



Kenneth H Nagel

December 7, 1940 - June 7, 2017

NAGEL, Kenneth H.

Kenneth H. Nagel of North Tonawanda, passed away at ECMC, June 7, 2017, following a fall and head injury.

Mr. Nagel is a retired North Tonawanda Public School teacher, who taught grades 3-6 at Gratwick, Col. Payne, and Grant Schools from 1962 until he retired in 1997. He was listed multiple times in Who's Who Among America's Teachers and received the WNY Golden Apple Award for teaching in 1993. After he retired, he often substituted in WNY Lutheran Schools, taught science demonstration lessons dressed as Johnny Appleseed. He also visited classrooms dressed as a Jester who played the snare drum, and read books to classes, as a guest teacher, on April Fools Day. In recent years, he has assisted with the Summer Program for the percussion section of the Mount St. Mary Academy All Girls Marching Band in Kenmore.

He was interested in carpentry and wood carving and was an active member of the St. Paul Choir. Because of his love for music, he began the new hobby of taking piano lessons at age 65. He enjoyed taking the wood carving classes at the Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum.

Through the years, he was a member of the Tonawanda High School Band, New York State Concert Band, Buffalo State College Band, Continental Drum

and Bugle Corps, and the Tonawanda Original Clown Band. He was a member of the percussion section of the Post 264 National Championship American Legion Band of the Tonawandas for more than 50 years and was the Chairman of their Board for several years.

He was the son of the late Howard Earl and Gladys Helen (nee Strade). Kenneth was the beloved husband for 53 years of Kathleen Elaine (nee Peters); devoted father of Tristan Elaine (late Rev. Lester) D'Angelo, and Devin Kenneth (DawnMarie) Nagel; proud and loving grandfather of the late Tyler Scott D'Angelo, Petrina Elaine D'Angelo, Mason Devin Nagel, Colin Epifanio Nagel; beloved brother of Joan Ruth (late Donald Frank) Garlapo; loving godfather of Jeanette Bristol (Michael) Medrick, and his nephew Jeremy Matthew (Renee) Peters; also survived by nieces Ruth Musser (Richard) Linneborn and Elizabeth Musser (Edward Rieger) Ryan, Alison (Adam) VanHorn and their families; also honorary grandfather of Kristian and Thomas Haeussler and Matthew Newman.

Visitation Saturday 6-8 PM, and Sunday 1-3 and 6-8 PM in the WATTENGEL FUNERAL HOME, 533 Meadow Dr., North Tonawada. The funeral will be Monday morning at 11:00 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 453 Old Falls Blvd, North Tonawanda, NY. If desired, memorials may be given to St. Paul Lutheran Church or American Legion Band of the Tonawandas, PO Box 122, Tonawanda, NY 14150. Online registry at www.Wattengel.com

Cemetery Details

Acacia Park Cemetery

4215 Tonawanda Creek Rd N.
North Tonawanda, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 10. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wattengel Funeral Home
533 Meadow Drive
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
(716) 693-0440

Visitation

JUN 11. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Wattengel Funeral Home (Meadow Drive)
533 Meadow Drive
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
(716) 693-0440
wattengelfh@gmail.com
<https://www.wattengel.com>

Visitation

JUN 11. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wattengel Funeral Home
533 Meadow Drive
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
(716) 693-0440

Funeral Service

JUN 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul Lutheran Church
453 Old Falls Blvd
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Tribute Wall

KC

“ *Mr. Nagel was my fifth grade teacher at Grant Elementary School he had such a passion for teaching and plays. He directed plays and we all had such a wonderful time. He was an inspirational person and someone I will never forget. I am deeply saddened by his passing.*

Kara Cannon - February 25, 2018 at 08:52 PM

MS

“ *Dear Kathy, Tristan, Devin & family, We were so sad to hear of Kenny's passing. He and I taught many years together starting at Gratwick School together. He was a great teacher and so much fun. One Halloween when kids were in costumes they were told to sit at different desks so we could guess who they were. Kenny kept sending all his kids to me and how funny when I finally realized I had both classes as I had ran out of seats!! Also I remember when Kathy and Kenny sponsored us for Marriage Encounter. That was about 40 years ago as we have been married 45 years this August. We have lost a great friend, and until we meet again we ask God to take good care of him as well as all of his wonderful family!! Love, Bud & Marlene (Davis) Stevens*

