



Dr. Joseph L. Sanders

June 29, 1940 - December 28, 2023

Dr. Joseph L. Sanders, 83, of Willoughby, formerly of Mentor, died December 28, 2023, at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center.

Born in Crawfordsville, Indiana on June 29, 1940, Joe was a professor of English who dedicated himself to educating students at Indiana University, Moorhead State College, and at Lakeland Community College, where he was named a professor emeritus upon his retirement in 2001. Prior to his academic career, he worked for Bobbs–Merrill Publishers.

Joe attended Roachdale Public Schools in Indiana, graduating in 1958. He earned his bachelor's degree from DePauw University, his master's from Claremont Graduate School, and his Ph.D. from Indiana University. It was at IU that Joe met the love of his life, Mary, and their love only continued to grow over the next 57 years of marriage and raising their family.

Those who knew Joe will undoubtedly remember him with a book of science fiction always in hand. Through his extensive work and passion he became a published author and distinguished expert in the genre. Joe was a member of the Science Fiction Research Association, which honored him in 2003 with the Thomas Claerson Award for service to the association, and he was a member and division director for 10 years with the International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts.

Joe was a devout Christian, serving most recently as an elder at First Presbyterian Church in Willoughby. His faith was attested in few words but through his selflessness, generous acts, and philanthropic endeavors. Joe was a committed husband, a loving father, and loyal friend to all who knew him.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Sanders; sons, Benjamin (Angela) Sanders, Christopher (Cary) Sanders, and Gregory (Lynn) Sanders; grandchildren, Andrew, Evan (Chloe), Trevor, Cameron, Sydney, Eleanor, and Kaia.

Joe was preceded in death by his beautiful grandson, Elijah, and his parents, Deryl and Mary F. Sanders.

Private family services with inurnment will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Willoughby.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Joe's memory can be made to the Outdoor Pavilion at First Presbyterian Church of Willoughby, 4785 Shankland Rd., Willoughby, OH 44094.

Arrangements entrusted to the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060.

Please offer condolences at www.brunners.com.

Tribute Wall

ME

“ I feel blessed to have known, through Mary [golf], this good man! Mary, I weep with you at your loss as I, also, have lost my love! Heaven has been waiting for them.

Marilyn Eckert - January 19, 2024 at 09:26 AM

AE

“ As being a member of the church I got to know him as a great person he also brought the library to the church and he was my instructor for the daycare as well very kind also a great heart he had .very nice that Mary Sanders Joe are a couple who shared amazing trips together and great memories I like to say keep those moments in your heart ❤️ ..so so sorry for your loss my condolences 🙏 to the Family ..



Arleen Evans - January 15, 2024 at 08:20 PM

DC

“ Diane Culotta sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Joseph L. Sanders



Diane Culotta - January 15, 2024 at 03:06 PM