



Joseph W. Pullen

July 7, 1937 - October 12, 2014

Joseph W. Pullen, treasured biology teacher, nature lover and ham radio operator, passed away unexpectedly October 12, 2014, hiking in the forests in Atlanta, Michigan. He was 77 years old.

Born July 7, 1937 in Detroit, Michigan, he was the oldest child of Joseph and Mildred (Fawcett) Pullen. Joe graduated from Adrian High School in 1955 and earned a Bachelor's Degree from Adrian College. He earned a Master's Degree in Biology from University of Michigan.

Joe was a faithful member of St. Rita Catholic Church.

Students of Joe remember his passion for teaching biology in the classroom setting as well as during summer field biology classes and the numerous Quetico and Boundary Water canoe wilderness camping trips he led for the YMCA. For over 40 years Joe hiked a portion of the Appalachian Trail each spring. He retired from Adrian Public Schools in 1989, having taught for 25 years. Joe remained active at the high school as an announcer for swim meets and taking tickets for various events.

A multi-faceted man, Joe's interest in being a ham radio operator grew into a volunteer position as the Amateur Radio Coordinator for Lenawee County, organizing weather spotter volunteers and serving as a liaison with the State. Joe was a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and also worked as an agent for The Taylor Agency. Joe loved his dog, Gypsy.

Joe is survived by his sister, Phyllis (William) Garno of Clayton; niece, Christine (Mike) Tabor and nephew, Andrew Garno, both of North Carolina;

and countless friends within the community.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 16, 2014, at Wagley Funeral Home with Fr. Thomas Helfrich officiating. Burial will follow at Lenawee Hills Memorial Park. Visitation will take place at the funeral home on Wednesday from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Those wishing to remember Joe with a donation should direct their gifts to the Adrian Schools Educational Foundation. Online condolences and memories may be shared at www.WagleyFuneralHome.com.

Cemetery Details

Lenawee Hills Memorial Park

1291 Wolf Creek Hwy.
Adrian, MI 49221

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **15**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)
1501 W. Maumee St.
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 263-1400
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph W. Pullen*

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *"If you're pushing for Biology, then I'm Pullen for you.."*

Says something I remember this 40 years later...

Matt von Wahlde - November 04, 2016 at 12:34 PM



“ *An Amazing Spirit! He taught me how to step-measure meters with accuracy!*

Mark Jones - February 09, 2015 at 08:53 AM



“ *I was in the last biology class Joe taught at Almont HS. He is the reason I went on to be a biology teacher, serving 34 years before my own retirement. As much as I tried, I could never be the equal of Joe Pullen. He was the most incredible, inspiring, caring teacher I ever knew.*

The world will be a sadder place without Joe Pullen but it is a better place for the time he spent amongst us.

73 and rest in peace Joe.

Tim Juhl

Timothy Juhl - January 15, 2015 at 03:41 PM

NS

“ Miss you Joe. I will make it back to BWCA and introduce the next generation to it just like you did.



Nick Simon - December 21, 2014 at 07:27 PM

CG

“ Joe Pullen was a huge influence on my life as a student. He help direct my career choice of being a science teacher, and I will always remember his witty humor. Sad to hear of his passing, but will always remember his great dedication to his students and his great smile.

Craig Gritzmaker

Class of 1969

Ithaca, MI

Craig Gritzmaker - December 03, 2014 at 04:36 PM

JT

“ I remember Joe as a caring compassionate man who gave his all to teaching and his students. Never heard a negative word from him or about him.

The rescue of the wolf comes to mind and the care he gave this animal and in return, the wolf saved the life of a drowning child as he visited friends.

Rest in peace, Joe. You were quite an inspiration.

Jeanne Tarchalski, fellow teacher

Jeanne tarchalski - October 23, 2014 at 03:31 PM

RR

“ I have known Joe since we became neighbors at the lake in 1976, when I was 4 years old. Like so many others, he was always interested in my academics, my activities (Scouts, sports, etc.), and then in later years my family and my career. We both received many mosquito bites during those (sometimes late) evening chats in between our houses (full of Joe-isms like "No kidding!", "Wow!", and "I'll be darned!"). Joe would sometimes be gone for weeks on his summer adventures, and we would know he was getting ready to leave when he secured his canoe to the top of his truck or SUV. During our many boating conversations, he would mention that he considered boating a "point A to point B activity", and couldn't understand the chaos of the boats and jet skis driving by our beach (an amusing position for a resident on a recreational lake). My parents, myself, and my brother all graduated from Ohio State, which always provided for interesting jokes and conversation as football season approached. In 1987, our large oak tree fell over and destroyed much of Joe's house during a storm. There are photos of Joe smiling and laughing as he surveyed the wreckage - upbeat and positive in the midst of adversity. You will be missed by so many. Thank you for your positive influence in my life and the lives of my children. And yes, we will always make sure the life jackets we use are U.S. Coast Guard approved. :-)

