



Michael L. Stoddard

November 16, 1942 - January 7, 2019

Michael "Mike" L. Stoddard, age 76, passed away peacefully with his wife Laura at his side on January 7, 2019, at UW Hospital in Madison. He was born on November 16, 1942, in Richland Center, Wisconsin the son of Mike and Beulah (Sager) Stoddard. He graduated from Richland Center High School in 1960, the Richland County Teachers College and the University of WI-Platteville. He returned to Richland County to teach at Ithaca Public Schools for 33 ½ years. Mike married the love of his life Laura Armstrong on August 4th, 1979. He had a great love for his black labs and his three toy poodles. Mike loved all sports and was inducted into the Ithaca Athletic Hall of Fame. He coached football, basketball, and track. He was an avid fan of the Badgers and Packers. Mike was a great hunter and was known as the Great Wautashi throughout the halls of Ithaca. He touched many lives with his infectious personality and was a role model to many within and outside his family. He had many adventures with his friends who remained lifelong friends. No matter what was happening in his life he always maintained his sense of humor.

Survivors include his wife, Laura Stoddard, her parents, Ray and Therese Armstrong; two dogs, Sky and Joli; a sister, Ruth Schwerin (Dale Balsley); a cousin, Janet Munz (George Urguhart); brother-in-law, Mark (Ruth) Armstrong; sister-in-law, Mary Beth (John) Lund; nieces, nephews, and many friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Jennie Lou McDougal.

Funeral Services will be held at 2:00 PM on Sunday, January 13, 2019, at the Clary Memorial Funeral Home in Richland Center. Pastor Craig Peach will officiate with burial in the Richland Center Cemetery. Visitation will be held at the Clary Memorial Funeral Home on Sunday, January 13, 2019 from 11:00 AM until the time of service at 2:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to the family. On line condolences can be made at www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Richland Center Cemetery

Richland Center, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 13. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Clary Memorial Funeral & Cremation Service, LLC
26777 Jelland Drive
Richland Center, WI 53581
(608) 647-6390
josh@clarymemorial.com
<https://clarymemorialfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

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Tribute Wall

RN

“ Mike and I actually met when we were 2 years old and both lived on Court Street. I, already known to my parents as an impetuous child, escaped my crib a 6 am and ambled two blocks down the hill to Mike's house where his sister captured me and called my parents. Even then, Mike's personality drew people in. We went to elementary school and high school together, we played sandlot baseball, football, and basketball, we played on the RCHS varsity teams for all 3 sports. We hung out together with our friends. Mike was a competitor in sports but always gracious, always with a smile or a joke. After college we settled in different places but kept in touch through my occasional visits back to RC. He was a great and loyal friend, a truly nice and good person who will be sincerely missed by all who knew him. He was always my best friend, and I will miss being able to connect with him. Sonya and I send our condolences to Laura for her loss of Mike.

Randy Nanstad - January 13, 2019 at 01:12 PM

TH

“ I'll miss ya Coach. You were my teacher, coach, mentor back in the early to mid 70's. Glad I was able to keep in touch here and there through the years, The Great Watashi. One of a kind. Terry Hamburg - Class of 75.

Terry Hamburg - January 12, 2019 at 11:19 PM

HB

“ Laura ... you have my deepest sympathy, Mr. Stoddard...Mike..was a great teacher, class advisor, coach and referee..overall ...a great man.. If needed help he was there and always made time for you. . He was one of Ithaca's best teachers. He always had big heart and smile as even years later when I came back to Ithaca to visit ... whenever saw him he always had a smile,..called me by name and took time to chat and catch up, I am glad I had the chance to know him, My heart goes out to you. I hope as time goes by the wonderful memories you shared will turn your sadness to smiles again as I am sure he would want that as he will surely be watching over you from heaven.

Hugs - Heidi Olson Billings - Ithaca Class of 1983



Heidi Olson Billings - January 12, 2019 at 06:31 PM

PM

“ My sincere condolences to the family members of Mike on his passing. He was a college classmate and a basketball teammate @ RCTC, a teaching staff mate @ Ithaca SD, a friend, and all around fun "character". Although he tried to hide it, he was a " softy" and caring person. He cared deeply for and about his students. I know that he enjoyed the close connections that he formed with each one of them. He was a special teacher and person to them for over thirty years. I'm sure each one has a special memory of him. A fun and special person/friend gone, but never forgotten ! Rest in eternal peace Mike.
Patrick F.Manning

Patrick F. Manning - January 12, 2019 at 02:23 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael L. Stoddard.



January 11, 2019 at 11:08 AM

SA

“ Ruth and family, I am so sorry to hear of Mike's passing. Had him for a teacher at Ithaca.

Sue Anderson - January 11, 2019 at 08:49 AM

SW

“ Mike was a perfect "fit" for junior high kids when I knew him. His optimism and infectious personality was so obvious to those that knew him.

Steve Waterman

Steve Waterman - January 11, 2019 at 06:31 AM

MS

“ Laurie - My sympathy to you and your family in this difficult time. I knew Mike through my friend Jon Blackman, a classmate of Mike's. "Back in the day" we went grouse hunting in Richland Center with Mike. Say hi to your parents for me - Remembering the good times in Westby.