Marlene & Bud Stevens - June 29, 2017 at 10:52 AM

AS

“ Mr. Nagel was my 4th grade teacher at Gratwick School 1963-64. I fondly remember that school year as having many fun learning experiences. Mr. Nagel brought in a loom for us to learn how to weave. He helped us to learn about the constellations by having us put masking tape in the classroom windows to represent stars, then painting the rest of the windows black. When we took off the tape, light shine through, and our windows looked like the heavenly sky! Mr. Nagel also comforted us on that Friday afternoon when our principal made the announcement that President Kennedy was assassinated. Then a few months later, he let us share our excited feelings about watching the Beatles' first performance on the Ed Sullivan Show. He was the "coolest" teacher ever! He was one of the reasons I became a teacher. Thank you, Mr. Nagel, for all the great memories.

Audrey (Urban) Stitzinger - June 12, 2017 at 04:19 PM

NF

“ Kenny was a life long school mate of mine, from kindergarten through high school. He was a kind, sincere, friendly gentleman, and will be dearly missed. My very kind thoughts and prayers are with Kathy and her family.

Natalie (Miano) Fiala - June 12, 2017 at 09:12 AM



“ Mr. Nagel was my 6th grade teacher at Gratwick School, we had recently reconnected at a mutual friends funeral, and to see the sparkle in his eye that I remembered him, was wonderful.
Rest in Peace Mr. Nagel!

*John C. Lapham
Gratwick School 1970
Retired NT Fire Chief*

John Lapham - June 12, 2017 at 08:25 AM

ML

“ Sending deepest sympathy to the Nagle family. With prayers that, in time, your sorrow will become acceptance and peace in the knowledge that Ken is safe in the presence of God.

*In Christ,
Marla (Sarratori) Lyons*

Marla Lyons - June 11, 2017 at 05:05 PM

DC

“ Ken was a wonderful man to know. We always admired his strong belief in God and his commitment to his family and friends. He will be missed. We enjoyed serving with Ken in the choir at FUMC. We will keep Ken and his family in our prayers. Dave & Carol Carere

David Carere - June 11, 2017 at 01:04 PM

LB

“ Mr. Nagel has always come to mind whenever I think of the wonderful teachers that I have had over the years. I only had him as a science teacher, but I always wished that he would have been my homeroom teacher. He was loved by all the students, and he was beyond talented. We were all lucky to have him as our teacher. I can't correct myself by saying 'may' instead of 'can' without thinking of him!

Liz Brodfuehrer - June 11, 2017 at 09:04 AM

LH

“ We had many fond memories of Ken and the many things that he was involved in at First United Methodist Church choir, MYF, Our Marriage Encounter meetings. . The great time we had when Ken and Kathy came to visit us in El Paso Tx. May you rest in peace Ken.

Lynn and Nancy Hines - June 10, 2017 at 10:24 PM



“ So many memories to share. From plays, to carnivals, to tracking down the class hamster Finster, who would always get loose, the man was in every respect the true teacher. He saw the good in every single one of us, and taught me that I could be anything I wanted, no matter what. He is the reason I became a teacher. He is truly one of the best, and heaven gained an amazing angel. Rest in Piece Mr. Nagel.

Love the Sarzyniak Family (Frank, Anneke, and Jennifer)

Jennifer Sarzyniak - June 10, 2017 at 08:59 PM



Omg I forgot about finster! And what about the parakeets, Ralph and Irene!

Alan Moser - June 11, 2017 at 10:41 AM

MS

You probably know that the Parakeets may have been named for one of his colleagues Mr. Ralph Irene. That is so funny!!

Marlene & Bud Stevens - June 29, 2017 at 10:35 AM

TD

“ I am sad to hear of Mr Nagel's passing. I had the honor of being his student at Gratwick Elementary fifth grade almost forty years ago. His passion for teaching and learning brings fond memories, He read to our class and that always stuck with me. To say he was a favorite teacher is an understatement.