Ryan Rupp - October 19, 2014 at 08:48 PM

SR

“ Devils Lake won't be the same without you, Joe! I had the pleasure to talk to him last Friday before he passed, doing something he loved. Wished me luck deer hunting. He always had a smile and a great story. Never short on conversation, and an overall great guy. Joe, you will be missed!

Stephanie Ray - October 17, 2014 at 08:19 PM

NS

“ Joe was the closest I had to a real father that cared for me and I am going to miss him like no other. No one else had ever tried to push me and give me the confidence I needed to be the person I am today. I hope through teaching I can touch the lives of my students as much as he did. Thank you Joe, for everything!

Neil Soto - October 16, 2014 at 05:49 PM

AO

“ Knowing Joe was special. He had such a passion for teaching paddlesports to the USCG Auxiliary family. He was passionate no matter what he was doing. Sorry to see him leave this earth but your spirit remains. Semper Paratus!



Angie O - October 16, 2014 at 11:01 AM

JC

“ A more dedicated educator Adrian High will never have. Your education wasn't complete unless you arranged your schedule to take biology from Mr. Pullen. Always took extra time to talk to you even if he saw you away from the school setting. He will be greatly missed.

John Castle - October 16, 2014 at 10:35 AM

TA

“ Joe was the classic science teacher! Intelligent, inspiring, challenging and his legacy lives on in the lives of so many he touched. Those that took his class will never forget the experience. I was a co-worker with Joe in the Adrian Public School system and was privileged and honored to have called him a friend and mentor. To this day, I am constantly amazed that when conversations turn to teachers that have impacted a student's life, Mr. Pullen's name surfaces as one of the most important. Thanks Joe for your smile, enthusiasm, outstanding work and friendship! Peace

Ted Anderson

Ted Anderson - October 16, 2014 at 10:04 AM



“ As Devil's Lake neighbors, we've been able to spend a lot of time with Joe and Gypsy of course. With a heavy heart, I would like to say that the lake will not be the same without Joe. His daily weather reports, endless nature stories, kind and caring soul, loyalty to friends and last but not least Joe's yearly educational course regarding "boater safety and rules and regulations of the waterways", will be missed. It was an honor to have been able to spend time with Joe and we are all better people for it.

"And how" Joe!

*The Howard Family,
Phil, Stacey, Brooke and Faith*

Phil Howard - October 16, 2014 at 08:45 AM



“ *Biology was not one of my best subjects, but tales of a Little Green Bullfrog had my anxious to attend class! No other class holds as many memories as that of Joe Pullen's. Glad to hear he passed doing what he loved. May he rest in peace.*

Katie Cornelius - October 16, 2014 at 08:29 AM

PH

“ *As Devil's Lake neighbors, we've been able to spend a lot of time with Joe and Gypsy of course. With a heavy heart, I would like to say that the lake will not be the same without Joe. His daily weather reports, endless nature stories, kind and caring soul, loyalty to friends and last but not least Joe's yearly educational course regarding "boater safety and rules and regulations of the waterways", will be missed. It was an honor to have been able to spend time with Joe and we are all better people for it.*

*The Howard family,
Phil, Stacey, Brooke and Faith*

Phil Howard - October 16, 2014 at 08:27 AM

DC

“ *You will be missed Joe. I canoed with you back in 1967 in the Boundary Waters in Minnesota and it was the first time I was ever in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Now I live here. I had not seen Joe since my graduation from ASHS in 1968 except 2 years ago in Madison, WI at guess what - a canoe/kayak show! He will now be paddling the clouds.*

Dan Castle - October 16, 2014 at 08:13 AM

HR

“ *Mr. Pullen was one of my dad's closest friends. He often came to visit and was never at a loss for stories to share. He was always ready to laugh and enjoy life. When I think of Mr. Pullen, I also think of Tasha, the first wolf he rescued, his stories from Quetico, and his trips to the Smokies with my dad and Mr. Smith. He didn't just teach biology, he filled his life with it.*

My sincere condolences go out to his family. I know they will miss him sorely.