Mike Sherry

Mike Sherry - January 10, 2019 at 05:58 PM

MS

“ *Mike Sherry lit a candle in memory of Michael L. Stoddard*



Mike Sherry - January 10, 2019 at 05:26 PM

RM

“ *Condolences. The McCarty family.*
😭



Ricky McCarty - January 10, 2019 at 03:34 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Michael L. Stoddard.*



January 10, 2019 at 03:26 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael L. Stoddard.*



January 10, 2019 at 10:16 AM

AB

“ *Mr. Stoddard was one of my favorite teachers. I always enjoyed going to his class!
He was a great teacher and person. My condolences go out to his family. You will be missed Mr. Stoddard.*

Angel Board - January 09, 2019 at 07:03 PM

TR

“ What a unique teacher! I still remember an illustration of propaganda he made 50 years ago. I also remember the wager he would make during deer season. I think it was double or nothing for those who made up homework for the three days prior to Thanksgiving. If he got his buck you had to do twice as much - but if he did not you were home free! When we wagering students would see each other during that break the big question was, "Did Stoddard get his buck?" One year I remember how thankful I was when my friend said (I think it was John Rice), "No! He shot three doe." What a great way for him to engage his students. I am personally thankful I had Mike Stoddard as a teacher. He certainly influenced thousands of people. I also have a deep suspicion he inspired some of his students to enter the realm of teaching. My sympathy to his family,

Tom Rakow - January 09, 2019 at 01:06 PM



“ I moved back to Ithaca before my eighth grade year, which happened to be Mike's last year as a teacher before retiring. Even in that short time, Mike made a positive impact on me. He was the rare teacher who made his class fun, and yet he still expected a lot of his students and let you know in no uncertain terms when you weren't meeting his standards. He will be missed in the Ithaca community. My condolences to his family.

Dustin Pollock - January 09, 2019 at 12:00 PM

KL

“ Laurie - So sorry for your loss. Mary and I are leaving on Friday, January 11th for a weeks vacation. so we won't be at the service. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. With our love, Kerry & Mary Larsen.

Kerry Larsen - January 09, 2019 at 11:51 AM

JK

“ Thoughts and prayers to the family of Mike Stoddard at this very sad time. He will always be remembered for his happy smile and friends to all. Rest in peace Mike.



Jean Keegan - January 09, 2019 at 11:21 AM

BD

“ So sorry for your loss. Mike would come into D & Z's and talk to me while I worked. He was a good friend of my uncle Dale Dobbs. He was so worried about his cat and what would happen with his land. Mike always had a smile on his face and was a great guy! Thinking of you all in your time of loss.

Brandy Dobbs - January 09, 2019 at 10:57 AM

SG

“ Our condolences to the family.

RIP fellow infielder and classmate

Only one Bop A Louie left.



Stan Goplen - January 08, 2019 at 10:50 PM

AY

“ When I was in Middle School at Ithaca, Mr. Stoddard serenaded me with “Forever and Ever, Amen” by Randy Travis....simply because he felt I could start to appreciate Country Music more!

He also spoke so often of Laura....his love for you was evident in all of the stories he told.

My prayers are with you during this difficult time! Mike will be fondly remembered and greatly missed!

Angie Young - January 08, 2019 at 10:42 PM

JF

“ So very sorry to hear of Mike's passing Laura. Will keep you in our thoughts and prayers. Always so nice to visit with Mike when he came in for his dental appoint. JoAnn & Doug Ferrel.

JoAnn Wood Ferrel - January 08, 2019 at 10:11 PM

IP

“ Mike was one of my favorite people in RC. I was lucky to have grown up (well, a little behind) with him. I'm pleased to know he became a teacher and inspired students. Too young.

irvin peckham - January 08, 2019 at 10:06 PM



“ I'm so sorry for your loss, Laura. Mr. Stoddard was one of my favorite teachers. He was an awesome teacher and great role model, and he was one of the reasons Jr. High was so great at Ithaca. We were lucky to have him. Hugs and prayers for you.

Amy Fry - January 08, 2019 at 08:14 PM

CT

“ Sincere condolences from a RCHS classmate & a fellow teacher & coach-
Carl Truesdale

Carl Truesdale - January 08, 2019 at 06:53 PM

JS

“ Mike was a great classmate and will be missed by all. Condolences to all his family and friends.

Jerry Schulz

jerry schulz - January 08, 2019 at 06:17 PM

DW

“ Laura...So sorry to hear of Mike's passing. Sending my sympathy to you and the family. He was a fun teacher. He will be missed by many.

Deb Walling - January 08, 2019 at 05:44 PM

MZ

“ I am sorry to hear of Mikes passing away, my sincere sympathy to his family and friends.



Marla(Brown) Zarate - January 08, 2019 at 02:25 PM



“ So sorry for your loss Laura. Mike was one of my favorite teachers. Had great stories to tell. In his class you knew when you could get away with something and when it wasn't a good idea. He will be missed by many. He's one of the teachers at Ithaca that left a great impression.

Sue (Denman) Fruit

Susan Fruit - January 08, 2019 at 01:43 PM

TN

“ *My sincerest condolences to his family and friends. Mr. Stoddard was always one of my favorite teachers and certainly one of the most memorable. Not only was he an effective teacher, but he was the type that helped shape young kids into good people. I am truly thankful to have known Mr. Stoddard.*

Tyler Nelson - January 08, 2019 at 12:14 PM

M(

“ *One of my favorite teachers at Ithaca. He coined the phrase "We Is Cool." referring to the athletes and the student body. RIP Mr. Stoddard.*



Marsha Cooper (Cockroft) - January 08, 2019 at 10:43 AM



“ *Mr. Stoddard was one of my favorite teachers. Always a great guy to hang around with. Anther great Ithaca icon who will be greatly missed.*

Robert Matthews Jr. - January 08, 2019 at 10:34 AM

SS

“ *MR. STODDARD WAS A WONDERFUL TEACHER, HAPPY, HELPFUL AND ALWAYS FULL OF COMPLIMENTS THAT ALWAYS MEANT ALOT, RIP MY CONDOLENCES TO MISS LORI*

Sue Studnicka - January 08, 2019 at 10:16 AM

VW

“ *My sympathy to Laura and all of the Stoddard siblings. Mike was a classmate. He was always lots of fun, cheerful and at times full of mischief. My children had Mike as a teacher at Ithaca. He will be missed by everyone that knew him.*

Virginia Wiedenfeld - January 08, 2019 at 10:03 AM

PB

My sympathy to Mike's family. He was a college classmate, colleague, and great friend to my late husband. At the time of his passing, I and my children received a letter of condolence from Mike than meant so much to us. Rest in peace Mike.

Pat Bloyer - January 08, 2019 at 07:20 PM

TL

Always was proud to call Mike my great Uncle even if it was because his Mother Beulah married Grandpa Ray later in life . He was such a fun person , i feel blessed to have known him.

Terry L Laufenberg - January 08, 2019 at 10:18 PM

KA

Mr. Stoddard was a wonderful teacher and shaped so many young lives at Ithaca. I loved having him for class in Jr. High and someone I could always count on to talk to if I needed a point in the right direction. My deepest sympathies to all his family and friends.

Kelly Jo Trush Anderson - January 09, 2019 at 02:10 AM

B.

A FEW DAYS AGO, A VERY GOOD FRIEND TOLD ME THAT YOU HAD A HEALTH PROBLEM, AND YOU WERE VERY SICK. I, FELT VERY KNUMB, AND STILL DO. OUR FRIEND IS MR. DAVE FROH . MIKE AND I MET IN HIGH SCHOOL, AND WE BONDED FROM THE START. YOU ARE NOW ON FANTASTIC TRIP, WHEN YOU ARRIVE YOU WILL BE WELCOMED BY YOUR MOTHER, AND FATHER WITH OPEN ARMS. OH YES, LIBERTY AND SPIRT. YOU ARE, AND WILL BE A LIFE LONG FRIEND. WE WERE VERY LUCKY, WE WERE MARRIED TO THE BEST LADIES IN THE WORLD. FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS MY BROTHER. COLBY AND JUDY BARTO

B.C.BARTO - January 09, 2019 at 10:18 AM

DF

Laura, Carol and I are extremely saddened with Mike's passing. He was one of a kind with his wit and humor. How much I treasured the times Mike and I had together. Our deepest sympathy to you Laura.

Dave and Carol Froh - January 09, 2019 at 09:52 PM

DD

Will sorely miss you Mike, no matter how many times I heard your great hunting and personal stories, they were special each time told. Mike made friends with every animal or bird that came into his bird feeder outside the patio door, even the woods cat Percy found solace in Mike and Laura's home. May you rest in God's arms.

Duke Dreifuerst - January 10, 2019 at 09:56 AM

BG

It was.. and still is, hard to think of Mike without smiling! There are so many memories of him.. and they are all great memories. I remember in about 1960, a bunch of us were down by the Elm Grove dairy, and one of the guys with a "hot" car laid about 150 feet of rubber. The owner of the home came out and demanded to know who did it. Everyone pointed to Mike in his mothers tiny 4 cylinder Opal. Mike just sat there and took the undeserved punishment with that impish smile! Quite a guy.. Gonna be missed by many!

Bob Goad - January 11, 2019 at 10:33 AM

DW

*My sincere condolences to Laura, Ruth, and the other members of Mike's Family for your great loss. Your grief is shared by many..
Mike's, old College roommates of which I am one, regarded him as a Master Cribbage player. Any time we were within his territory we always tried to beat him at his game, most of the time it was futile. He was a wonderful friend, "Forever Young" Stoddard.
Darwin Waldsmith*

Darwin Waldsmith - January 11, 2019 at 11:01 PM

JB

Laurie— Mike was my friend, neighbor, classmate and best man in my wedding. In my recent telephone conversation with him, he expressed his love and appreciation for your care and assistance during his recent illness. He will be greatly missed. My condolences to the family. Jon Blackman

Jon Blackman - January 12, 2019 at 12:32 PM