



Robert H. Graney

June 27, 1934 - February 12, 2008

Robert H. Graney, 73, formerly of "The Valley" in Syracuse, New York, died Tuesday, February 12, 2008, in Tampa, Florida where he has resided since 2007 after moving there to be closer to his daughter, Kathy. He was an English teacher and administrator for 40 years. He taught at Chittenango, LeRoy, and LaFayette School Districts and was also Dean of Students at LaFayette High School. After retiring from LaFayette in 1989, he taught at Morrisville, LeMoyne and Onondaga Community College. In 1992 he came out of retirement to serve as Principal of St. James School, serving there until 1996.

Bob is survived by his wife, Shirley Shute Graney; three children, Kathy (Stu) Wasserman, Timothy (Corine) Graney and Debbie (fiance, Josh Collins) Graney; five grandchildren, Jessica, Leah, Benjamin, Garrett and Tanner; his wife's daughters, Paula (Neil) Bush and Lynn (Jim) Porter; and his dog, JJ. His first wife, Beatrice Green Graney, died in 1995.

Mr. Graney was a United States Army Veteran. He served for over 15 years as a Literacy Volunteer. He was a member of Person-to-Person Citizen Advocacy and The American Legion. He volunteered at Camp High Hopes, a camp for young boys with hemophilia and was involved with the Valley Little League for many years. He volunteered at shelters for the homeless and food pantries. He also enjoyed tutoring immigrants and helping them earn their US

citizenship. He always believed in giving something back.

Calling Hours: Friday, February 15, 2008, 4:00 7:00 p.m. at Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home, 4612 S. Salina Street, Syracuse, New York.

Funeral Service: Saturday, February 16, 2008, 10:00 a.m. in St. James Church, 4845 S. Salina Street, Syracuse, New York.

Burial: Onondaga Valley Cemetery, 2500 Valley Drive, Syracuse, New York.

Contributions in Bob's memory may be made to the Columbian Presbyterian Church, PO Box 270, LaFayette, New York 13084.

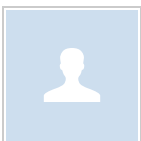
Tribute Wall



“ *Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Robert H. Graney*

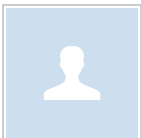


Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home - February 12, 2008 at 12:00 AM



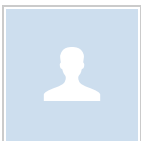
“ *I'm a LeRoy HS graduate--Class of '64. I had the honor of a phone call from him in January. I KNEW I thought he was wonderful, and was humbled that he wanted to talk to me. He was an inspirational teacher--certainly one of a kind.*

April 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Among the most generous, inspiring, and influential teachers I had the good fortune to encounter. I was most saddened to learn of his death. Please pass my condolences on to his family. Lisa (Bush) Hankin (one of his students at LHS)*

March 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *I never had the chance to meet Mr. Graney but know he was a wonderful person from the stories Debbie told. It was evident in Debbie's life that her parents were both good people. He will surely be missed. Your family is in my prayers, Cynthia*

March 13, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I can't remember a day in school where you did not hear Mr. Graney's strong voice echoing through the halls. One of my most favorite quotes from him was, ""If you don't like the lunch, brown bag it!"" I have said that to my kids so often now that it has become a famous quote at my house!!! I am very sorry to hear of his passing, my thoughts and prayers are with his family.

March 01, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Mr. Graney was a nice person. He will always be remembered in LaFayette. To Mr. Graney, I am now an employee with the LaFayette Central School District & I thank you for the inspiration you brought into my life. When I first applied for the substitute teaching assistant position, I ran into Robert Ramsden, a former principal at Grimshaw & the high school in the district office & I then remember him when he was a principal at Grimshaw. I loved Mr. Graney's sense of humor & that is my favorite memory of him.

February 20, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ All we can ask for in life is to be loved and remembered kindly after we are gone. I hope the knowledge that Bob was so loved brings some comfort to his family. You done good Mr. Graney ! class of '84

February 19, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I will carry all of the character-building lessons he taught me in high school for the rest of my life -- and pass them on to my children. Thank you.

February 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Bob was a Lafayette Schools legend. I was fortunate to teach the Syracuse University Project Advance course with him for two years, and my daughters, Kirstin and Tracy had the privelege of being his English students. During his tenure as the Principal at St. James we saw him regularly at breakfast in The Valley--he was a tribute to the valley.

February 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Mr. Graney was a special man. He will be remembered for making a ""difference""!! I know having him in my life as a student at LaFayette High School, made a difference. I was saddened to hear of his passing. My deepest sympathies to his family.

February 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Mr Graney is one of the fondest memories I have of High School in Lafaette. Albiet bad memories as I probably spent more time in his office than I actually did in the class room. Bob was a compasionate person that showed the love for teaching and his desire to see kids under him grow and mature.He has probably touched many hearts throughout his career and life and I am sure that any that came in contact with Bob hold a special memory of him there.Thank You Mr. G.

February 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Mr. Graney - you deserve to have a million candles lit in honor of the lives you have touched. Authentic, compassionate, demanding, and believing in every person you met. You lived the proverb - 'If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. If you teach him how to fish, you feed him for a lifetime.'” You gave us life skills - I will be forever indebted. With the deepest of gratitude I light a candle in your honor and memory. I am sure that God greeted you with open arms and these simple words “Well Done my Good and Faithful Servant.” For all of your family, my sincerest sympathy and prayers.