Heather Remsing - October 16, 2014 at 08:10 AM

DL

“ I have many fond memories of Mr. Pullen or "Jumping Joe," what we called him when he was the coach of Adrian High freshman cross-country. I remember not having transportation to the cross-country trails and he would have all us boys pile in the back of his truck and take us out to the trails behind S&H.

I had the pleasure having Mr. Pullen for my biology teacher, even though I sat in the back of the class the whole time; those of you who had his class know why.

His saying I will always remember, "If you are pushing for an A in my class, I'm Pullen for you!" or how a flip of a penny before class started was the decision if we were to have a quiz or not, most of the time he would say "Lincoln Rules!" I was a Senior when I took his Biology class and most of the kids were Freshman and he would say, "It's a good thing most of you are Freshman, because when you fail, you still have time to take my class next year!" Oh Mr. Pullen, you were killing me! Pretty good aye!!!!

The awful pictures the kids would draw of Mr. Pullen and he would hang them up on his wall in the class. They would be labeled "Same suit all week even after he wore it on the field trip behind the hospital or a stick man wearing cross-country shorts labeled, shorts worn up to sternum!"

I was fortunate enough to spend time in the summers at Devil's Lake and see Mr. Pullen and his timber wolf he had for a pet. He was truly one of my favorite teachers at Adrian High and I am a better person in life for having known Jumping Joe.

Thank you Mr. Pullen for influencing my life. Thank God for you!

Daniel Lipp

Daniel Lipp - October 15, 2014 at 07:21 PM

SB

“ Next to my father, Mr. Pullen was the most influential man in my life. He was my freshman swim coach, varsity assistant coach, biology teacher, role model, and friend. I went on 2 Quetico trips, and he taught me hard work, perseverance, discipline, and working with others in challenging circumstances! He was a man of honor and integrity, but a genuinely gentle soul. If you were Pushin for biology, he was Pullen for you! He used to drive around the neighborhood in his green station wagon (looked like a bug with those antenna), looking for smoke from a barbecue. He'd stop by and if you pushed (not too hard), he might stay for dinner... "OK, Fine!" I'll never forget his bounding walk and constant radiant smile. I can't thank him enough for all he did to set me on my path in life. He dedicated his life to helping mentor young people. You can count the number of seeds in an apple, but you can't count the number of apples in a seed. He planted many seeds, and i'm one apple who is eternally grateful to have known him. God bless you Mr. Pullen as you go to be with the Lord. All my sympathies to your family, and my friends, on the loss of a great man.
P. Scott Becker, MD

Scott Becker - October 15, 2014 at 07:20 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Joseph W. Pullen.



October 15, 2014 at 07:00 PM

BP

“ *The Livingston County Amateur Radio Emergency Services members have many fond memories of Joe Pullen’s participation in public safety exercises. As the amateur radio’s Region 1 Emergency Coordinator, Joe, was responsible for the deployment of amateur radio operators, during emergencies and disasters, within a nine county area. He also represented the region amateur radio operators at the state level. The amateur radio operators in Region 1 will miss Joe.*

Bruce Pollock, Livingston County amateur radio Emergency Coordinator.

Bruce Pollock - October 15, 2014 at 06:49 PM

DA

“ *i have fond memories of Mr. Pullen ranging from YMCA Day Camp to announcing the "fancy diving" at AHS swim meets and beyond. He was one of a kind! A great man who lived a great life.*

Dave

dave - October 15, 2014 at 03:48 PM

JM

“ Joe Pullen was a legend in my family long before I ever knew him. My older sister would come home and share with us around the dinner table some of his puns and word plays. My favorites were, "Time flies like an arrow, and fruit flies like a banana," and, "A parasites is better than one." And how, JP. You're a good man.

When I did have him in class, for 10th grade biology, it was one of my favorite classes of all time, High School and college. I remember in the spring of that year, I was talking to him about backpacking, and he invited me to go with him, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Boudreau on a backpacking trip to the Smokies. Joe had just bought a new diesel truck and drove it to Tennessee, with the teachers in front and me in the back.

I went with him on one canoe trip to Quetico, as part of my freshman swimming class, and it remains a wonderful memory. I kept wanting to find the time to go again, but it never worked out. I talked to him just two months ago, and we agreed that next summer we'd try to make it work.

