



Kenneth J Derr

June 19, 1945 - January 10, 2012

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Kenneth J. Derr January 10, 2012 Kenneth J. Derr, 66, of Fabius, died Tuesday at his home.

Ken was educated in North Syracuse schools. He did his undergraduate studies and received his master's degree from the State University College at Buffalo. He retired from Tully Central School in 2001, having taught art in the district for 28 years. He continued to share his passion for drawing and painting by instructing senior citizens for DeWitt Parks and Recreation during retirement. Ken participated in the CNY Scholastic Art Awards program as a student, served on the steering committee while he was teaching, and continued to judge student entries during his retirement. He served as an adult leader for Boy Scout Troop 115 for many years and also enjoyed participating in community drama events in Fabius. Ken was a proud Vietnam veteran, having served in the U.S. Navy from 1965-1969. He was a communicant of Immaculate Conception Church in Pompey and also served his faith community as a Eucharistic Minister and by volunteering his artistic eye to decorating the church for holidays.

His parents, Joseph E. Derr and Ruth Allen Derr predeceased Ken.

Surviving are his wife of 38 years, Ann; daughter, Erin of Tampa, FL; son, Brian (Melissa) of Stewartsville, NJ; brother, Dennis (Linda); sisters, Elaine

(Ralph) Negrotto, Arlene Schleuter, and Carol Walker; as well as several nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Monday at 11 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Church in Pompey. Spring interment with military honors will be in Immaculate Conception Cemetery.

Calling hours are Sunday from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home, 2584 Field Lane, LaFayette.

Contributions in Ken's memory may be made to the American Heart Association , PO Box 3049, Syracuse, NY 13220-3049 or Fabius-Pompey Outreach, PO Box 251, Pompey, NY 13138.

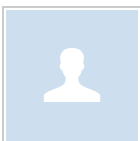
Tribute Wall



“ *Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Kenneth J Derr*

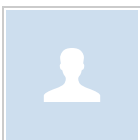


Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home - January 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *It is with deep regret that I learn of Ken's death. He was the most influential teacher that I have ever had. If it was not for Ken, my life would not have been as full. He encouraged me to look past the obvious and find the future. The lessons he instructed are being taught to my son and will continue to develop his life and future generations. Ken's knowledge and passion for life will continue to expand the minds of Americans. I graduated from school 29 years ago and still write to him, talk to him and visit his home. He was more than a teacher, he was my friend.*

February 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mr. Derr brightened my day at Tully High School. He was always upbeat and happy. I hope you find a full box of art supplies in Heaven.*

January 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Ann and Family,*

Sending prayers to you and your family at this difficult time. Ken was such fun to watch perform here at the Fabius Community Theatre. He had such a way of making you laugh. God bless you and your family.

January 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Anne and family,*

I was very sad to hear about Ken--we all have very fond memories of growing up in Fabius, and Ken was a big part of that for all of us. From coffey and cookies after church to the community plays, it was always a pleasure to be with Ken and your family. He always had a huge smile and hug for us everytime we saw him. Just know I was with you in spirit at the services.

Amy (Skinner) Spring

January 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Brian's co-workers are all very saddened to hear of the sudden loss of his father. We would like to extend our deepest sympathy to you and your family during this difficult time.*

Sincerely,

Cindy Coupe at

Parsons Brinckerhoff

January 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Mr Derr was an inspiring teacher with so much patience for those of us who were not the most artistic. I will always remember my time with Mr Derr working on my version of art. He inspired me to keep trying to find my niche in the art world and eventually I did. Thank you Mr Derr, You will be missed.

*Dawn Riehlman Blumer
Tully class of 1995*

January 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ May your memories of the wonderful times you shared with your loved one comfort you and your family, today and always.

January 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Our thoughts and especially our prayers are with you Ann and your wonderful family. Ken's vibrant personality, witty nature, and artistic ability won him a long list of friends, associates, and colleagues; inspired many students, and all of us will miss him terribly. As childhood friends, we will remember the fun times we shared. We know your memories of Ken will keep him with you always. We have lost a very good friend of almost 60 years. Ken, be with God!

January 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *My sincere condolences go out to Ken's family. I didn't know Ken for a long time, but in the short amount of time I did know him, I knew he was a special person. He was always going out of his way to help other people with his knowledge and kindness. He will be missed by all of us from our Friday morning gathering at the Manlius Senior Center.*

January 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dearest Ann,*

I just heard of Ken's passing tonite. I am so sorry to hear of his sudden passing, what a shock it must have been for you and the family. I wish I had know earlier so that I could have made it out to calling hours to pay my respects to Ken. Ken was always such a ray of sunshine as he I dont believe I ever saw him without a smile on his face and a nice thing to say. I know he will be missed by you and your children and many many others. Please accept my deepest sympathy. God bless him and you and your family.

