



Ronald M. Zitzlperger

SEP 22, 1941 - JUL 13, 2019



Scan to Visit



COMPLETE FUNERAL SERVICES

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5



Ronald M. Zitzlperger

SEP 22, 1941 - JUL 13, 2019

Ronald M Zitzlperger, Zitz to friends and family, died peacefully July 13, 2019 with family by his side.

Zitz was born September 22, 1941 to Joseph and Catherine Zitzlperger in Denison, Iowa. He graduated from Denison High School and from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa with a teaching degree in English and Speech. On June 1, 1968, he married the love of his life, Mary M. “Bunni” Nicklaus. Together they made their home in Decatur, Illinois where they both had teaching careers.

His passion was communication. Though he was most articulate, he had an uncanny way of getting others to talk. He often said of an individual, “There is a story in him/her”. And his skill was to draw it out. In addition to conversing with others, he loved to read and write and tell stories – of which he was a master. Another strong interest was acting as he had a background in this from his Ames, Iowa teaching days. Acting sparked a life long interest in movies and plays.

Zitz also loved to travel. He and Bunni would frequently take off for points unknown in the car. Two-lane roads were his first choice and frequent stops to investigate and meet new people was the plan. They did travel internationally to China, Russia, Eastern Europe and an Alaskan cruise.

Zitz was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers Eugene and wife Mary, Wilford, Clarence, and sister Bernice and husband Hookie. He is survived by his wife Bunni, brothers Bob and Wayne and numerous nieces and nephews.

Bunni and family would like to convey a special thank you to the doctors, nurses and



Obituary

Ronald M. Zitzlsperger

SEP 22, 1941 - JUL 13, 2019

tech staff on the 4th floor of St. Mary's Hospital. Their kindness and concern will be forever treasured. A special thank you to Father Nick and Sister Anne for their spiritual guidance. A heartfelt thank you to all friends and family for the thoughts and prayers as we navigated these final weeks and days.

Memorials can be made to Covenant House or a charity of your choice.



Tribute Wall

Ronald M. Zitzlsperger

SEP 22, 1941 - JUL 13, 2019

LM

Linda Mahon posted:

Bunni, was very sorry to see that Zitz passed. Mom and Dad (Gene and Julia Law) always had a great time when you all were with Bud and Hallie. My prayers are will be with you.

July 28 at 3:52 PM

EF

Ed And Judy Falk posted:

Our deepest regards, love and friendship come to you, Bunni and family as you travel on this journey. Remembering Mr. Z always will bring smiles to our heart. What a terrific guy he was. He always brightened our day with his outgoing smile. He touched many lives and encouraged his students to always do their best – and then do more! Peace and Prayers my friend. Ed and Judy Falk

July 23 at 3:24 PM

SP

Steve Pyle posted:

One of the brightest individuals I have ever known. He had a dry sense of humor that could be downright hilarious. He was a consummate professional. "He knew his stuff; he knew who he was stuffing, and he stuffed it artistically." I had many shared stories and jokes with Z at Woodrow. I supported his student plays and he supported the student games and matches. And, more than once we supported vocal and instrumental concerts along with art shows. We kept in touch, off and on, through the years, but not near enough. He had a great laugh and was not afraid to let it be heard. He was always Z – a true original. Rest in Peace, Ron.

July 18 at 11:40 AM

DC

Dave And Diane Coen posted:

Z and Bunni have been great friends for over 40 years (as well as wonderful colleagues back in our teaching days in Decatur). Diane and I are just devastated at his passing, but we have wonderful memories over all those years which we will cherish forever. Our deepest sympathies go to Bunni and all the family!

July 17 at 2:11 PM



Tribute Wall

Ronald M. Zitzlsperger

SEP 22, 1941 - JUL 13, 2019

BB

Barb Bartison posted:

I was so surprised and saddened to read about "Z's" passing. I haven't seen you for quite a while and wasn't aware of his problems. I have been reflecting on so many memories of "Z" (as we called him) from our days at Centennial Lab School and beyond. He was a gifted teacher and a wonderful, talented man. I remember a play he directed while he was at Woodrow and Dana was in it. The kids were all so impressed by his theatrical abilities that they presented him with a dog (Golden Retriever?) that they all named "Actor." I am so sorry for your loss, Bunni. Take comfort in knowing what a full life "Z" lived and how many people's lives he touched in such meaningful and heartfelt ways. You have my deepest sympathy during this difficult time.

July 16 at 9:36 AM

HC

Helen Ducey Castrucci posted:

I taught with Zitz at Woodrow Wilson Middle School in the mid to late 70's. He was so welcoming. He was a favorite among staff and students. He always had a smile for everyone and had a wonderful sense of humor. I often think of those wonderful days and Zitz is always part of those memories. He truly blessed and enriched the lives of those around him. I pray the wonderful memories you have will provide you comfort.

July 16 at 8:18 AM

SC

Shelly Chabak posted:

Ron—"Mr. Z," when you retired, you opened a door for me to teach at Roosevelt Middle School. When I began readying your previous classroom for my first year, I realized your gift in the opportunity to use some of the good teaching resources you had left behind. But I am most thankful for the encouraging atmosphere that still existed in Room 205. It radiated a legacy of loving your work and, thus, instilled a confidence in me without you even being there to say a word. I do remember, too, a day you stopped by and gave me a pep talk. After meeting you for the first time, I knew that my assumptions had been correct: I was working in a place where you had artfully and expectantly created an importance around learning—a comfort and inspiration to a new teacher. Like many others, I thank you, Ron "Z," for your lessons, camaraderie, and friendship.

July 16 at 6:16 AM



Tribute Wall

Ronald M. Zitzlsperger

SEP 22, 1941 - JUL 13, 2019

SP

Sarah Rombouts Parriott posted:

Mr.Z., he can described in a word or in a book, but his beauty as a human being, an educator, a mentor or as a friend could never be fully understood in one sentence. Mr. Z was my seventh grade language arts teacher at Roosevelt Middle School. He knew of me only through my mother, who was also an English and German teacher, prior to our meeting in his classroom was next to the great Illinois dame, Mrs. McAdam. His were always carefully and clearly worded. When I wrote a speech and presented it to a school filled with "athletes", "cheerleaders" and "hip" kids, his reaction: "That was a damn good speech young lady. Keep those coming! They do not understand yet, but one day they will grow up and think"..and so I do. Thank you, Mr. Z. Thank you for encouraging me to read, to write, to speak and to explore the world. Sending you my love and gratitude as my own eulogy from my home in the Netherlands.

July 14 at 11:07 AM

LC

Leslie Baudino Conrad posted:

Mr. Z was a wonderful teacher and good friend to myself, Leslie Baudino Conrad, and my father Leo Baudino. He gave me guidance and encouragement at a time in my life when it was desperately needed. His intelligence, kindness and gentle ways will be greatly missed.

July 14 at 5:12 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Ronald by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit



COMPLETE FUNERAL SERVICES