I'll always be grateful to Joe Pullen for helping me secure my first job out of High School, at a camp in upper Michigan. Joe had connections, and he got me in.

Rest in peace, Joe. You are dearly missed. I offer his family my deepest condolences.

Jim Misseldine

Jim Misseldine - October 15, 2014 at 03:34 PM

E(

“*Those who dwell, as scientists or laymen, among the beauties and mysteries of nature are never alone or weary of life.*” -Rachel Carson

A sentinel moment in my life was participating in a field biology class my junior year in high school. I was fortunate to take this class with Joe Pullen. We spent the week measuring trees, testing water quality, shocking and inventorying fish. but the pivotal moment for me was in this incredibly smelly swamp. Dressed in my bathing suit, I cringed as I stepped in to the waist-deep, pungent, murky water with my net. White viscous material bubbled to the water's surface like a lava lamp. And at that moment, it clicked. I could embrace this moment, or suffer in spite of it. Joe provided me the opportunity to embrace the outdoors- the good, the bad, the incredibly ugly, and to approach it with respect and wonder. This has guided me in everything I have done, ever since.

Joe kept in touch with me and my family through the years. He would give me a call or come and visit every time he came to the U.P. (my home). When I visited my parents, I would often see Joe walking by with his dog.

The last time was 2 years ago. He came over to my parents for dinner, and afterwards, he showed me his new-found hobby- paddleboarding. Joe never stopped learning, and sharing his passion with everyone around him.

You loved the outdoors, you loved people, and you were unstoppable. Thank you for sharing your love for life with me. It has made all the difference.

Emily Koren (Schwalm) - October 15, 2014 at 01:51 PM

PS

“ As lake cottage renters, Joe became our neighbor for one week a year time several years. He always remembered our stories and asked about our family. He lived his life with curiosity, adventure and joyful gratitude. What a great conversationalist! He brought holy laughter to a lake called "Devils". The world and the woods were better for his presence. It was a joy and an honor to know him, even for a week. Pamela and Peter Short, Archbold, Ohio

Pamela Short - October 15, 2014 at 01:22 PM

ES

“ Mr. Pullen set me on the track to my PhD in Pharmacology, and he was a wonderful teacher and person. He introduced me to the cheesy magic of puns. My life is richer for him having been in it.

Erika Scholl - October 15, 2014 at 01:11 PM

JW

“ I will always remember Joe for his kindness, his positive attitude, his zest for life and nature, his gift for really being present when he would talk with me [or anyone else for that matter], his sense of humor and his love for people and dogs.
Becky and I attended the AHS Outstanding Alumni/Teacher and Mentor Awards night celebration recently, and Joe was mentioned several times by our recipients as impacting them greatly. We even connected with him the next day before the Homecoming Game and I saw him talking specifically with one of our Outstanding Alums. He was my Freshman Swim Coach and I went on one of his Quetico Provincial Park canoe trips with our Freshman Swim Team. I think his canoe was called the H.M.S. Otter Guts. We had a blast! He was one of the most authentic guys I have ever known. I will miss his encouraging spirit very much. Thanks for the memories J. P!
With deepest sympathy to his family.

Joe Wagley - October 15, 2014 at 12:12 PM

PA

“ Joe was such a kind and friendly man. He would always wave or stop to chat while walking with Gypsy. One thing is for sure Joe and Gypsy would walk no matter what the weather! In Dec. of 2007 there was a bad snow storm. Joe was walking past our place which at the time my Dad was there living alone. Joe told us he had this feeling he should stop and check on Clem. Thank goodness he did as my Dad had fallen and broke his hip. Joe said it was Divine Intervention. Our family will always be grateful Joe stopped that day. He will be missed.
Bill, Pat, Matt, Alison & Jeff
Clarks Cove

pat - October 15, 2014 at 11:44 AM

TS

“ Joe Pullen and I go way back. As a teen he was a camp counselor at YMCA camp, and I was an elementary school day camper. I delivered the Adrian Telegram to his parents' house when he lived with them on Sherman Court in Adrian. And, I had "Mr. Pullen" for Biology 1 (sophomore year), Biology 2 (junior year), plus Independent Study (senior year) while in Adrian High. The puns are still with me ("A train just passed through--I can see its tracks"). I remember this little story from one Monday in class, when he told us he planned to review some material he had covered on the previous Friday. So, he advised, "Don't be surprised if some of this material you've heard before." One kid in class piped up: "Yeah--especially the jokes!"

I last saw Joe at Dawson Auditorium when I returned to Adrian for the 40th reunion of the Class of 1970. I recognized him immediately even though I hadn't seen him in 40 years. His hair was a little grayer and he sported a beard, but otherwise looked pretty much the same. He didn't recognize me at first (I changed considerably between ages 18 and 58); however, once I told him my name, we chatted freely about our years together, the whereabouts of the others in my class, my career, Adrian, U of M vs MI State, etc. etc., with a few bad puns thrown in for good measure. He was definitely one of a kind! I haven't saved much from my high school or college days, but I still have the paper I wrote for him in my junior year in high school, "A Comparative Study of the Effects of Various Kinds of Water Pollution on the Fresh Water Snail", for which he gave me an "A".

Here's to you, Joe--and thanks! I'm certain all of Heaven is cringing from the puns.

Tom Stewart

Tom Stewart - October 15, 2014 at 12:36 AM

DT

“ *The Talmage Family , a Devils Lake neighbor, will miss Joe so very much! We talked hiking, camping, Army and Coast Guard..you name it! Our grandchildren loved to chat with him during their summer visits. We never met a guy who was so well read on so many topics. Joe left us doing what he loved to do.....hiking. A cute story about Joe....He watched our cottage all fall, winter and spring. Our son unexpectedly stopped up by and Joe, taking his job seriously, asked to see his ID. :) We knew Joe meant business.*

Rest in Peace, Joe! God Bless you and your family.

Much love,

*Dee and Lance Talmage
8338 Horton Beach Road*

Dee Talmage - October 14, 2014 at 11:03 PM

CD

“ Joe was one of the most influential teachers in my life and an inspiration in a lot of ways. He was my high school biology teacher, and also the faculty advisor to the amateur radio club at Adrian High School. He was very supportive and encouraging in getting the club started, helping us organize various ways to earn money in order to purchase equipment for the club, and getting us a radio room at school (a very big deal). When I came back to Adrian from university on holidays I would occasionally go canoeing with Joe, with his inevitable canoe-carrying joke "I'm not pushin, I'm Pullen". One summer I helped him plant a lot of cedar trees at his property on Big Bay de Noc and took two little trees back to my folks' place in Manitou Beach, where they are now 30 feet high. Because he lived near my folks in Manitou Beach, I looked him up on nearly every visit and have seen him almost every year for the past 40 years. He loved to share stories of various narrow escapes from calamities out in the back country, and if the story didn't involve a canoe, it involved amateur radio. Very sad to lose this good friend and mentor. My deepest condolences to his family and loved ones. 73 K8YZA de WA8MMV.



Charles Davis - October 14, 2014 at 08:45 PM

DW

Great photo. Could you please email this photo to info@wagleyfuneralhome.com to include in his memorial DVD. Thank you

David Wagley - October 15, 2014 at 10:08 AM

TA

“ Joe, Your Manitou Beach neighbors will miss you!!! You always brought a smile to everyone around you!!! God Bless!!! Tim and Amy

Tim and Amy - October 14, 2014 at 07:00 PM

DE

“ During his 25 years of teaching biology at Adrian High, Joe Pullen undoubtedly mentored more students in a positive way than anyone who has ever taught. He shaped the lives of countless young people for the better. I should know I was ready to quit school, prior to taking biology from Joe as a 9th grader in 1973 and that next summer going on one of the many canoe trips he guided into Quetico Provincial Park in Canada. Joe changed my attitude.

Joe was the best teacher I ever had, which includes all of the Professors during my undergrad and graduate degrees. His biology field trips were actually inspirational.

I was fortunate to have been Joe's canoe partner, on many a trip. Including an adventure in to Algonquin Park in 1977 when a bear raided camp at mid-night, being an assistant guide on a Quetico trip in 1979 when one of our canoes sank, and numerous weekend day paddles.

Before saving the environment became the big thing, Joe already had the concept that we should be working with nature instead of fighting against it. Through teaching biology he tried to raise his students' appreciation for nature and their interest in preserving it.

I was able to call Joe two summers ago when I was in MI visiting my parents. He was happy to make the drive from his home to meet me at the Hillsdale McDonalds, to reminisce about the old days. I was lucky to have had the opportunity to thank him for being such a positive influence in my life.

Joe was a great man and will be sadly missed.

