



## Theodore H. "Ted" Hieronymus

May 18, 1943 - March 14, 2019

Theodore H. "Ted" Hieronymus, age 75, passed away March 14, 2019 at Hospice House in Cleveland. He was born May 18, 1943 in Dayton, Ohio.

Ted Hieronymus was a partner in Hieronymus Management, LLC. He was formerly the coordinator of music for the Mentor Public Schools. He directed the Mentor High School Vocal Music Department from 1965-1997. He was the founder and director of Mentor's Top 25 from 1965-1995. The show choir toured throughout his tenure in the United States, Europe, Mexico and Canada as well as performing vigorously in Ohio. Mr. Hieronymus obtained his BM degree from Heidelberg College and his MA degree in music from Kent State University. He has also done post-graduate work at Case Western Reserve University. He was an active member of the Music Educators' National Conference, Ohio Music Educators' Association, American Choral Directors' Association and Lake County Music Educators' Association. He was also affiliated with the Northeastern Chapter of the Phi Delta Kappa.

Mr. Hieronymus has directed numerous festivals, workshops, the Andrews Choral Summer Workshop and was the director of the Northern Ohio Choral Music Reading Sessions. He served as the North East Chairman of the Ohio Chapter of the American Choral Directors' Association, Assistant Director of the Ohio Honor Chorale, North East Chairman for the All State Choir and the American Choral Directors' Association Ohio Chairman for Swing Choirs. He

was a past president of District VII of the Ohio Music Education Association and Lake County Music Educators' Association. Mr. Hieronymus was the general chairman of the 1991 Ohio All State Choir. Ted was awarded the Professional Award from Mentor Schools in 1970, Excellence in Teaching Award in 1983 and the Ohio PTA Outstanding Educator in 1993. Ted and Jane were Mentor Citizens of the Year in 2003.

During his tenure at Mentor High School, Ted not only taught music but was a track coach. He directed the Mentor and Cardinal Relays for 20 years plus chaired the first district track meet that was held in Mentor. He served on many committees within the Mentor Schools and was the chairman of the North Central Evaluation. Ted was a member of the first board for the Wildwood Cultural Center. He was president of Mentor Rotary 2007-2008. Ted was the director of music ministries at Mentor United Methodist Church for 25 years. In 1990 he founded and directed the Mentor Performing Concert Series which served the community for 17 years. He served as moderator for First Church, Congregational UCC in Painesville and also directed the Chancel Choir. Ted valued his time at Piedmont Lake and served as president of the Hidden Ledges Cottage Owners Association. He truly enjoyed serving his alma mater, Heidelberg University as a member of the board of trustees.

Survivors are his wife, Jane; children, Paul (Denise) Hieronymus, Victoria (Cordry) Johns, and Bryan (Anna Maria Hibbs) Hieronymus; grandchildren, Christian and Vincent Hieronymus, Emily, Cailey, Sara and Evan Johns, and Grant Hieronymus; and his brother, Lee Hieronymus. He was preceded in death by his parents, Theodore W. and Harriet Hieronymus.

The family will receive friends to celebrate Ted's life from 3-8 p.m. on Friday, March 22, 2019 at the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060.

A memorial service in memory of Ted will be held 2 p.m. Saturday, March 23, 2019 at First Church, Congregational, 22 Liberty St., Painesville, OH 44077.

In lieu of flowers the family requests contributions be made to Heidelberg University, 310 East Market Street, Tiffin, Ohio 44883 or to First Church, Congregational, 22 Liberty Street, Painesville, Ohio 44077.

Please offer condolences at [www.brunners.com](http://www.brunners.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR **22**. 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/>

## Memorial Service

MAR **23**. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Church Congregational  
22 Liberty Street  
Painesville, OH 44077  
(440) 357-7518

# Tribute Wall

CB

“ Mr "H" was a new teacher at MHS when I started there....I was in the first Top 25 group . A terrific teacher and later my choir director when I was a member of United Methodist in Mentor. My condolences to the family...may all of our memories comfort you.

