



Mr. Robert J. Harrigan

August 18, 1948 - January 2, 2013

Robert J. Harrigan, 64, formerly of Ellenburg died Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2013 at Alice Hyde Medical Center, Malone, NY.

Born in Plattsburgh, NY on Aug. 18, 1948, he was the son of Joseph and Mary (McManus) Harrigan.

Mr. Harrigan graduated from Ellenburg Central School. He received his bachelor's degree from SUNY Plattsburgh and his master's degree from SUNY Potsdam. He taught English for a year in Deposit, NY before returning to Malone to begin his 32 year career of teaching at Franklin Academy, retiring in June 2003. He also owned and operated Irish Knoll Farm. He was a member of Hill 19 Hunting Club and the Elks Lodge #1303, Malone. He was a 4-H member at the age of 10 and continued to be active becoming a leader in later years. He also helped his students with judging and showing cattle, which he enjoyed in his youth. Bob enjoyed coaching basketball for several years.

Mr. Harrigan is survived by his mother of Chateaugay; a daughter, Kelly Harrigan of Washington DC; a granddaughter, Emma MuDan Harrigan Campbell; a brother and sister-in-law, Kenneth and Tanie Harrigan of Malone; five sisters and four brothers-in-law, Christine and Paul Boyea of Chateaugay, Nancy Harrigan of Philadelphia, PA, Susan and Francis LaBarge of Hickory, NC, Maureen and Rob Shields of Glen Head, NY, Jackie and Jeff Gregory of Altamont, NY; several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his father, Joseph Harrigan, and his brother, Timothy

Harrigan.

Calling hours will be held at the Chateaugay Funeral Home on Friday, Jan. 4 from 4-7 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 am on Saturday, Jan. 5 in St. Patrick's Church, Chateaugay with Rev. John Looby officiating.

A reception will follow at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Chateaugay.

Donations in his memory may be made to Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, The Jimmy Fund at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute or the Boston Foundation for Sight.

Tribute Wall

RC

“ I only just found out yesterday that my favorite and most beloved high school teacher had passed. Truly saddened and shocked! I was in three of his English & Literature classes during my high school years of 1976-80.

In all the years since to present, I have never met a better educator. He was dynamic, energetic, and passionate in his desire to teach his students. He had no equal in his ability to inspire and motivate. Even in my college years, I have never met his match.

Although I mourn his passing, I pity all the current & future teens who will never experience his great gifts. His intelligence, wit, and devotion to his profession and pupils. God bless you Mr. Harrigan! Thank you for all you taught me and the generations that were so lucky enough to be under your tutelage. The world was a little better & brighter having had you in it.

Ruth Cabaluna - August 15, 2018 at 03:08 PM

AW

“ Bob and I became friends when we taught next door to each other for many years. I greatly respected his intelligence, his work ethic and his integrity. I also enjoyed his great sense of humor and his radiant smile. Bob was a stellar teacher and his students loved him as did his colleagues. He also thought nothing of putting himself in harms way and broke up some serious fights in the hall over the years. One time his glasses went flying down the hall about 30 feet and after Bob managed to "escort" the individuals to the office, he returned looking for his glasses which I had found. After that, he came up with a plan that he would hand me his glasses first...before he jumped in. I was worried about him and he was worried about his glasses. (He was also practical.) Bob was also known as the "prom ceiling" man. He spent many hours wiring many ceiling for many proms with little or no recognition. He did it so many times, he became known as the ceiling expert...but, what a lot of work. He put his heart and soul into the things he did. He did it for the students and was a dedicated teacher through and through. One of the things that I will always remember about Bob is his enthusiasm and his contagious spirit and zest for life. In the 70s and 80s he was the Pep Club adviser and he used to organize hay wagon rides and a bon fire on Friday nights of Homecoming weekend and a parade on Saturday. Bob donated his time and energy for the students, the school and the community. He generated a love of school, learning and life. What impresses me the most about Bob is his genuine love of his family and friends and his sincere desire and willingness to put the needs of others before himself. He has set a very high standard of self-sacrifice and may we all honor him by striving to carry on his legacy of self-sacrifice. As we count ourselves fortunate to have been touched by Bob's wondrous life may he know how much we love him!God Bless!

Angela Wemette - August 09, 2016 at 11:19 AM

JD

“ I am so very saddened to learn of Mr. Harrigan's passing. I was a student in his English class of 1973/1974, and also knew him from my involvement with the basketball program at Franklin Academy. I remember him not only as a wonderful teacher, but as a kind, thoughtful man as well. I have two particularly fond memories of Mr. Harrigan. The first involves tenth-grade English class, when Mr. Harrigan was working feverishly to prepare us for the end-of-the-year regents exam. One of the female students, wishing to ask a question, raised her hand and, wanting to get his attention, began to speak his name. Unfortunately, she initially confused his name with that of another English teacher at Franklin Academy. By the time she caught her mistake, it was too late, and the damage done, for she blurted out what sounded like Mr. Honey Harrigan. Of course, the entire class erupted in laughter. I can still vividly picture good-natured, and now very embarrassed, Mr. Harrigan, shaking his head slowly from side to side, smiling sheepishly, his face turning various shades of red. The second memory is from the winter, 1976, when Mr. Harrigan was the JV basketball coach, and I was a senior, and a member of the varsity team. I shall never forget the disappointment I felt at the conclusion of that season as I began to realize that my high-school basketball playing days had indeed ended. Sensing my disappointment, Mr. Harrigan took me aside, and offered me both praise and encouragement. I will never forget that he prefaced his remarks with the comment, Maybe this won't mean much, coming from me. How wrong he was! As JV coach, Mr. Harrigan had attended all of the games, and had been a witness to the all of the ups and downs of the season. His words meant a very great deal, indeed, for I had the utmost respect for him. To this day, I remain thankful to him for his kind words. To Mr. Harrigan's family, I offer my deepest condolences. It is my fervent hope that, with time, your grief will be replaced by wonderful memories, and by the knowledge that he was much beloved.

