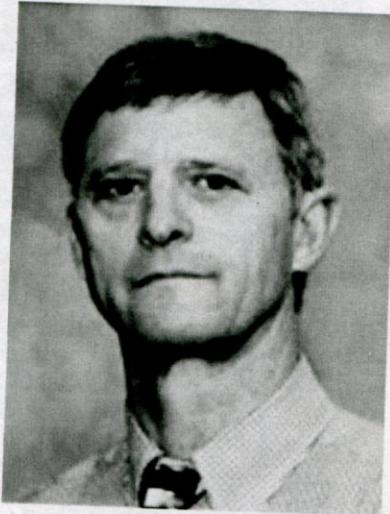


## The Life of Dr. John Lawrence Rohwer

Born Sept. 11, 1946 in Aberdeen, SD. Died Dec. 25, 2010 from injuries suffered in a fall. John lived a full life- a life full of love for family, education, and athletics. He was baptized and confirmed at St. John's Lutheran Church in Groton, SD. He grew up on a farm by Groton, SD and graduated from Groton High School in 1964. John had a passion for education, shown by his lifelong learning and a lifetime of teaching. He attended Concordia College, St. Paul graduating with an Associate of Arts Degree (1964-1966); Concordia Senior



College (1966-1967); Concordia College River Forest, IL graduating with a B.A. (1967-1969); coached and taught at Concordia College, St. Paul where he met Marletta (1969-1972); received a Master's Degree in Physical Education from the University of Minnesota (1971); received a PhD in Health Education from the University of Northern Colorado (1983). John's learning was certainly passed on through his years of teaching, coaching and leading. John taught at the University of Wyoming- Laramie, WY (1972-1984); Texas Tech University- Lubbock, TX (1984-1986); Bethel College- St. Paul (1986-2008); Department Chair of Health and Human Performance at St. Thomas University (2008-); member of the Minneapolis Officials' Association (1986-); officiated high school and college basketball and high school football; member of South Central Health Association; co-founder and co-director of Minnesota State Health Educator's Conference; authored numerous articles for publication and co-authored two books on health teaching. He was a member of King of Kings Lutheran in Roseville, MN. There he served on the Board of Lay Ministry, led and participated in Bible Studies, and played trumpet in the worship band and for special services. John married Marletta (Stahn) July 15, 1972 in Trimont, MN. John is survived by wife Marletta; sons Brant (Kim) and Jared (Megan); grandchildren Brielle, Olivia and Lincoln; mother Annabeth Rohwer; sisters Joan (Allan) Weismantel, Judy (John) Windorski, Janet (Merle) Harder; brother-in-law Jerry Krueger; nieces; nephews; and cousins. Preceded in death by father Lawrence, mother and father-in-law Merlin and Margarieth Stahn, nieces Susan Weismantel and Shawn Weismantel (Kramer), sister-in-law Mary Ann Krueger.

## John Rohwer, 64

Dr. John L. Rohwer, 64, St. Paul, Minn., died Christmas Day, December 25, 2010 at Regions Hospital, St. Paul, Minn., from a head injury that happened at his home, Christmas Eve, after a fall from his roof, landing on the driveway, while shoveling snow.

His memorial service will be Wednesday evening, Dec. 29, 2010 at King of Kings Lutheran Church, Roseville, Minn., with Pastor Alan Braun officiating. Mueller-Bies Funeral Home, Roseville, Minn., was in charge of arrangements. Burial will be Tuesday in Trimont, Minn.



John L. Rohwer was born September 11, 1946 in Aberdeen, SD, to Lawrence and Annabeth Rohwer, Groton, SD, and grew up on a farm near Groton. He graduated from Groton High School in 1964. He received an A.A. degree from Concordia in St. Paul, where he ran on the cross country and track teams and later was named to its Athletic Hall of Fame. He graduated in 1969 from Concordia College, River Forest, Ill., with a B.A. in health and physical education. He also held an M.A. in physical education from the University of Minnesota (1971) and an Ed.D. in health education from the University of Northern Colorado (1983).

He taught physical education and was the soccer, wrestling and track and field coach from 1969 to 1972 at Concordia in St. Paul, where he met his wife Marletta. They moved to Laramie, Wyo., where he taught at University Prep School (1972-75) and the University of Wyoming (1972-84). He taught at Texas Tech University from 1984 to 1986, when he joined the Bethel faculty. During more than two decades there, he developed a B.A. degree in school health education and a B.S. degree in community health education.

Dr. John Rohwer was chair of the St. Thomas Health and Human Performance Department. He joined St. Thomas in 2008 after 22 years in the Health and Physical Education Department at Bethel University, where he was a highly respected professor, scholar and campus leader. He also taught summers in the late 1980s and 1990s at Concordia University-St. Paul and Augsburg College. At St. Thomas, he led the move of the Health and Human Performance Department from old Shaughnessy Hall to the new Anderson Athletic and Recreation Complex, last September, and was involved in revising the department's curriculum.

Since 1985, Rohwer had written six books or supplements, presented 40 papers at conferences, published 25 research articles and received a dozen grants for research projects. He was the lead researcher on a \$3 million federal grant to St. Paul Public Schools in 2006-08 to increase the amount of time that children in 24 elementary schools actively participated in physical activities and met state physical education standards.

He was active in the American and Minnesota Associations of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, receiving awards from its regional organization in 2003, 2005 and 2006, and was a member of the American and Minnesota School Health Associations. He had been co-director of the Minnesota School Health Ed Conference, which he co-founded, since 1992. He also had worked as a referee for high school and college basketball and high school football games since 1986. At King of Kings, he served on the lay ministry board and played trumpet in the band.

He is survived by his wife, Marletta Rohwer, St. Paul; two sons, Brant Rohwer and Jared Rohwer and their families; three sisters, his twin Judy (John) Windorski, Braham, Minn.; Joan (Allan) Weismantel, McKinney, Texas, and Janet (Merle) Harder, Waubay, SD; eight grandchildren, TJ Harder, Adam Harder, Anne Kejellgren (Weismantel), Paul Sundberg, Steve Sundberg, Dale Cooper, Richie Anderson and Erin Windorski; his mother, Annabeth Rohwer, Groton, and many many friends from Groton, Aberdeen and surrounding areas.

He was preceded in death by his father, Lawrence.

Six people have received John's organs.

December 29, 2010

## **The Life of Dr. John Lawrence Rohwer**

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