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**Cheryl (Hupp) Browning** - March 26, 2019 at 02:51 PM

TY

“ My deepest sympathies to Jane and family. I am so grateful for all the time that I was blessed to work with Ted in the music department at Mentor High School. Ted touched so many lives with his love of music and people. Thank you, God, for Ted!  
Tim Yowell

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**Tim Yowell** - March 23, 2019 at 11:44 AM

RR

“ Ted was choir director when I was the associate at Mentor UM Church. Always professional and prepared. Gifted leader and musician. His contributions to choral music in Ohio were more than substantial. He will be missed. May the alchemy of time soften the harsher edges of his family's grief until happier memories prevail

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**Rev. Keith A Rasey** - March 22, 2019 at 02:50 PM

NG

“ Ted was truly one of a kind. Smart, thoughtful, understanding, sympathetic to the plights of others and generous. I will miss him. My deepest sympathies and condolences to Jane, Paul, Vicky, Bryan and Lee.

*Norm Gutmacher*

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**Norman W. Gutmacher** - March 22, 2019 at 12:43 PM

DM

“ *The best part of my day was in the music wing with Choir, Theory and Top 25. He was a wonderful Mentor and a wonderful musician. Mr. H made such a difference for so many of us. Many of his students went on to careers in Music and many had successful careers because of his influence. He is leading the Heavenly Choir now. God Bless his Family at this difficult time.*

*Doreen Tomer Mattson 1977*

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**Doreen S Mattson** - March 22, 2019 at 11:57 AM

EH

*To Jane and family: Our deepest sympathy for the lose of Ted. We will always remember his kindness and hospitality, and his heartfelt laughter. We are joining you in your grief and hope that time will alleviate your pain.*

*Russell and Themis*

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**Euthymia Hibbs** - March 24, 2019 at 02:38 PM

MB

“ *So sad to learn of the passing of Ted. Ted and Jane were such a vital part of Heidelberg's campus, even back to when we first attended the college. It was always a positive light to see them when I would return to the campus for any event. Ted will be missed more than words can say. My sincerest sympathies to Jane and her family.*

*Marilyn Foley Bragg  
Class of 1964*

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**Marilyn Bragg** - March 22, 2019 at 09:28 AM

KS

“ *What can you say when someone who was such an integral part of your high school experience has passed away. Ted Hieronymus was so much more than a Choir Director, Teacher and mentor. Top 25 and music WAS high school for me (along with so many others). The memories will live on and I hope the Hieronymus family knows what an impact Mr.H had on so many young lives.*

*Kathy Smith, Top 25 1978, 1979 & 1980*

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**Kathy Smith** - March 21, 2019 at 10:32 PM

WT

“ *We join your family in heartfelt sadness on the death of Ted. He was a wonderful person and friend. Our 4 children were honored to be in the top 25 their 4 years in Mentor High School. He was a very important influence on them. Our Laurie also chose to attend Heidelberg University and both of our girls are still music teachers. Ted led a Christ centered life and was a wonderful Husband to Jane and Father to their children . We know that there is Hope in the Resurrection and our prayers are with your family. Wayland and Lois Tenkku*

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**Wayland and Lois Tenkku** - March 21, 2019 at 06:52 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Theodore H. "Ted" Hieronymus.*



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March 21, 2019 at 04:39 PM

AM

“ Condolences to all of the family from a Top 25 member and occasional babysitter (we lived just down the street at the time). His presence at the school made a huge difference to so many of us.

*Alma MacDougall*  
*Class of 1972*

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**Alma MacDougall** - March 21, 2019 at 09:27 AM

FF

“ My condolences to his family and his brother Lee. Ted was a friendly, supportive person to everyone he met even to all of us in high school at Miamisburg. Although, in boy scouts, he did not build the biggest fire in his dad's backyard! I will miss him and his mom too.

