



William Jerome Kennedy

June 30, 1934 - January 26, 2020

William “Bill” Jerome Kennedy, 85, of Mahtowa, died January 26, 2020 in his home.

In Bills words: I was born June 30, 1934 in Minneapolis, the son of Cecelia Kennedy. I had a great childhood, my mom Cecelia was special. I had two brothers, Tom and George; and a two sisters, Jackie and Patsy. I graduated from Minneapolis Edison High School. I served my country in the United State Marine Corps and after serving, married my high school sweetheart, Barb. I attended college at the University of Minnesota, St. Cloud State, and University of Wisconsin Superior. We had five children Kellee, Kolleen, Kathleen, Kasey and Klancy, twelve grandchildren, and ten great grandchildren. I was a teacher and coach for 30 years. I built a Barn and went into the Holstein dairy business, I bought a skidder and sawmill and went into the logging – lumber business. I got a big lathe and made a lot of wooden bowls, using exotic wood for decorated woodwork intarsia. I enjoyed building, adding on to my horse barn and shop-garage. I was a fan of high school and college football and hockey. I met a lot of good people, learned a lot, and had few setbacks. I had a good life with my buddy Barb of 64 years. I requested no service and any memorial contributions may be made to the Democratic party. SEMPER FI.

Comments



“ K lit a candle in memory of William Jerome Kennedy



K - February 20, 2020 at 10:44 AM



“ My sincere condolences to the Kennedy family, Bill was teacher, coach, next door neighbor and mentor to me in my teens , I will never forget the gruff style in the classroom and on the ice he sure was a great motivator I still chuckle at his antics to this day . Rest In Peace Bill . Rick Kohler class of “68” Gilbert High.

Rick Kohler - February 05, 2020 at 09:53 PM



“ Fair and square.
Handled success and lack there of,
with even temperament.
One honorable guy.

J D Angst - February 02, 2020 at 12:08 AM



“ My sincere condolences to the Kennedy family. I had coach Kennedy in the classroom, on the football field, and on the rink. I agree with what several others have commented on; he wanted students and athletes to perform up to their potential. There is no doubt that we were the best conditioned hockey team in the area. I wish I knew how many hundreds of "Lumberjacks" we skated over my three years! Yes, Bill could be a little "gruff" at times, but he did have a warm side also. After a particularly hard hockey practice I was walking home from the high school and coach picked me up in his pickup and brought me home (I only lived 2 ½ blocks from school so I knew something was up). Bill asked how I was doing and how I felt and I responded that I was pretty beat. Bill responded to my comment with " If you can survive my practices you can survive anything." He was right! RIP Bill Kennedy.

Jim Johnson: class of 1974

Jim Johnson - January 31, 2020 at 10:49 PM



“ Me Kennedy was a man who brought out the “best” in his students having a competitive edge always. I can remember the all volunteer group of Cloquet men building the first shelter, which was at that time, still freezing. The women’s auxiliary had the warmed up area for refreshments during game. I remember opening day January 6th, which was my own dads birthday and he rode the zamboni opening night. It was an undertaking by our community. Bill was a nice family man loving all his “K’s.” His wife Barb took care of my little sister after school. A fine family. We will always remember you , Mr Kennedy. Go with God.

Kimberly Jaros (Floyd & Joyce) - January 31, 2020 at 04:00 AM



“ I had the privilege to not only be a student in Mr. Kennedy’s classroom, but I was proud to become his colleague when I returned to CHS as a teacher. He taught me so much about American Government, but more importantly he shared life-lessons that have served me well throughout the years. Thank you for sharing him with us all.
Mary Jane Sutherland Lundberg ‘77

Mary Jane Sutherland Lundberg - January 30, 2020 at 09:08 PM



“ I always recalled Mr. Kennedy’s economic advice to live in austerity until you have enough money to pay cash for your purchase. That sage advice served me well throughout life. At the time I didn’t think he read every word of the lengthy papers he had us write, so to test my theory I wrote a few jesting remarks about him buried deep in pages of my paper. Turns out he read every word his students wrote!! My parents sure heard about it. Despite that I enjoyed his classes and passion for WWII, as well as his coaching girls track and field. My condolences to the entire family!

Sheila Anderson Wilcox - January 29, 2020 at 08:05 PM



“ My condolences to the Kennedy family. Coach Kennedy was a big part of my high school experience and beyond. I've always remembered his lessons about effort.

Royal Prevost Class of 1969

Royal Prevost - January 29, 2020 at 07:43 PM



“ Cloquet Class of 1979 group page is bursting with wonderful memories of Mr. Kennedy clearly very much adored by all. I hope they share with the family how much he was loved.

Marcie Stolberg - January 29, 2020 at 07:11 PM



“ Bill was my hockey coach for my Jr. and Sr. years. I always appreciated his telling it like it was. Some may not have been as enthused about it but he always tried to do the right thing for the team. Despite his the gruff demeanor he cared about his students and athletes. He expected you to give your best and let you know when someone was "dogging it" in practice or games.
Seppo (Andy) Sormunen

Seppo Sormunen - January 29, 2020 at 06:55 PM



“ Chris Jarve CHS Class of '79.