February 16, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Bob has always been a good friend and teaching colleague. He will be missed.

February 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ The testimonials speak for themselves. The way he related to his students, even if gruffly sometimes, was beyond compare and is fondly remembered by all. He told the truth even if it was uncomfortable (the writing on my junior regents exam was horrible!) yet was a confidant when we needed it too. I know I speak for most in my LaFayette class of 1970; he left a lifetime imprint on us all. My sincere sympathy to his family.

February 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

February 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Bob and Shirley have been faithful "Christmas card friends" these past years giving me a positive connection to their lives. Blessings to all of Bob's family - I know he was very proud of all of you and so sorry he couldn't stay around much, much longer. With love, Jane Spingler

February 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Debbie, We are so sorry for your loss. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers!

February 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM



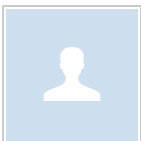
“ Bob Graney will be sorely missed. He was a fine man as well as one of the best educators this area ever had. Our prayers are with Shirley and the family.

February 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Bob was a wonderful man. My wishes for comfort to Shirley and Debbie... With love, Audrey

February 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Mr. Graney's death. Though we did battle while I was one of his high school students (I'm stubborn), I now know that he is one of the reasons why I have been published in several publications. He was an excellent teacher. My deepest sympathy to his family.

February 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ My deepest sympathies to Bob's family. I don't ever recall meeting Bob when he wasn't unfailingly upbeat. I know the help he gave Luis was immeasurable. Whenever alumni got together, they all reminiscenced in the most positive tones about Mr. Graney, how much they liked him and what a positive influence he was on their lives. I am sorry for your loss.

February 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ All of our children were blessed to have Bob as a teacher at LaFayette. He is the one who inspired them and the one they remember as their outstanding mentor. Our deepest sympathy to all his family. He left loving arms here to be greeted with loving arms on the other side.

February 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ My sympathies to the Graney Family. He was the best teacher that Lafayette Central ever had. He never gave up on anyone. He was the kindest man in the teaching world and always gave back. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

February 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Kathy, Tim and Debbie: I was so sad to hear of the passing of your Dad. He was such a wonderful guy. Some of my fondest childhood memories include all of you and your parents. Your Dad didn't think twice about throwing us all in the car and take off for Cooperstown or a Chief's game or anything else that was going on in the Valley. I had such a deep respect for him. Just last week I was talking to Mom on the phone and he came up in conversation about how great he was to all of us kids. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. I would love to hear from you. Our lives have taken us in so many different directions, but it would be great to get in touch. Please just know how sorry I am, the world has lost a truly great man. Love and peace to you all, Lynn

February 13, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ It is with sadness that I read of Mr. Graney's passing. He was ageless. I was fortunate to have him for a PA teacher and Dean at LaFayette. Hw was great at blasting people with the truth - An enlightening experience for many!! He had sound principles, a caring heart and the willingness to walk his talk. I loved his stories and his willingness to show his students the high road. He saved his best quote for my senior yearbook by calling me the Rebel of 86 and writing, ""Rebels do perform some noble deeds."" That was sooo Mr. Graney!! I will always remember him and his smile, both of which he shared often. May his family always find comfort and strength in their memories of him.

February 13, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I knew and worked with Bob at Camp High Hopes. He was a good man with a unique sense of humor, and a good teacher too. The kids knew him as gruff but loveable, and we still quote him on a regular basis. He is, and will be, greatly missed. Deepest condolences to the family. Rest in peace, Big Bob.

February 13, 2008 at 12:00 AM



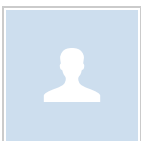
“ Mr. Graney was as he was so fond of saying a "gentleman and a scholar". As you can see his words as my English teacher 30 years ago are with me still. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

February 13, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Mr. Graney, I owe you MANY thanks for keeping me on the straight & narrow... you always knew when to give us students the slack we needed to learn, but never enough where we ended up hanging ourselves. You were a good, kind man. Thank you. May you rest in peace and may God bless you and your family - always. Love, Darcy White-Starsia LaFayette Central School, Class of 1985

February 13, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Illuminate the ignorant!! Teachers like Mr. Graney are like diamonds in the rough. We have lost a stellar man, who made a lasting impact on my life. To Robert's family: Thank you so very much for sharing him.

February 13, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Kathy, Tim & Debbie, We're so sorry to hear about you dad. I wish we could be there this weekend. Please know that our thoughts are with you. Let me know if there's anything I can do. I'll always have very fond memories of Uncle Bob.

February 13, 2008 at 12:00 AM



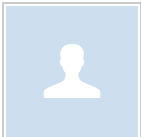
“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this difficult time.... Mr. Graney was a great guy, always there to listen and to guide you down the right road...whether you took that road or not he was always there to help..... Mr. Graney worked with 6 Knickerbocker's and what a time that must have been for him.....He made a difference in everyones life that he touched.....

February 13, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ What a great Guy!

February 13, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ LaFayette HS Class of '85Fondest memory:"SIT DOWN JERK" in his trademark rasp.

February 13, 2008 at 12:00 AM