*Fred Faulkner*

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**Fred Faulkner** - March 21, 2019 at 07:57 AM

MN

“ Mr. H was a gifted musician. I enjoyed taking choir during my years at MHS and I'm so sorry I won't be able to be there in person to tell his family what fun it was to learn and perform with him.

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**Missy Nightengale** - March 20, 2019 at 02:27 PM

DS

“ Ted was a senior, I was a freshman at Heidelberg. We met in the choir and he took on the task of teaching me how to really sing!. I was afraid of him then. We had many moments that year, mostly around the choir, the music, and helping me figure it out. Fast forward to 2000, I become a member of the HC board. Ted joins and we have a completeley different adult relationship, but he never quite lost that aura of subtle control and vision. I am sorry I can't be there to send you off on the next leg of your eternal journey, but I , along with countless others, will be forever grateful of the solid human being you were.

*Dudley Stephan, '68*

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**doug stephan** - March 19, 2019 at 02:45 PM

LG

“ Mrs jane i send my deepest condolences to you and the family . I am saddened by the news i was so hopeful for him. He was amazing and i am glad i got the chance at taking care of him at CCR,  
My prayers are with you  
Shaunda

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**Lashaunda Garrison** - March 19, 2019 at 02:04 PM

PC

“ It is hard to put into words the enormous impact Mr. H. had on some may aspects of my life. From the wonderful memories of choir, the concerts and trips to perform in so many places. But what I'll always remember fondly were the many hours spent working Mentor Relays and other track meets. From a student volunteer, to an adult worker so many years later, all you recall are the good times, the smiles and laughs and not the hard work. And then getting to him on a more personal level , hearing his stories, things you never knew as a student, realizing what a remarkable individual he was. I feel truly blessed he was a part of my life.

*Pamela Crysler  
Class of '74*

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**Pamela Crysler** - March 18, 2019 at 11:58 PM

DC

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. My sencere condelences to your family.

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**Dorothy Cavallaro** - March 18, 2019 at 11:45 PM

TH

“ Ted touched so many lives in a positive way. Ted was an inspiration, as a leader and just great person, who if everyone had just a dash of Ted in them the world would be better!

*Rest in peace and God Bless you all!*

*Rotary Family: Tom and Felicia*

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**Thomas Hough** - March 18, 2019 at 02:14 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Theodore H. "Ted" Hieronymus.*



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March 18, 2019 at 01:38 PM



“ *Paul, sending my condolences and prayers to you and your family.*



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**Iris Luciano** - March 18, 2019 at 08:16 AM



“ *Jane and family,*

*We were so sorry to hear about Ted's passing. We will miss his daily trips in the gator to visit and talk at Piedmont. He always had some good stories and never an ill word toward anyone. We will be thinking about him when we make our trips to Piedmont this year. As always, if there is anything you need, don't hesitate to ask.*

*George and Cathy Madden*

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**George Madden** - March 17, 2019 at 09:36 PM

PW

“ I was so sad to learn of Mr. H's passing. What a deep loss to so many, but what memories, and what a legacy! High school Acapella choir was a place of light and refuge for me, as it refueled me with joy and the will to get through the rest of my day. My faith was always strengthened through the lyrics of the sacred and beautiful songs that we sang, and I was always inspired by Mr. H's intense passion for excellence. It was always balanced by a healthy balance of humor, and that flip of his tie over his shoulder coupled with a screwed up face when we sang less than on pitch. Many teach, but few inspire a love that lasts a lifetime. Music of all kinds have become some of my best and life long friends, and all thanks to a man who introduced me so many years ago. I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to be taught by one of the best.