John (Jack) Dirolf - August 09, 2016 at 11:19 AM



“ Kelly... in the short time I knew your father I, like everyone that met him (including my parents), thought very highly of him. I offer my most sincere and heartfelt coldolences to you for his passing as I just found out today.

October 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Mr. Harrigan was my most inspiring teacher in high school. I am now in my 50s and have many times remembered how he inspired me to be all that I can be. He took the time to spend with students, to teach and share his many gifts. No one could deliver a narrative story like he could. He made the students want to listen and learn. I have not had the privilege of seeing Mr. Harrigan since I left school. I have thought about him many times, however and have been very thankful to have had him as an instructor. He was the "Mr. Holland" (Mr. Holland's Opus) of Franklin Academy if you don't mind the analogy. I held him in the highest esteem. My sincere condolences to all his family. PLease know how much he was respected and will be remembered.
May God be with him and May God Bless all family members.
Brenda L. Mallette-Glennon, CPA

Brenda L. Mallette-Glennon, CPA - March 26, 2013 at 09:26 AM

AW

“ Bob and I became friends when we taught next door to each other for many years. I greatly respected his intelligence, his work ethic and his integrity. I also enjoyed his great sense of humor and his radiant smile. Bob was a stellar teacher and his students loved him as did his colleagues.

He also thought nothing of putting himself in harms way and broke up some serious fights in the hall over the years. One time his glasses went flying down the hall about 30 feet and after Bob managed to "escort" the individuals to the office, he returned looking for his glasses which I had found. After that, he came up with a plan that he would hand me his glasses first...before he jumped in. I was worried about him and he was worried about his glasses. (He was also practical.)

Bob was also known as the "prom ceiling" man. He spent many hours wiring many ceiling for many proms with little or no recognition. He did it so many times, he became known as the ceiling expert...but, what a lot of work. He put his heart and soul into the things he did. He did it for the students and was a dedicated teacher through and through.

One of the things that I will always remember about Bob is his enthusiasm and his contagious spirit and zest for life. In the 70s and 80s he was the Pep Club adviser and he used to organize hay wagon rides and a bon fire on Friday nights of Homecoming weekend and a parade on Saturday. Bob donated his time and energy for the students, the school and the community. He generated a love of school, learning and life.

What impresses me the most about Bob is his genuine love of his family and friends and his sincere desire and willingness to put the needs of others before himself. He has set a very high standard of self-sacrifice and may we all honor him by striving to carry on his legacy of self-sacrifice. As we count ourselves fortunate to have been touched by Bob's wondrous life may he know how much we love him!

God Bless!

Angela Wemette - March 26, 2013 at 09:26 AM

CL

“ To Bob's Family: I have many fond memories of my friendship with Bob during his tenure at Malone Central School Dist. My position in the Superintendent's office afforded me to get to know Bob and Kelli - I looked forward to my Friday night TGIF's with them. Bob was a mentor to many of us... and a true and humble friend. Peace to you all~ Christine Walfield LaDuke
(the snowstorm is prohibiting me from getting to the wake tonight, you are all in my thoughts and prayers.)

Christine LaDuke - March 26, 2013 at 09:26 AM

LW

“ My condolences to the Harrigan Family. Mr. Harrigan was my favorite high school teacher and was also my Senior Class Advisor - Class of 1989. I will never forget how he referred to all of us as "Scholars" and always encouraged us to be the best we could be. What a wonderful man - he will be sadly missed!!

Lisa Wilson Watson - March 26, 2013 at 09:26 AM

DF

“ Our condolences to Bob's family. He was a great friend . He was always there to give a helping hand to anyone in need. We will miss his smile and laughter.

Daniel & Brenda Fleury - March 26, 2013 at 09:26 AM

MJ

“ Mr. Harrigan, was the best English teacher I had. His daughter Kelly was my best friend. He will be missed. He had a great smile and I will always remember that. The class of 89 will be lost without him in this world.

Melissa Jones-Warner - March 26, 2013 at 09:26 AM

DV

“ To Mary and all the siblings of Robert, my sincere condolences. I did not know Robert, but knew his brothers and sisters and mother.
Delores

delores varin - March 26, 2013 at 09:26 AM

LB

“ So sorry to hear of the loss of your loved one. I Was childhood friends with Kelly and enjoyed watching the Boston Celtics with Kelly and Robert.
He will be missed. Speedy heart healing wishes to the entire family.

Laura Chatland Brown - March 26, 2013 at 09:26 AM

JD

“ Mr. Robert J. Harrigan

John (Jack) Dirolf - March 26, 2013 at 09:26 AM



“ I taught at Franklin Academy for many years, and it was a privilege and honor to know Bob. I liked and respected him very much. He was not only a dedicated teacher but also a wonderful human being. He was always upbeat and willing to lend a hand to anyone. He was the kind of person that makes someone a better person for having known him.

January 04, 2013 at 12:00 AM