Your friend in Christ,

Stephanie

January 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Ann,
Our family would like to offer our sincere condolences to you and your children. Ken was very special to our family and especially Michael. Tully High was very fortunate to have such a gifted man as a teacher. He genuinely cared about his students, and I'm sure he developed great talents. He will be greatly missed.
Sincerely,
The Dana Family

January 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Mrs Derr and Family:

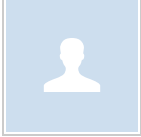
Will always remember you and your husband coming to Michelle's "Victory Party". Michelle was so thrilled! You both being there made her day!

So sorry to hear of Mr. Derr's passing.

You and your family will be in our hearts forever for all you did for Michelle and know that we are thinking of you all during this difficult time.

Jennifer Carr

January 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I first met Mr Derr in first grade art class. I remember a art project I did was a drawing of Mr Derr and my first trade teacher Mrs Swyaze. In the drawing they were kicking each other. When Mr Derr saw it he belted out with his larger than life laugh. Since that day we had become friends.

In high school I did not take art classes but I spent many, many hours in his room. During study halls and other free periods I was always there. Even if he had a class he would let me sit in. We talked about everything. He probably knew more about what was going on with me then and into college than my parents did. He was a mentor to me in art and life . When I would come back to visit after I went to college and beyond he always showed me that he was proud of what I did. If I would head in the wrong direction he would be sure to advise me on the right path to take. His warm hug I would get from him always let me know how much he cared for me. And I always felt the same for him.

I can only hope that I can touch and influence as many lives as he did. I will never forget all the time we spent talking and the great influence he had on making me who I am today. His larger than life personality, laugh, smile and friendship is something I will always cherish.

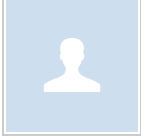
Thank you for letting me be part of his life.

I will keep the family in my prayers and wish you all comfort. He was an amazing man.

Godspeed Mr Derr

Joel Carroll class of 1994

January 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ To Ann & the Derr family,

Mr. Derr was my art teacher at Tully HS (1973-1978) and I am very grateful he came into my life. His art classes were my refuge from an otherwise mundane and uninspiring HS experience. He encouraged me, motivated me, inspired me and challenged me.

He told me I was welcome in his classroom anytime and I went there often even when I did not have a scheduled class. There were several of us that did that. His classroom was a refuge of sorts for some of us. He taught me to paint, make jewelry, sculpt and use a kiln to make ceramics. He allowed me to do a sculpture of a nude female figure and he entered it into the MONY art competition (even though nude sculptures were taboo in the MONY competition at the time). When he told me he entered my sculpture, he had a wonderful and rebellious twinkle in his eye. It was awesome and we had a great laugh.

I ran into Mr. Derr about 10 years ago at a store in DeWitt and I was thrilled to see him. We talked for quite a while that night and I was amazed at his vivid recollection of my art projects. He was a genuinely awesome human being and the best teacher I ever had. We always joked about how much taller I was than him (even though I was 17) but to me, he was bigger than life. A giant. I am grateful to have known him and for his wonderful guidance and friendship. I am very sorry for your loss.

Jim Cavanaugh - Tully class of 1978

January 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM



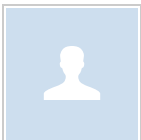
“ To the family of Ken Derr: Our deepest sympathy and prayers to all of you. Ken was more than an art teacher. For those of us who were not too artistic in class, he was patient, kind and understanding. I considered him one of the best that Tully had during my high school years. He always had that great smile and laugh! You knew he liked to have a good time. I did in his class even though art was not my niche. I have seen Ken over the years since I graduated in 1978. I will remember that smile. May you find comfort in the memories you have of him. Peace be with you, Brenda Bloodgood Zook ~ Class of 1978 ~ Psalm 23.

January 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Yes he was my cousin, but I also considered him my friend, and a college buddy. Best of all he was my best dance partner I ever knew next to my wife, Sue. At Sue's and my wedding he will always remembered that he could organize the "grapevine" line dance better than anyone and could do the "twist" dance and get lower to the floor than I ever could.

January 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ wow what a shock. Ken was a member of the old folks coffee group at Anna''''''s. What a guy! When I left for Florida he was having great success on his weight loss.Please accept my thoughts a d prayers at this difficult time.

