



Daniel E. Litzinger

February 11, 1947 - April 22, 2016

Daniel E. Litzinger, 69, a longtime Mentor resident passed away April 22, 2016 at St. John Medical Center in Westlake. He was born February 11, 1947 in Columbus.

Dan was a guidance counselor at Mentor High School for 34 years. Prior to his tenure at Mentor High School he attended Big Walnut High School in Sunbury, Ohio and graduated from Bowling Green State University with two Master's degrees in Health/Physical Education and Guidance Counseling. While at BGSU he played football and set multiple records in the hammer throw. He began his 43 yr. career in education at Leipsic High School. He then taught overseas at the Tehran American School in Tehran, Iran for 6 years. After being forced to leave Iran due to the revolution, he returned to Mentor and continued his counseling career at Hobart Middle School in Painesville for one year. He planted his roots at Mentor High School for the next 34 years. During his time at Mentor High School he was the counseling department chair, taught adult weight training, was the ski club advisor, taught summer Physical Education, counseled part time at Lakeland Community College, and was on several educational committees for Ursuline College and Cleveland State University. But his true love was being an assistant track coach, coaching shot put and discus. During his coaching career he was proud to have had state champs, national top placers, Junior Olympic champs as well as an Olympian in the hammer throw. "Litz" as he was affectionately called by

his athletes, traveled the world quite extensively and shared his love of storytelling and magic tricks with any and every one. He lived by the saying, "ah but a man's reach should exceed his grasp."

Survivors are his wife of 46 years, Mary; daughters, Lisa Litzinger and Amy (Adam) Noll; grandson, Jackson; and his siblings Patty Pierce and Paul (Connie) Litzinger. He is also survived by many other loving family members and friends.

Preceding him in death are his parents, Pete and Rita Litzinger and his brother in law, Darrell Peirce.

Funeral service will be held 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor. The family will receive friends to celebrate Dan's life from 3-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Interment will be at Mentor Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers and in memory of Dan memorial contributions may be made to the Crohns and Colitis Foundation, 4700 Rockside Rd # 425, Independence, OH 44131.

Offer condolences at www.brunners.com

Cemetery Details

Mentor Cemetery

6881 Hopkins Rd.
Mentor, OH 44060
(440) 974-5733

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 26. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center
8466 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, OH 44060
(440) 255-3401
ajs@brunners.com
<https://www.brunners.com/>

Funeral Service

APR 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center
8466 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, OH 44060
(440) 255-3401
ajs@brunners.com
<https://www.brunners.com/>

Tribute Wall

BB

“ *The Blakesmith family sends sincere condolences to the family. Litz had a big impact on my husband as a counselor and a coach. He always pointed us in the right direction. His guidance was an immeasurable help to our life and he will always be an important part of who we are. The Litzinger stories will always be retold in our family and he will forever live in our hearts and in our stories.*

Beth & Greg Blakesmith - May 17, 2016 at 06:12 PM

FM

“ *The Meinke family also of Mentor and nearby neighbors are deeply saddened to hear of the loss of this fine man. We always appreciated his wisdom and patience as a counselor at Mentor High as he was our daughter Elizabeth's counselor. He was always cheerful and interested in community and civic affairs and will be sorely missed. Our deep condolences to the family. God Bless!*
Frances Meinke

Frances Meinke - April 27, 2016 at 09:15 AM

TK

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you. So sad to hear of his passing. He was my daughters guidance counselor and truly cared about his job and helped immensely when college came. I work at MHS and a restaurant where occasionally he and his wife would stop. I always enjoyed talking with them when they stopped by. Heartfelt condolences to all.*

terry konte - April 27, 2016 at 12:51 AM

JM

“ Although it seems so long ago and I live in Virginia now, I will never forget what a positive influence Dan was to me as a young head track coach. He was a leader by example for me and often a soft voice of reason in my ear. My condolences to the entire family - I was fortunate to get to know you all, and luckier still to coach some of you. My thoughts are with all of you, and a contribution will be made to the CCF in memory of Dan. John Morgan

John Morgan - April 26, 2016 at 07:29 PM

RT

“ I was very sorry to hear about your loss. Your family is in my prayers. I worked with Dan at Mentor High School. No matter what was going on or problem that I had with a student Dan was always smiling and positive with his advice. All the track meets as an official I worked with him, this same attitude was displayed not only to Mentor athletes but also to the opponents. He was a great example for students and athletes. He will be greatly missed. I feel privileged to have worked with him in so many ways!!