My older brothers told me to straighten up my act if I ever got Mr. Kennedy as a teacher. They told me stories that made my hair stand on end. I was just a skinny little runt at the time.

First day in Mr. Kennedy's class, he said: "There have been rumors spread about me from some of your older brothers and sisters that I am a mean teacher. I want to tell you right now that those stories you heard...well, let's just say they aren't totally true."

From that day forward, Buffalo Bill Kennedy was one of my favorite teachers.

My heartfelt condolences to his family, associates, friends and students. He will be sorely missed but his legend will live on.

chris jarve - January 29, 2020 at 06:38 PM



“ I didn't know Mr. Kennedy well...to be honest he scared me a little. I became a friend of his daughter, Kolleen, when they moved to Mahtowa and she started attending Barnum High School. I will say this, I cannot think of one teacher I had in HS that would deem the memories/comments I have read here. His hand-written obituary was humble, which says much about him. He was definitely a man that made a difference to both his students, athletes and family. And I am sure my friend's quick-witted dry sense-of-humor comes from her father. Also, she was the culprit in the pink saddle shoe incident :). Love, light and heartfelt sympathy to whole Kennedy family.

Lynet Nelson

Lynet Nelson - January 29, 2020 at 03:57 PM



“ I graduated from CHS thirty five years ago and to this day, I still draw on the lessons I learned from Bill Kennedy. I wasn't an athlete, I had long hair, I was what he would have called a "tree frog"; but for some reason he took a liking to me and, along with a handful of other teachers, he showed me--in that gritty, common-sense and humorous way of his--that I had more going for me than I imagined.

My deepest sympathies to his friends and family. He was one of a kind.

And to you, Bill: thank you, thank you, thank you, for everything.

Kurt Petersen - January 29, 2020 at 03:22 PM



“ A giant teddy bear of a man. RIP Mr. Kennedy and condolences to the family.

Jill Dale - Hardin, MT Class of 1982 - January 29, 2020 at 02:10 PM



“ Bill was a great teacher and coach.I was fortunate to have him as football coach.He made the sport interesting and fun.My favorite coach by far.

John palkie - January 29, 2020 at 12:10 PM



“ I shook in my shoes that first day of my senior year when I looked at my schedule, and saw Mr. Kennedy would be my social studies teacher. As the weeks progressed, all that nervousness melted away. Based on my last name, he remembered Uncles and cousins of mine...as well as my beloved Dad. I learned he liked to go fishing with a friend of my Dad's too. He called me "Benk", which is a nickname reserved solely for him. But my favorite memory was during a test. He walked up behind me and asked, "Having trouble there Benk?" I said yes. He quietly pointed to the answer and walked away. I am so lucky to have had him. I'm sad no more CHS students will. Per your request, the dems will get a donation in your name from me.

Rest in peace Mr. Kennedy.

Maria Benko Scherkenbach, Class of 1990 - January 29, 2020 at 09:17 AM



“ Awesome teacher. He always called me lil' Jonz

Robin (Johnson) Kulaszewicz - January 28, 2020 at 11:26 PM



“ One of my best teachers. He didn't sugar-coat anything. Only person to ever call me "Red." Helped prepare us for life.

My condolences.

A Taylor Musburger - January 28, 2020 at 11:08 PM



“ Class of 1989

A Taylor Musburger - January 28, 2020 at 11:09 PM



“ I liked Mr. Kennedy as much as he terrified me - but I think he realized how much he terrified me and took it easy on me, which made me like him even more. I'm so sorry to his family for your loss, rest in peace Mr. Kennedy.

Tracy Boedigheimer - January 28, 2020 at 10:05 PM



“ Me, Kennedy was my home room teacher. What great memories! He was a tough teddy bear. Loved hockey! Always brings a smile to my face thinking of him! Rest In Peace.

Faith Lane Wood - January 28, 2020 at 10:03 PM



“ Mr. Kennedy was one of the best! In senior social he taught us how to do income taxes and made it fun! For 27 years I taught in college, and he was someone I always aspired to be like. He was amazing!

Kerry Campbell class of '79

Kerry Campbell - January 28, 2020 at 09:56 PM



“ The 2 things I will never forget is having his war class and he sent me to see Mr Lutter about getting some scrap wood , when he refused to give me any he said go tell Lutter he's dead The other was his Politics class and all fun it was running as a candidate for the 3.2 Beer party

Christian Swanson - January 28, 2020 at 09:47 PM



“ I loved Bill I could tell you so many stories but he made me the person I am to this day to suck it up and be a man and face my fate. Rest In Peace my friend.

bruce ahlgren - January 28, 2020 at 09:42 PM



“ He mostly called me 'Hey, longhair.', but was one of the most intelligent and insightful teachers I ever had and an all around great person. Mr.Kennedy, you will be missed good Sir.

David DeCoux - January 28, 2020 at 09:04 PM



“ I remember having a social studies question and seeing Mr. Kennedy walking up a flight of stairs at the Senior High. I ran up to him and yelled “hey Mr. Kennedy “, he turned around and looked at me and said “ 6 foot + and 200+pounds and you call me hey!!”, and then a smirk came across his face. Of course my question was answered. Always the educator, whether it be within the walls of his classroom, the sport he was coaching or the hallways of school. A great teacher is defined by the impression one leaves on their students, and Mr. Kennedy left a huge one for a number of students for a number of years. RIP sir.

Kirk Bergeron class of 1976 - January 28, 2020 at 08:33 PM



“ Our sincere sympathy goes out to all of the Kennedy family. So sorry and sad to hear this news. So many wonderful memories throughout our high school years and running into him in the years to follow. Thanks for all the life lessons you coached us both through...in the classroom, on the field, and in the cherished Cloquet hockey “barn”. You have and will be long remembered Mr. “Bill” Kennedy as one of our faves Thanks for being you!
With admiration, respect and grateful hearts.

Mike and Brenda Pollak Class of '74 - January 28, 2020 at 10:04 PM



“ I will add to all the wonderful comments that Bill Kennedy was a great teacher. I have told my husband several times over the years how much I appreciated his interest in making sure his students were learning and not just attending classes. Rest In peace Mr. Kennedy, you've made your mark. Karen (Riihiluoma) Slater.



Karen Slater - January 28, 2020 at 08:18 PM



“ Mr. Kennedy was a great teacher who made learning interesting and fun! He will be missed!

Nancy Chabot Nelson - January 28, 2020 at 07:46 PM



“ He was the best!

Diane Girard - January 28, 2020 at 07:13 PM



“ my big 10 foot. Was that his saying

former - January 28, 2020 at 05:37 PM



“ My parents met with Mr. Kennedy at a school conference. He told them that I was not living up to my potential, that I could achieve far more with some effort. He was right, and he was the only high school teacher who brought that fact to my parent's attention. Later that night Dad brought it to mine. "You should be doing better," he said. Mr. Kennedy had more insight about a kid's potential than most teachers. I became a good student much later in college, and proved him right. Thanks, Mr. Kennedy. I will never forget you.

Deborah Locke - January 28, 2020 at 05:22 PM



“ I had Mr. Kennedy as a teacher, he was tough and aggressive sounding to most students but to me I had the biggest crush any student could have had on a teacher in the course of history. He was John Wayne, and Thor all rolled into one. Definitely one of the greatest teachers. He took time for the students that went to him, he offered his life experience for advice, the list goes on. Very fine man and this world will be at a loss without him. Marcie Stolberg class of 79

Marcie Stolberg - January 28, 2020 at 04:55 PM



“ He was strict and yet soft as a teddy bear. I'll never forget in social studies when he wore his famous saddle shoes- that his daughter or son had just polished for him. Only the white was now pink and he said that Nobody better make fun of those because his kid had done that for him!

Baylee (Lavick) LaVoie - January 28, 2020 at 04:41 PM



“ I would just like to say that Bill was one of our Three coaches in 50 years that gave his heart and soul to Cloquet Hockey! He was very instrumental in getting people, and players together to build our “Barn”. It was a great place to watch, and play hockey. The atmosphere, especially when we played East, was unbelievable! Bill was a very good person, and a very good coach. He was an Icon, to say the least. God bless you Bill, and thank you very much for all you did for Cloquet hockey! RIP.

Mick Singpiel - January 28, 2020 at 04:36 PM



“ Mr. Kennedy was a great teacher. He enjoyed and respected his social studies students as much as he did his hockey players. He was fair and fun and down to earth. One of the good guys, I would say.

Judy Korby - January 28, 2020 at 04:30 PM



“ Bill was a great teacher (and coach) and my "across the street neighbor" on Avenue E. But my fondest (and funniest) memory of him is this: I played guitar in a rock band when I was in high school. One day at a class picnic, a few of the guys in my band and I were throwing a football around. Bill walked up and said, "Why don't you guys put down those damn banjos and join the football team!"

George Zissos - January 28, 2020 at 04:20 PM



“ That is classic Bill Kennedy

Mick Singpiel - January 28, 2020 at 04:39 PM



“ Senior Social Studies at Cloquet Senior High. Mr Kennedy was a great teacher and coach!

Darlene Kilpela Hill - January 28, 2020 at 04:09 PM



“ Mr. Kennedy was absolutely the toughest teacher I had in high school. I drew the Buff card twice! I learned so much from him. I had the glorious opportunity to be on the first Cloquet High School mock trial team that finished second in the nation.

Mr. Kennedy was an awesome educator! He will be sorely missed.

Steve Meister - January 28, 2020 at 04:03 PM



“ Rest In Peace Coach. You were truly one of a kind.

Alec Castle - January 28, 2020 at 03:56 PM



“ Loved Mr. Kennedy. He was the greatest senior teacher I had.

Barbara Lambert - January 28, 2020 at 03:42 PM