January 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Ann,

I have such fond memories of the many years I worked with Ken. He was so dedicated to the kids at Tully and taught so many to create beauty. I was sad to hear of his passing and wanted you to know that he and you and your children will be in our prayers.

*My deepest sympathies,
Laura H. Norris*

January 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Hi Ann:

*I was so sorry to learn of Ken""s passing. He was such a great person and will be missed terribly by all who knew him. You are all in my prayers!
Fondly, Pat Reilly*

January 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I remember Ken from high school. He was such a nice guy. From reading his obit, it sounds like he turned out to be a wonderful man. So sorry for your loss.

Donna (Solomon) Lavonier

January 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Ann and family,*

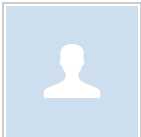
So sorry for your loss. Mr. Derr was a great art teacher and he will be missed.

January 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mr.Derr was my art teacher from 1974 to 1977 .He was one of the best teachers that Tully had to offer .I loved Art and it was his passion so being in his class was a pleasure .I had a goofy sense of humor and I could always get a laugh out of him .He was very cool and always approachable .He took the time to say hello and ask how your day was going as he passed you in the hall and in class he made his part of your day interesting and fun !I am sure that he will be up there running the coolest art class in heaven !My sincerest condolences to his family and friends . RIP Mr Derr !
Pamela (Walburger) Smith
class of 77*

January 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Ann,*
Words cannot even begin to express my sorrow for your loss. May your memories give you strength during this difficult time. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

January 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Ann,

I was so sorry to see Ken's obituary. I remember meeting him at the party we had for Michelle. I could tell he was a real class guy. I spoke to my Dad and gave him the news. I just want to let you know our family is thinking of you. Thanks again for all you did for Michelle.

January 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Ann, Erin and Brian,

Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you. Ken was a great guy and will surely be missed by many.

Jan & Marvin Murray

January 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Ann and Family,

So sorry for your loss ..he will always be remembered for his warm smile, upbeat attitude and sense of humor . Thoughts and prayers go out to you during this difficult time.

*In prayer,
Amy and Doug Shetler*

January 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Ann,
Was very sorry to hear of your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. God Bless Maureen

January 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Ann,
We offer our sincere sympathy and prayers for you and your family. Ken was a beacon of light and brought joy to so many. I never saw him without a beautiful smile! We know he will be greatly missed by the entire community. Prayers for Christ's healing peace and the loving warmth of our Blessed Mother at this time.
Love,
Tim and Patty Downes

January 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Our prayers and thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time. Fred often spoke of Ken and the contributions and enthusiasm he and you brought to FP's planning committee many years ago.

Fred and Kate Thomsen

January 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Mr. Derr was the man who opened my eyes to enjoying art.....not making it something that was mandated. He showed me how to express myself. He opened many doors for me throughout high school and some of my college time.....He was a wonderful man and will truly be missed.

January 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Ann,
We were so sorry to hear about Ken. You are all in our thoughts & prayers.
God Bless You.

January 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM



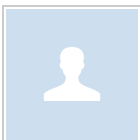
“ Ann and family,

Although sometimes the football field between Tully Elementary and Tully High School seemed like the Great Divide, Ken always did his best to make it seem less so.

He always had a smile, a cheery greeting, and sometimes a quip or two when we would meet in a hallway. Your family is blessed to have someone like him in your family. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Cynthia Moy

January 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Ann and family-

Mr. Derr was my inspiration for becoming an Art teacher. I had the chance to connect with him online and had told him several months back how important he was in my decision to become a teacher. I will always include the knowledge he gave me into every lesson I teach. He will truly be missed.

Julie McCarthy Miller

January 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Ann: So sorry to hear of Ken's passing. He will be missed by many. Our condolences to you and the family. Fred and Jan Clark formerly from Pompey.

January 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ It seems like yesterday when we roamed the halls of North Syracuse High School trying to figure out what experiences life might hold. It sounds like Ken's life was full and rewarding. My deepest sympathy to the family.
George Cerio

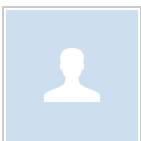
January 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Seems I have known Ken or of him my whole life in Tully. He taught all of my children when they attended Tully school. They always spoke highly of him and enjoyed his classes.

I extend my warm thoughts and prayers to his family. Ann I am so sorry for your loss.

January 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ We were so sad to hear of the loss of Ken. He was a wonderful man ! Our dad thought so highly of him and enjoyed the family parties and visits so much. I know what a great brother he was to his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time.

January 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Ann and kids,
Ken was a funny, energetic, all around great guy.
I am so sorry for your loss. He will be missed.*

January 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM