Leonard "Lenny" J. & Lana D. May

February 18, 2016

From the moment they met, Leonard “Lenny” J. May and Lana D. May were inseparable. As soulmates, there wasn’t an interest or passion that they didn’t share. It’s only fitting that they were together when they passed away.

Lenny, 68, and Lana, 65, of Twinsburg, Ohio, died February 18 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident while vacationing in Bradenton, Florida. Both were life-long educators who impacted countless numbers of students over the past four decades. Married for 25 years, they were loving parents of their four children: Scott, wife Lindsay; Jennifer, husband Mark; Patrick, significant other Elaine; and Christopher; and grandparents to seven grandchildren: Kate, Cassie, Abby, Jake, Sam, Alexandra and Isabelle.

Together, they enjoyed vacationing in Hilton Head, S.C., grabbing a cocktail at the Burntwood Tavern or Eagle’s Club in Chagrin Falls and participating in their neighborhood association. They frequently attended Cleveland Indians games, where Lenny enjoyed the baseball and Lana enjoyed the hot dogs and occasional Cleveland sunshine. They often took long walks together and shared the guilty pleasure of eating chocolate at all hours of the day. Each loved golfing and talking to others about their kids. They loved dancing together.

Born September 28, 1947, in Canton, Ohio, Lenny was proud to have been an

English teacher, coach and athletic director at Chagrin Falls High School. He served in many capacities for the high school, including English Department Chairperson, the leader of the school newspaper Tiger Times, school librarian, head baseball coach, assistant football coach, and most recently the Director of Community Relations. In 1987, Lenny, a graduate of Canton Lehman High School and Ohio University where he was a proud member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, was recognized as the Chagrin Falls Teacher of the Year, an honor he cherished due to his constant focus on academics ahead of athletics. He was recently honored as the Canton Lehman Alumni of the Year.

In addition to their children they are survived by Lenny's family including his Sister Catherine Sahadi (Spouse, Ronald [deceased]), nieces Mary Margaret (Sahadi) Barnes (Spouse, Ben) and Michele A. Sahadi, nephews Michael J. Sahadi (Spouse, Lee) and Ronald M. Sahadi;
Brother Dominic J. May (Spouse, Bonnie), nieces Julie Ann Eastman (Spouse, Ross) and Toni K. McGrath (Spouse, Michael), nephews Thomas J. May (Spouse, Laura) and Jeffrey J. May
Brother Anthony J. May (Spouse, Betsy), nieces Amy May Lowery (Spouse, Julie) and Cybel Treeson (Spouse, Manny), nephew Chrispin J. May (Spouse, Susan) Sister Barbara A. Schloneger (Spouse, Wes), nieces Melissa Bowman (Spouse, Lee) and Andrea Gooden (Spouse, David)

Born April 23, 1950, in Cincinnati, Lana loved serving as an elementary teacher in Mentor Public Schools for 30 years. A graduate of North High School and Kent State University, Lana taught at Reynolds, Sterling Morton and Hopkins Elementary schools. Nothing made her more proud than to see the students she taught at a young age mature and grow into successful, thoughtful and caring adults. She also treasured time with her friends and family, especially the time spent with her mother Jo Beth and her siblings, as well as or her former colleagues from Mentor during their regularly occurring game days.

Survivors also include Lana's family; Sister Linda Gerstenberger (Spouse, Michael), niece Kimberly Condon (Spouse, Mark), nephew Craig Schlatterbeck (Spouse, Dana) Sister Pamela Bancsi (Spouse, Joseph), niece Kimberly Lumpkin (Spouse, Nick), nephew Chris Bancsi Brother Thomas Ward (Spouse, Carol), nephews Trevor Ward and Connor Ward.

They are preceded in death by Lenny's parents Joseph and Margaret May and Lana's father Lee Ward and mother Jo Beth Ward and their granddaughter Grace Ann.

A Celebration of Lenny and Lana's life will be held from 3-7 p.m. Friday at the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor 44060

A Memorial Service will be held 1pm Saturday at Chagrin Falls High School Performing Arts Center, 400 E. Washington St. Chagrin Falls, 44022 where a reception will follow in the gymnasium till 5pm. Parking will be available on the main campus and any overflow traffic will be directed to St Joan of Arc or the Cleveland Clinic Medical Bldg on E. Washington St. Overflow seating and simulcast recording will be available.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers contributions be made to the Lenny and Lana May Memorial Fund, c/o the Chagrin Falls Alumni Association, 400 East Washington Street, Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022, or http://chagrinalumni.org/donations.

Offer condolences at www.brunners.com

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB **26**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 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/

Memorial Service

FEB **27**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Chagrin Falls High School Performing Arts Center
400 E. Washington St.
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022

Reception

FEB **27**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Chagrin Falls High School Performing Arts Center
400 E. Washington St.
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022

Tribute Wall

JM

Lenny and Lana had a positive impact on so many lives and were able to count so many people as true friends. May your family be comforted in knowing that so many share their grief. You are in our thoughts and prayers at this very sad time.
John and Dorothy Mills
LHS '65

john mills - February 29, 2016 at 01:02 PM

MB

Great teachers affect their students profoundly. Thank you, Mr. May, for fostering your students with the ability to write clearly, to speak well, and to act with integrity and intention. You shared with them the gifts of confidence, courage, and conviction.

For your family and friends, may the thoughts and energies of everyone touched by Lenny and Lana give you strength and courage in the days ahead. Peace be with you.

Wayne, Martha, Laura, and Matthew Bifano

Martha Bifano - February 28, 2016 at 06:21 AM

JG

1 file added to the album New Album Name

Jon Groth - February 26, 2016 at 01:13 PM

JG

Coach May had a big impact on my time at Chagrin Falls High School. I remember his passion for English in the classroom and his love of competition on the football field and in baseball. I've been thankful many times for my education at CFHS, especially through graduate school. I was reminded often of the positive challenges I faced as a student at CF. I have no doubt that men like Lenny May help prepare me for the journey towards a PhD. As a career coach in baseball, I count it an honor to have played for Coach May and have many fond memories of time under his leadership of Tiger baseball, Two of my older brothers also played for Coach May and my sister babysat for his kids and had him in sophomore English. He's had a strong impact in our family and countless lives in his career as an educator, coach and administrator. My sincere prayers for the family of Lenny and Lana. They will be missed greatly. We mourn with you.

Jon Groth
Tyler, Texas

Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Romans 12:15

Jon Groth - February 26, 2016 at 11:01 AM

Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Leonard "Lenny" J. & Lana D. May.

February 26, 2016 at 09:44 AM

JM

Jennifer and family,
The entire Airman and Family Division, Air Force Personnel Center, San Antonio, extend our deepest regrets for your loss. Though our hearts are heavy, we're thinking of you during this tragic time and sending you love, prayers and strength.

julie mason - February 25, 2016 at 06:45 PM

GS

Genevieve Benson and Melissa Stevenson purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Leonard "Lenny" J. & Lana D. May.

Genevieve Benson and Melissa Stevenson - February 25, 2016 at 06:12 PM

BE

My sincere sympathy to Lana & Lenny's family on this tragic loss. I hope that the good memories of their lives will give you peace, comfort and strength in this very difficult time. Kathleen Bennett – O.U. '70

Bennett - February 25, 2016 at 05:16 PM

Two of the kindest and most beautiful people I have ever met. My heartfelt condolences to your families.

Elias Mustafa

Elias Mustafa - February 25, 2016 at 04:21 PM

WH

With sincerest sympathy from your friends at Meritage Homes purchased the Heavenly Sentim ents Spray for the family of Leonard "Lenny" J. & Lana D. May.

With sincerest sympathy from your friends at Meritage Homes - February 25, 2016 at 03:19 PM

AT

Over the past 20+ years my recollection of Lenny May was that ever time I was at Chagrin Falls High School he was there--always there. I remember him as a teacher and athletic director, but mostly I remember him for the past 10+ years as our PR Director. In that capacity Lenny was instrumental in "capturing" history in the district through pictures and writing. One never saw him that there was not a huge smile on his face, so happy to be a part of the district and so happy to be doing what he was doing. As a Board member I remember Lenny setting making sure we captured every moment of great things our kids and teachers do and being sure to publicize all he could in the newspaper. He was a truly dedicated, pleasant soul who will be missed by all of us.

Anne Thomas

anne thomas - February 25, 2016 at 10:53 AM

GM

Lenny and i were freshman roommates at OU and shared many fond memories at Lincoln Hall .We were then frat brothers at Sigma Alpha Epsilon Again many fond memories. After graduation i started teaching at Chagrin Falls high school.while in my 1st year of teaching i learned of an English teacher opening.i called Len and shared that information and for next 3 years we taught together.When Craig told me of the accident by email I was so glad he did not call me because I could not talk i was so sad .You have lost a special person in Lenny and he did find his special mate in Lana . God bless them both. Phi alpha to a really wonderful couple. Gordon Moxley

gordon moxley - February 25, 2016 at 08:58 AM

BT

I never met Lenny but from what I've read about him he must have been a remarkable man. All the posts from former students and colleagues paint a picture of two people who were true educators and influenced generations of people. The fact that many of Lana's former students said they became teachers because of her impact will ensure that her influence will continue for years to come. I met Lana when her teaching days were over. She and her good friend Paula joined our golf league and immediately we all became friends. She was a fun person to be around and we shared a lot of stories and laughs. We enjoyed many rounds of golf, lunches, dinners and wine parties. I will miss my friend. My thoughts and sympathy to all of their family and friends. I hope the good memories of these special people will help you through all the sadness.

My Deepest Sympathy
Betsy Tontimonia

Betsy Tontimonia - February 25, 2016 at 08:38 AM

Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Leonard "Lenny" J. & Lana D. May.

February 24, 2016 at 08:05 PM

Mr. May was one of the greatest teachers I ever had. He will be missed!

Maureen DiCarro Szitas - February 24, 2016 at 06:52 PM

DE

Lana was my sons teacher at Sterling Morton Elementory School 24 years ago.
I will never forget the day she showed me her engagement ring from Lenny.....
She was so happy and excited! She will never ever be forgotten...

RIP Lana and Lenny
Deepest Sympathy,
Denise and MIke Patrick

denise - February 24, 2016 at 04:35 PM

Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Leonard "Lenny" J. & Lana D. May.

February 24, 2016 at 04:34 PM

YF

Your CBS21 Family purchased the Lovely One S pathiphyllum Plant for the family of Leonard "Lenny" J. & Lana D. May.

Your CBS21 Family - February 24, 2016 at 03:56 PM

Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Leonard "Lenny" J. & Lana D. May.

February 24, 2016 at 02:55 PM

MH

3 files added to the album New Album Name

Milton Hondrakis - February 24, 2016 at 12:36 PM

A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Leonard "Lenny" J. & Lana D. May.

February 24, 2016 at 12:21 PM

TJ

I just met Lenny two years ago playing summer softball in the Seniors league for The Babes of 1916. He was absolutely the greatest guy to meet and talk with. We immediately hit it off in talking about high school sports, particularly football, and we had a blast comparing notes of the premier athletes at our respective high schools from back in the '60's, as well as the recent successes of Chagrin Falls for Lenny and Benedictine for me. His hamstring would sometimes act up preventing him from playing the outfield, so we ended up playing side-by-side, Lenny at shortstop and me at third base. Always offering encouragement in the field and at the plate, Lenny was an absolute gem. I had no idea of his many accomplishments and of the Chagrin Falls baseball field that bears his name. So calm, soft spoken, and unassuming, he would probably never have told me, nor would I have known if another Babe didn't mention it. Knowing of his incredible legacy, he also leaves an inspiration for me beyond being a good teammate. Lenny indeed falls into that elusive and elegant category of a "gentleman of the cleanest integrity". Sadly, I never met Lana, but Lenny's girl had to be pretty special too. Summer softball will never be the same Lenny. We'll miss you a ton. Condolences to his family and may God heal their hearts and strengthen their spirits.

Tom Rudar Jr.
Chardon, OH

Tom Rudar Jr. - February 24, 2016 at 11:28 AM

PA

In life there are people that leave an impression upon your life. Lenny May was that person, for 21 years I have know Lenny as a Teacher, an Athletic Director and as a person. He was a class act, when I would see him weekly these last few years it would be while he was going to exercise in the Chagrin fitness center, we would share stories about kids and his grand kids. Some of the best were his injuries from playing softball these last two years that he would try and hide from Lana, he would ask what can I do to get better, my response was stop trying to catch every ball Len! His response was I'm the youngest on the team and I'm the only one who can run. Lenny I will miss our conversations and your guidance! Heaven has gained two incredible people!
Love you both,

Paulie

paul - February 24, 2016 at 10:48 AM

LF

My memories go back to when Lana and Patrick became my neighbors in Mentor living in the Village Green condo's. Lana would drive my daughter Michele to kindergarten and Patrick would walk her to her class. I would then bring Patrick home with me after school. I remember when Lana first started dating Lenny and the rest is a beautiful love story. Never did I see her happier than by Lenny's side. My family then moved to Chagrin Falls where Lenny introduced us to the best school district. He was so passionate about everything Chagrin had to offer. He was right and we enjoyed raising our daughters in the school district. They will be missed and the wonderful memories will go on for many years. For his family, you were truly blessed. Keep the passion for friends and family alive for them.

Lauren Fallert - February 24, 2016 at 10:42 AM

Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Leonard "Lenny" J. & Lana D. May.

February 24, 2016 at 10:28 AM

Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Leonard "Lenny" J. & Lana D. May.

February 24, 2016 at 10:09 AM

RB

We are devastated by the sudden departure of this truly beautiful couple. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the Mays family. They gave so much to so many and their good works live on the the thousands that they touched. We all will all miss them so much.

Rick & Barbara Brown

Rick Brown - February 24, 2016 at 09:36 AM

KV

I was completely shocked and saddened to hear about this tragedy. Lenny and Lana were my neighbors on North Pond. They were a couple that everyone admired. The two of them would walk the neighborhood almost every single night (weather pending), holding hands, talking, laughing. I remember thinking to myself " gosh... I hope Im that happy and that in love one day". Two of the nicest people I've met. I had the pleasure of running into them at Home Depot just a few weeks ago and it was so nice to catch up with them. Sending my deepest condolences and prayers to their families and dear friends. Gone way too soon. God gained two beautiful angels. Rest in peace Lenny and Lana... you will be missed dearly by many. Love, Krista "Thome" Vespucci

krista vespucci - February 24, 2016 at 09:21 AM

Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Leonard "Lenny" J. & Lana D. May.

February 24, 2016 at 12:56 AM

Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Leonard "Lenny" J. & Lana D. May.

February 23, 2016 at 09:44 PM

AL

I've known Lenny since Worley school. Had the pleasure of working with him on our last reunion. His contribution was amazing. Always had a smile a kind word and great input. We always looked forward to getting together! Our hearts are broken for him and his family. The world has lost a special person that always made things better. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him. We got to know Lana at the reunion. She was a very nice person. Our hearts and prayers go out to you , his family. What a great loss. My deepest sympathies to you all. Love Ann Lazarides.

Ann Lazarides - February 23, 2016 at 08:41 PM

Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Leonard "Lenny" J. & Lana D. May.

February 23, 2016 at 07:39 PM

Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Leonard "Lenny" J. & Lana D. May.

February 23, 2016 at 07:34 PM