 68322

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JUN 3.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home  
242 N 10th Street  
Geneva, NE 68361  
(402) 759-3617  
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

## Visitation

**JUN 4.** 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home  
242 N 10th Street  
Geneva, NE 68361  
(402) 759-3617  
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall

RB

“ Frank had a very illustrious career in Bruning and the state of Nebraska. Many of his acquaintances want to express their sympathy in these times .He will be missed by many.  
*Barbara Dill Beechner*

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**Richard A Beechner** - June 09, 2020 at 12:02 PM

SS

“ Fred and family-sending our deepest sympathies your way! I felt so privileged to work for your family many years ago and cherish my contacts with you all. Losing a parent is difficult so we will keep you in our thoughts and prayers. Hugs to you all!  
*Sheila & Randy Stubbs*

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**Sheila Stubbs** - June 06, 2020 at 02:00 PM

BP

“ Mary Beth and family---So sorry to hear about Frank's passing. He was such a gentleman and was so respected by my dad, Everett Walters. We always thought so much of your family---your mom Amy, your brother Walt, and your dad. I remember going up to the bank with my dad when I was little and your dad always was so nice to me and I thought going in the bank was so impressive. I ended up working in banking here in Lincoln after I got thru business school until I retired after 45 years total. So your dad made quite an impression on me.

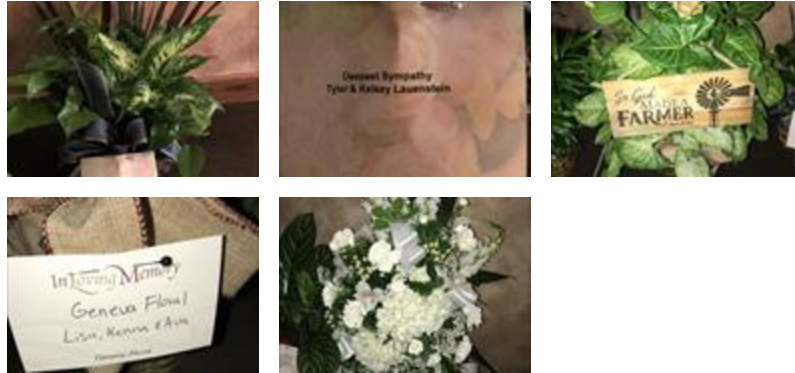
*Betty Walters Powell*

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**Betty Walters Powell** - June 05, 2020 at 05:41 PM



“ 133 files added to the album Flower Pictures



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - June 05, 2020 at 02:29 PM



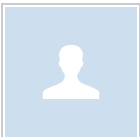
“ Frank was one who made such a difference in the lives of his friends and in the community. I will remember him with gratitude. I wish Fred and the whole family the comfort of knowing that his was a life well-lived. Don Oswald

Donald Oswald - June 05, 2020 at 12:25 PM



“ A true gentleman. Will be missed by many.

Mike Wallace - June 05, 2020 at 10:43 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Frank L. Bruning.



June 04, 2020 at 03:49 PM

RH

“ Frank was a true champion for education and was very generous supporting a wide range of educational efforts for rural youth and farm families as well as various agricultural organizations. He loved agriculture (especially raising cattle) and never stopped learning as an avid reader. Whenever visiting with Frank, he always had a story or two or three to share with you. His smiles, kindness, and a caring attitude for helping others will always be remembered and treasured. Our condolences to the entire Bruning family. Ron and Marilyn Hanson

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**Ron and Marilyn Hanson** - June 04, 2020 at 11:47 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Frank L. Bruning.



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June 04, 2020 at 11:30 AM

AK

“ Frank had a heart of gold and told the best stories and jokes. Always called me "kid" as he would walk around the bank to check on everyone. Will never forget delivering May Day baskets with him and our trip to the farm. He will also have a large spot in so many hearts and never be forgotten. Prayers to the family!

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**Alicia Kucera** - June 04, 2020 at 09:16 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Frank L. Bruning.*



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June 03, 2020 at 10:27 PM



“ *Thanks Frank, the pleasure of knowing you is all mine. As the only Canadian account in your bank, I looked forward each Fall to seeing you and having a short chat. I appreciated that you invited me and my dogs to hunt on your land. I enjoyed the quail hunting tremendously, having a skunk tattoo my dog notwithstanding. Your family is a big part of the world and I will think of you often and miss you each November. My condolences to your family. Ed Bailey, Eden Mills, Ontario, Canada*

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**Edward Bailey** - June 03, 2020 at 09:59 PM



“ *When I was a small child, I always remember my dad (Keith Eich) banking at Bruning state. In my later years I understood why! He thought highly of Frank and his family. Jane was a childhood friend and Penni helped deliver our two sons! Blessings to all of you as you lay a great man to rest.*

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**gail chapman** - June 03, 2020 at 06:04 PM

SL

“ My condolences to Franks family. This is strange but I never had the opportunity to meet Frank. But he was thought of very highly by two people that I think highly of- my father Jim Lutes and my friend Scott Houck. My dad knew Frank from college and then in the banking business as my dad ran the Scribner Bank for years. He always spoke very highly of Frank. My college buddy Scott was always going to take me into the bank to meet Frank but we never got around to it. From what I hear- that is my loss. I picture Dad, Frank and Scott sitting around talking agribusiness right now. Again my condolences to the family and my regret never meeting him. Stan Lutes

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**Stan Lutes** - June 03, 2020 at 03:46 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Frank L. Bruning.