*Rest now on that high mountain good and faithful servant. I look forward to singing with you again in another time and another place.*  
-Peggy Wheeler

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**Peggy Wheeler** - March 17, 2019 at 06:25 PM

JT

*Amen to that! Well written. .. it captures what all of us feel. Jacquelyn Heiss Tallerico class of 71*

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**Jacquelyn Heiss Tallerico** - March 22, 2019 at 08:15 PM

DO

“ Mr. H. as he was also known to many of us was my choir director in Acapella Choir back in '77-78. He was a very dedicated person and cared greatly in whatever he did. We went on tour to Grand Blanc Michigan, and also Philadelphia PA. Had exchange concerts, and was on local television at Christmas time. We also made an album. I still have mine. It was called: " You Will be My Music ". He was a great humane being and I will miss him greatly. ;-(

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**Dawn M. Ozbolt** - March 17, 2019 at 05:37 PM

BZ

“ Fondly remember Ted having the “heat meeting” for the old Mentor Relays! Most recently, as part of his “timing crew”! RIP, Ted!

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**Bob Zimny** - March 17, 2019 at 12:50 PM

RC

“ One of the nicest men I’ve had the pleasure to know.

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**Rick Childs** - March 17, 2019 at 12:49 PM

CC

“ Mr H was the “Vince Lombardi” of Vocal Music in NE Ohio and through his gifts as a teacher... he taught us about life, character, discipline and execution... he was a mentor, adviser and visionary... who leaves behind a legacy with hundreds of students at MHS.. I was lucky and blessed to have had him in my life for a short time as a member of the Top 25. May he rest in peace and sweet harmony.  
*Charles N Carter*  
*MHS Class of 1985*

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**Charles Carter** - March 17, 2019 at 12:33 PM

BS

“ Lee, I was so sorry to see Ted’s obituary in this mornings DDN. While it has been some years since I have seen Ted, I remember him as a bright man who cared deeply about his family and was dedicated to his profession. Please accept my sincere condolences on Ted’s passing. *Bill*

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**bill Schneider** - March 17, 2019 at 12:28 PM

RL

“ I knew Ted's parents in Miamisburg in the 1950's when they raised sheep next to then new I 75. We hunted mushrooms on the farm! My deepest sympathies to the family on your loss.

*Rev. Dr. R. Gwinn Lacy, West Carrollton High School, 1956.*

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**Rev. Dr. R. Gwinn Lacy** - March 17, 2019 at 11:18 AM

AW

“ Ted was one of my favorite teachers. His energy and enthusiasm always brought light to my day in a very tough time in my life. I loved being a participant in his choirs, ensembles and appreciate all he did to help me perform better as a singer and as a person. He has touched so many lives. It was a priveledge to have been your student. May you continue to bring beautiful music to all who have passed on. God bless.

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**Amy Winslow** - March 17, 2019 at 09:58 AM

BB

“ I send my condolences and Prayers to the Family! A cappella choir was an inspirational highlight of my high school experience. May he Rest In Peace.

*Barbara Benedict c/o 1971*



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**Barbara Benedict** - March 17, 2019 at 09:02 AM

CJ

“ Words cannot express what Mr. H meant to me, and how his expert tutelage changed my life. He inspired me to become a music teacher myself, and I have tried to honor him in my expectations with my own students, always pushing for excellence, which I learned from him. His presence in so many young lives is a precious gift, and we are all so saddened by this loss. My heart goes out to Mrs. H and family, as you deal with the grief and sadness. He is at peace, and hearing (and possibly directing) heavenly music for all of eternity. Blessings and love to all. Cheryl (Black) Jackson Class of 1983.