*Rod Thompson
Retired Mentor High School Teacher*

Rod Thompson - April 26, 2016 at 04:31 PM

AH

“ Sorry for your loss Lisa. As my guidance counselor Mr. Litzinger provided me with much more than academic guidance. He was one of the greatest male influences I had during my adolescence. He even taught me to fill out my own tax return after having previously ignored them. I forget why, but during one of our meetings, I broke down in tears about something personal. He was always there for his students.

Andrew Herten - April 26, 2016 at 01:11 PM

DA

“ Although Litz and I were never terribly close, I did like him. He he was a trickster, enjoyed pranks, even when they were played on him. He was, as Robert Penn Warren has written, “A Friend of My Youth” (ALL THE KING's MEN)..

“The Friend of Your Youth,” Warren says, “is your friend because he does not see you anymore. And perhaps he never saw you. What he saw was simply part of the furniture of the wonderful opening world....The Friend of Your Youth is the only friend you will ever have, for he hasn't the slightest concern with calculating his interest or your virtue.” That describes Dan all right. Totally unpretentious. Open to everyone. Not judgmental. I always felt he accepted me and other of our classmates on our terms, not his. He was a nice guy. So, Litz, Friend of My Youth: May perpetual light shine upon you. May your soul rest in peace. Amen

Dan Angel
Big Walnut H.S., Class of 1965

dan angel - April 26, 2016 at 11:57 AM

DP

“ *What a great man!! I met Mr. Litzinger during the MHS orientation a few weeks my sophomore year. He approached me and asked if I threw Shot or discuss and if I was interested in weight training and the track program. I had to laugh, I had never done or considered doing any of these. I feel that at that moment my life was changed for the better and I will never forget him reaching out to me in 1982. I joined the MHS track team and threw shot an discuss working closely with Litz and a close group of friends on the track team for my last 3 years of high school. Mr. Litzinger was also my guidance councilor while I attended MHS and fully supported my decision to enter the USN upon graduation. I am so sorry to see that he is gone but his memory will be with me the rest of my life. Thank you Mr. Litzinger for your training, teaching, mentoring, and friendship. You surely will be missed.*

*David, Lauren, Abigail, and Benjamin Plageman
Cincinnati, Ohio*

David Plageman - April 26, 2016 at 11:48 AM



“ *Basket of Joy was purchased for the family of Daniel E. Litzinger.*



April 25, 2016 at 08:14 PM

 Cyrus
Mehta

“ *The Mehta family, formerly of Mentor-on-the-Lake, OH, would like to offer our most sincerest condolences to the Litzinger family on the passing of their husband, brother, father, and grandfather, Dan "Litz" Litzinger. We also grieve alongside of the greater Mentor High School (MHS) community who this man helped shape for DECADES past as a counselor, coach and all around good guy. My two siblings (Neville and Tina) and myself (Cyrus), all MHS graduates, had Litz as our guidance counselor and his memory is still heartfelt to this day regarding all the guidance, advice, confidence-boosting, and otherwise good natured admonishments he provided to me and my siblings. Over 2 decades past, and some of his advice still has an impact to this day and I would imagine countless others would say the same without reservations. With his help, my siblings and I got into the colleges of our choice and in at least one instance he helped resolve a very bad situation with one of the MHS teaching staff. I know he intervened on my behalf a few times with the administration, other teachers and generally helped make my MHS experience that much easier and better, but I have no doubt he did the same for so many others. The MHS community is poorer for his loss, but everyone can take solace in the fact that like his favorite quote about "your reach exceeding your grasp", his "reach" far exceeds all our grasps. R.I.P Mr. Litzinger!*

*Sincerely,
Cyrus, Neville, and Tina Mehta*

Cyrus Mehta - April 25, 2016 at 06:51 PM

DL

“ I like many other students had the wonderful opportunity to be blessed with Mr. Litzinger as our coach and councilor. His intelligence, witt, presence and desire to help and see us succeed will always be cherished. We will miss you Sir.