My deepest sympathies to the Nagel family. Tammy Heinrich Dziuba

Tammy Dziuba - June 10, 2017 at 06:29 PM

WP

“ *Fighting back tears as we write this. We know that you are at peace with our Lord and Savior but we miss you. You have not only been a good neighbor for over 50 years, but also a dear, dear, beloved friend. You have been there for us always helping through the laughter and tears. Bill will miss those times when he would go down in the basement to create and solve a project in wood. You are an amazing teacher, but also a gardener, carpenter, choir and band member. We will miss your kind sweet ways. Sadly yours*
Gloria and Bill Pittler

William and Gloria Pittler - June 10, 2017 at 01:46 PM

PM

“ *Kathleen, Tristan & Devin,*

We're so sorry for your loss. May you take comfort in remembering a life well lived. With our deepest sympathy, The Paul McCarthy Family.

Paul McCarthy - June 10, 2017 at 11:24 AM

FS

“ *The world has lost a truly good, loving person. Our thoughts and prayers to all his family*
Fred and JoAnne Sahr

Fred, JoAnne Sahr - June 10, 2017 at 05:40 AM



“ 94 files added to the album LifeTributes



Wattengel Funeral Home - June 10, 2017 at 05:12 AM



“ He was a true gentleman, always caring about you instead of himself. Kathy, Devin and Tristan you should feel blessed to have in your lives.

My deepest sympathy and prayers for you and your families.

I am sorry that I will not be there in person, but will be there in spirit has you celebrate your dad and husband life.

Rest in peace my dear friend until we meet again.

Paul Rumbold Jr - June 09, 2017 at 11:31 AM



Mr. Nagel was the person we should all strive to become. My sincere condolences to all left behind. We will meet again.

Stewart Caldwell - June 09, 2017 at 04:25 PM

JB

Kathy, I was deeply saddened to learn of Ken's passing. He was an integral part of many happy memories of teaching third grade at Colonel Payne School. Ken strove to uplift the spirits of everyone he met and cared passionately about the welfare of his students. He was also a lot of fun to work with! When we'd see each other at the Ha Ha lunch each September, he loved to remind me of his request that I occasionally bang on the wall that separated our classrooms to make sure he hadn't dozed off. Ken's humor brought joy to many of my days. I will miss him.

Jeanne Bowman

Jeanne Bowman - June 10, 2017 at 10:50 AM



It is with such deep sadness and regret that we convey our sincere sympathy and condolences to the Nagel Family over the passing of one beautiful man. We knew Kathy Peters much longer than we had known Ken, but when we met him, it was like we were friends from early childhood. Ken had a special way about the way he lived his life. His life was Christ oriented and there was nothing that would interfere with that life style. His love for his Lord was a daily occurrence and not a Sunday appearance at church. The beauty of this man's soul was making everyone welcomed and a large part of his ministry in life. He shared his faith, not by merely talking about it, but rather living it as an example of what a Christian should really be. He didn't speak from a pulpit, but rather from the heart. In today's society, how wonderful and refreshing to see the love of Christ portrayed in a non-political setting and not used for a soul purpose for one's own personal agenda. Ken's life was based on serving God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit with every ounce of his strength and very being from the beginning of his life to the end. His commitment to his faith is what made him such a loving husband, father, grandfather, honorary grandfather, uncle, godfather, teacher, and dear friend. In my years singing with Ken in the choir, I was so dependent on him or I should say my ear was, so that I would sing out the notes with a degree of confidence. He knew I was intensely listening and he would turn towards me to make sure that I would hear every note. Years have passed, lives have changed, but true friendship never really escapes us or diminishes. I was so proud to call Ken Nagel a friend and I am at peace in knowing that he is in the comfort of his loving Heavenly home with his Lord and Savior. There are not a lot of Ken Nagel's in this world, so If you find one, cherish him, befriend him, and walk in his path which is that of our Risen Lord. God Bless you faithful servant! Amen!

In Christ name, Ron & Donna Moore

Ronald Moore - June 10, 2017 at 03:16 PM