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**Cheryl Jackson** - March 16, 2019 at 11:21 PM

DG

“ Mr. H encouraged me to be my best, 2 years in Top 25 were the best years, traveled to places I wouldn't have ever had the opportunity, he maybe gone but will he carried in the hearts ❤️ of many.. Rest In Peace Mr. H and prayers to the family

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**Debora S. Mc Garry-Molan** - March 16, 2019 at 09:59 PM

GW

“ I had the pleasure of being in his choirs all 3 years i was at Mentor High (1983-86). We were always well-prepared and had fun. He was very talented in his own right, and sharing his talent in leading us to great performances. I learned at an early age what it takes to prepare for a public performance and how to handle a spotlight, no matter how big or small. He leaves behind an amazing legacy of teaching and excellence. My thoughts and prayers go his wife Jane and his family at this difficult time. May his grace be a comfort to all.

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**Gary Wenner** - March 16, 2019 at 09:58 PM

LH

“ Mr. H. played such a huge roll in my love of music. I have been a worship leader for the better part of 30 years because of the encouragement he gave me.  
I think of him and what he taught me very often.  
I can not put in to words how blessed my life has been because of what he taught me.  
My prayers go out to his entire family.

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**Laura Caruso Holcomb** - March 16, 2019 at 09:23 PM

LH

*\*role*

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**Laura Caruso Holcomb** - March 17, 2019 at 09:26 AM

JG

*Jane and Family,  
We loved when Ted would come by to check on things. He was a great conversationalist and had a unique perspective on life.  
He loved talking about the kids, grand kids and grand pets.  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you all, at this truly sad time in your lives.  
Dan and Janie Goodson*

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**Janie Goodson** - March 22, 2019 at 11:52 AM

CC

“ I am deeply grateful for all that I learned under Mr. H. He pushed us all to become better musicians and collaborators; he expected the absolute best from us, which made us want to please him and learn what it means to be committed to a craft. I did not look to him to be my father figure or to be nurturing. I needed him because he didn't simply settle for our being “very good”; he wanted us to be epic, which is what I wanted for myself. Thank you, Mr. H., for your passion and dedication, for giving us all a sense of what is important and worthy of our attentions as teenagers and rising adults. Your gift lives on in all of us. (Top 25, Class of '83)

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**Candace R Craig** - March 16, 2019 at 07:53 PM

MP

“ Thank you Mr. H for all that you did for every student that you worked with. Thank you Mrs. H for allowing Mr. H to always do what he was good at and taking care of EVERYTHING else. Behind every good man is a great wife. Together you changed lives. I will be forever grateful to you both for the investment you made in me and my colleagues. Rest in Peace Mr. H. Prayers for you all.  
Sincerely, Marianne Whitcomb-Prentice Class 88 Mentor Top 25 Member

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**Marianne Prentice** - March 16, 2019 at 07:20 PM

ML

“ Love and light to the Hieronymous family. A Cappella Choir was the highlight of my school day during all my high school years (unless we had to sing a part solo because our section just couldn't get it right!)... to this day, songs we performed will just randomly come to mind...but the Hallelujah Chorus will forever be a favorite. Mr. H. leaves behind a musical legacy to behold.  
Michelle Hale Laycock  
c/o 1983

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**Michelle Hale Laycock** - March 16, 2019 at 04:55 PM

LL

“ Dear Jane and Family. I am pretty confident that none of us who were students under "Mr. H" had any clue of the caliber of music and training that we received under this man's direction. It was only later in life that I would hear a piece of music and say to myself, Oh My Goodness!, we sang that piece in high school when in acapella choir or Top 25 so many years ago. To this day, I cannot attend any concert where the Hallelujah Chorus is sung without tearing up at the wonderful and fond memories we all have of being exposed to this man of tremendous greatness. How blessed we all were and are to have known this man. And now we all live on in the legacy he gave us. I wish I could be there to see you all and to see so many high school friends. Our prayers are with you and your family as you grieve the loss of Mr. H.

*Leigh (Young) Tenkku Lepper, MHS 1971*

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**Leigh Tenkku Lepper** - March 16, 2019 at 04:04 PM

J7

“ The whole experience. High school experience with Mr H was so much better than without Him. I did not make a career of music but music has made me happy all my life. Thank you Mr. H. God Bless!

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**jack lewis. 77** - March 16, 2019 at 03:24 PM

CF

“ My deepest condolences to all of the family. Hi Mrs. H!!! My best memories from Mentor high we're of choir and being a member of the Mentor Top 25. Mr. H is one of the best!!! He was always there for us!! He had a great sense of humor and treated us like one of his own kids. I am so thankful that you were a part of my life!!! I am forever grateful for all you did and have done for us and the community. You influenced so many and made us better. Sending my love!!!  
Carrie Ferguson class of 94



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Carrie Ferguson - March 16, 2019 at 02:03 PM

A1

*I'll never be able to truly put into words the indelible impression Mr. H made in my life. He taught with an intensity and wisdom that was inspiring. He was dedicated to his profession and expected us to be diligent in our pursuit of excellence. He instilled a curiosity in us all and a love of great music. Being in Top 25 from 1982-1984 and in mixed chorus and a cappella choir for three years with him was the highlight of my high school years. I used to feel sorry for other choirs from other schools when we would perform or compete because the music we sang was so complex in comparison to other schools. He taught us so much, and along the way shared his knowledge and sense of humor. "Don't just stand there and contemplate your navel."- one of his ways of telling students to focus. Thank you for sharing him with us and for your choreography and kindness along the way. How blessed we all have been to know him and your family. My singing with Cleveland Opera and beyond was because I studied with this great man in high school.*

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Amy Zivkovich class of 1984 - March 16, 2019 at 11:26 PM

TK

*I only joined the choir at MHS in order to be in a class with my friends, but Mr. H turned this self-appointed alto into a soprano and opened my eyes and my heart to the finest music this side of heaven. Three years in his choirs and two years in Top 25 developed in me not only a love for music, but also a desire to bring the best out of myself. He taught us how to work as a team, how to improvise when things went wrong, and how to revel in the joy when things resonated perfectly. He could gather the attention of 120 students with a single raised eyebrow and his smile was all the praise we needed for a job well done. He made us want to work hard, but he also made us laugh. I have been blessed and am truly grateful to have had Mr. H in my life.*

*Terri Dutton King - Class of 1977*

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**Terri Dutton King** - March 17, 2019 at 03:42 PM

MM

*Paul,  
Sending my condolences and prayers to you and your Family. One memory was after watching a MHS wrestling match you lost your voice from yelling and you had TOP 25 the next day. We ran into your Dad in the hallway and he heard your voice. I think i saw "STEAM" coming out of his ears he was so mad at you. We had to stop at the drug store to buy something for you to gargle with..... GOD BLESS*

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**Mike McBride** - March 19, 2019 at 02:43 PM

SR

*Jane & Family,*

*Deepest condolences to all! My sorrow is wrapped in the joy of knowing both of you and sharing our Heidelberg experiences. I fondly remember his playing of the "wood song" during Ex rush & pledging and his always(almost) smiling face.*

*Rest well my "Brother" knowing yours was a "job well done"!*

*Scott Renninger '66*

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**Scott Renninger** - March 22, 2019 at 11:30 AM

BS

*Our Deepest condolences to you Jane and family. Ted was a wonderful person, gifted musician and a great choir director. When both of you came to First Church, the choir was in need of professional leadership. Ted filled that bill. He will be greatly missed.*

*Ben and Paulette Szuhay*

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**Ben Szuhay** - March 22, 2019 at 08:30 PM

LR

*Paul and family. May the days ahead bring you comfort and peace.*

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**LouAnn Redaelli** - March 25, 2019 at 09:05 AM

BG

*Rest in peace Mr. "H" - my daughter Jeanna was in the choir and Top 25. She was in the class of 1996. What an wonderful memories you bestowed upon all that had the pleasure to have you as a teacher and friend. You will be missed.*

*Barbara Galante*

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**Barbara Galante** - March 26, 2019 at 07:28 PM