Sincerely,
David Lee

David Lee - April 25, 2016 at 05:54 PM

NR

My deepest sympathies to the family. He impacted my family in a very positive way when my husband was ill and when he died. My husband, son, Darrell and daughter, Karen thought very highly of him. Mr. Litzinger was a very special, positive person. Thank you for sharing him with everyone.

Nancy A. Reed - April 26, 2016 at 04:02 PM

SK

“ Mary, Amy, & Lisa: Our hearts are broken with the loss of Dan. Dan was a role model for those of us who were lucky enough to be part of his family as we were growing up, and seeing him throw the hammer when he was in his prime was an awesome sight indeed. He led us on excursions at the Galena farm, told amazing spooky stories, and was right there to rescue me when I fell through that hole in the barn and landed in the cow feeder. We will all miss him dearly, and I hope that Uncle Pete and Aunt Rita greeted him with a loving embrace.

We love you.
Steve & Therese Karnes

Steve & Therese Karnes - April 25, 2016 at 05:32 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Daniel E. Litzinger.*



April 25, 2016 at 02:40 PM



“ *Mr. Litzinger was my guidance counselor when i graduated from Mentor High School in 1998. He was the person who introduced me to a novel 6 year BS/MD program called Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, now known as NEOMED. If it weren't for him, I don't know that I would have been able to achieve my dream of becoming a physician. I'll be forever grateful for that. He was beloved by all! Praying for strength for his family. May he rest in peace.*

*Sincerely,
Rukhsana Iqbal*

Rukhsana Iqbal - April 25, 2016 at 12:12 PM



“ *I only coached a few yrs with you and i will remember all the stories about bgsu. You will be missed. Great mentor,coach,and man.*

Marty rosciszewski - April 25, 2016 at 11:37 AM

Will
McNeely

“ RIP Mr. Litzinger.. You will be missed, but NEVER forgotten.. You were a GREAT person/councilor.! I am sorry you had to go so soon; but you are not suffering anymore.. GOD BLESS YOUR FAMILY WITH REINSURANCE, AND STRENGTH THROUGH TOUGH TIMES.!



Signed:
William McNeely

Will McNeely - April 25, 2016 at 10:22 AM

AJ

“ I was so lucky to know Mr. Litz as the kind, wonderful dad of my good friend Amy, and the friendly, well respected guidance counselor at our high school, Mentor High. Mary, Lisa and Amy, I am so very sorry for your loss. Sending love and prayers for healing and peace. ~ Amy (Principe) Jacobs

Amy Jacobs - April 25, 2016 at 09:18 AM

JR

“ Judy and Kenny Ridenour purchased the Spring Has Sprung Mixed Basket for the family of Daniel E. Litzinger.



Judy and Kenny Ridenour - April 25, 2016 at 08:24 AM

FA

“ I had the opportunity to work with Dan at Mentor High School for several years. He retired when I moved on to a different high school. I will always remember the hours of conversation and laughter that took place in Dan's office. My prayers are with his family, as he is irreplaceable.



Faith - April 25, 2016 at 07:22 AM



“ Thoughts and Prayers to Dan's family! Lloyd and Judy Smith



Judy Mead - April 25, 2016 at 06:56 AM

KS

“ I had the privilege and opportunity to coach on the staff with coach Litz at MHS, what a kind and caring person. I believe God has blessed his family and all those whose life Dan has affected. Our prayer are out to the Litzinger family. Ken Simko

Ken Simko - April 25, 2016 at 06:45 AM

JL

“ June Layman lit a candle in memory of Daniel E. Litzinger



June Layman - April 25, 2016 at 06:36 AM

JL

Dan, You will be sorely missed. Blessings to you Mary and the girls at this difficult time.

June Layman - April 25, 2016 at 06:40 AM

GL

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



gina layman - April 24, 2016 at 08:52 PM

J2

Mr I, was a great person to be around. He will be missed alot

John needham mentor high school class 20 - April 25, 2016 at 01:33 AM

SS

“ *I'm Susan Sheridan a former teacher at Ohio University. I gave a writing assignment. I was visiting my twin sister at Mentor and Dan called me in to show that framed assignment his daughter had given him.*

I treasure that memory.

My sincerest condolences.

My favorite lines at a time like this are from Little Women, "May he leave behind those virtues that beautified his life."

Susan Sheridan - April 24, 2016 at 08:10 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Daniel E. Litzinger.*



April 24, 2016 at 07:36 PM