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June 03, 2020 at 12:34 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Frank L. Bruning.



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June 03, 2020 at 12:20 PM

LJ

“ Fred, Penni, and family:

*Our sincere condolences to you for the loss of Frank Bruning, father, father-in-law, grandfather, and great grandfather. May you find peace and comfort knowing your many friends are thinking of you during this time of mourning.*

*- Larry and Janee Dlugosh*

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**Larry abd JaneecDlugosh** - June 03, 2020 at 11:59 AM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Frank L. Bruning.*



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June 03, 2020 at 09:22 AM

CG

“ *Mary, Fred, Jane and family, Please accept my condolences. Frank was a HUGE part of the Bruning community and will be greatly missed. I will not be able to come for personal support but be assured you all are in my prayers for comfort in this difficult time. Connie Garrels*

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**Connie Garrels** - June 03, 2020 at 07:50 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Frank L. Bruning.*



June 02, 2020 at 11:51 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Frank L. Bruning.*



June 02, 2020 at 08:44 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Frank L. Bruning.*



June 02, 2020 at 08:07 PM



“ *Frank was a patriot, joining the Marines right out of high school, serving in the Pacific during WWII. He loved telling jokes. I worked with him for 29 years, he was my mentor and friend.*

**Larry Olson** - June 02, 2020 at 06:01 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Frank L. Bruning.*



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June 02, 2020 at 04:55 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Frank L. Bruning.*



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June 02, 2020 at 02:30 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Frank L. Bruning.*



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June 02, 2020 at 02:01 PM



“ *Kent & Rose Theobald lit a candle in memory of Frank L. Bruning*



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**Kent & Rose Theobald** - June 02, 2020 at 01:37 PM

RB

“ Prayers & Hugs to the family. I am the daughter of Lyle & Barbara Arnold. My parents always spoke very highly of Frank. You are in our thoughts and Prayers.

Ruth Bergmeier - June 02, 2020 at 01:26 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Frank L. Bruning.



June 02, 2020 at 01:08 PM

DS

“ I only had the pleasure of meeting Frank twice since becoming an employee of Bruning Bank, but he was a real joy. Prayers and thoughts with all the family at this time.  
Devona Sever

Devona Sever - June 02, 2020 at 11:41 AM

VJ

“ Such a kind man! Our thoughts and prayers to Mary, and all the family! Mike and Virginia Johnson



Virginia Johnson - June 02, 2020 at 11:19 AM

JL

“ Frank was a great person and like many people I will always be grateful for helping get my banking career started. Thirty years ago, Frank gave me an opportunity by setting up an interview with Roy Dinsdale and got my banking career started. It was his ability to always find ways to help people and help his community that made him great. He will be missed by many and is a true Nebraska treasure. Thanks Banker Frank!

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**Jerry Lentfer** - June 02, 2020 at 11:00 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Frank L. Bruning.



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June 02, 2020 at 10:43 AM

TC

“ My deepest condolences to Frank's family both personal and professional. When I first met him as a new superintendent for Bruning-Davenport, it was clear he was passionate about providing the best educational experiences for the students. He was a wonderful man and I appreciated his experience and support. Frank will be missed.

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**Trudy Clark** - June 02, 2020 at 10:03 AM



“ Rainbow Reflections Basket was purchased for the family of Frank L. Bruning.



June 02, 2020 at 10:00 AM



“ Sargent Irrigation/Drilling Companies purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Frank L. Bruning.



Sargent Irrigation/Drilling Companies - June 02, 2020 at 09:40 AM



“ What a wonderful man! A good friend to my parents. I will always remember his kindness.

Patty Steider Kline - June 02, 2020 at 08:27 AM



“ So sad to hear about Frank, he was a great man and always very knowledgeable. We will miss him ❤️ Our deepest sympathy to his family 💔

Mark Sarah Brandon Ethan - June 01, 2020 at 09:37 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Frank L. Bruning.*



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June 01, 2020 at 09:36 PM



“ *Frank was a special person that will be greatly missed. So many wonderful conversations with this man I considered a friend. Rest In Peace Frank  
My condolences to Mary and family.*

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**Patty Roper** - June 01, 2020 at 09:33 PM



“ *Lisa Dondlinger lit a candle in memory of Frank L. Bruning*



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**Lisa Dondlinger** - June 01, 2020 at 09:30 PM



*Condolences to all the Bruning family and friends with the loss of such a wonderful man. He was always a pleasure to sit and talk with.*

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**Diane Wettstein** - June 02, 2020 at 02:38 PM

LM

*WOW !!! What a Man, and what a Legacy indeed. My wife and I are good friend with Jane and the late Tom Tonniges and their kids. At yet another award night here in Omaha, the Bruning Clan was honored by the Lutheran Family Services. I had the coincidental pleasure of sitting next to Frank and enjoying good conversation. A Life Oh So Well Lived. Heartfelts to his Loved Ones.*

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**Larry Moeller** - June 03, 2020 at 08:56 AM

LH

*Frank always had a good story to tell. Many times he would remind me that he came down to Belvidere and stole one of our good Belvidere girls. He did love life so much and made the people around him enjoy it too, just wish I would have probed his mind for more history of the families in the area! The bell has tolled the last time for our good friend Frank. Much love sent to the family!*

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**Linda Hudson** - June 03, 2020 at 10:38 AM