Dan England, Class of 1977

Dan England - October 14, 2014 at 03:57 PM

PC

“ *GREAT GUY! Thank you Joe for all of the wonderful things you've done in your life to help kids and our community.*

A couple of years ago I was fishing off of Horton Beach at Devils Lake. This guy kept swimming toward my boat and I was about 1/4 of mile offshore in 16' of water. I was a little perturbed because, well, I was fishing and he was getting so close I could have hooked him and he was scaring my fish! Then up pops this head and this guys asks, "What are you fishing for?" As soon as I heard his voice, I knew who it was. I then laughed and told him crappie and pan fish. He nodded and said that he just wanted to know.

When we lived in Adrian, my Dad had painted the back porch and pulled the steps away so that no one would go on the wet paint. Joe came over to the house and was ready to head inside to visit my brothers when my Dad yelled out to him that he couldn't get in the back door. Joe said something like "not a problem" and proceeded to jump up onto the back porch in one leap. Yep, wet paint.

By all of the comments, the biggest thing Joe gave was himself and so many people have wonderful memories that they will carry throughout their lives. That's a magical thing to do.

God speed Joe.

Patricia Clark - October 14, 2014 at 03:48 PM

RL

“ I had the privilege to know and learn from Joe Pullen from 1967-1969. Although I never had him as a biology teacher, his love of the sciences was infectious. He left me with many memories while a member of the Adrian High School swim team as well. His wit and humor would always make you smile even under the most trying times as a teenager. I have thought of him often over the years and will miss him greatly. Rob Lerner



Rob Lerner - October 14, 2014 at 03:20 PM

CW

“ My dear Mr. Pullen has died. What a wacky and wonderful man he was. I had him for high school Biology, Biology II, and was his lab aide for 2 years in the late 70s. I learned a ton from him both in the classroom and on the trail. I hiked in the Smokies with him and Ron Smith and did a Quetico with Joe Pullen and John Shaw through the YMCA, along with 13 other hapless young lads. He is the only person I ever ran out of gas with, but of course he got out of the truck and pulled out the extra can of gas he always carried. Be prepared! Now, I have been teaching chemistry and physics myself for more than 20 years and I still love to tell bad jokes and make awful puns just like he did. I hope I can touch the lives of half as many people as Joe did in his life. Job well done and rest in peace my good, old beloved teacher. With love from Berlin, Germany...Chris Weiss, graduate of Adrian High School in 1981

Chris Weiss - October 14, 2014 at 01:37 PM

DM

“ I had Mr. Pulled for biology in the late '60's. I enjoyed his class so much. His great sense of humor and obvious love of his students has stayed with me through the years. I had hoped to run into him on visits back to Adrian. So sorry to his family and friends for your loss.

Debbie (Whitcher) Moerlins - October 14, 2014 at 12:40 PM

DK

“ Joe was a huge influence to so many students - myself included, and a great friend. He will be missed.

Dan Kane - October 14, 2014 at 12:25 PM

SP

“ Thank you Joe!

At age 61, I still vividly remember the three summers I participated in Joe's canoe trips to the boundary waters, beginning in 1967. Our first trip was 5 days on the water and by the third trip, we paddled 25 days... all the way to Atikokan, Canada and back, covering hundreds of miles of pristine wilderness. Joe helped this fat, nearsighted boy from a troubled environment grow into a clear thinking, physically fit young man. I can still recite the first two verses of the song "The life of a Voyageur" we sang often. Joe, you are the definition of character!

Sam Parlette

Phoenix, Arizona



Sam Parlette - October 14, 2014 at 11:20 AM



“ *It was great to know Joe and my heart goes out to his family and all who knew him. What an awesome guy he was! He'll be truly missed.*

Greg Emerson - October 14, 2014 at 11:07 AM

BB

“ *Joe, my brother Pete, and Ron Smith, and others were encouraged to join them on their annual trek to the Appalachians/Smokies for 40 consecutive years - hiking was onjly half the joy with a unique mix of personalities to share. What a wonderful commitment and friendship they shared dating back to teaching at AHS in the 60's. Joe's at home in heaven now and will no doubt continue his adventures RIP Joe !*

Bill Boudreau - October 14, 2014 at 10:58 AM

GH

Three truly great men, and teachers!

Greg Hoover - October 15, 2014 at 08:53 AM

MC

“ *I did not know Joe Pullen personally, but my daughter, Susan Cook Dilworth, always thouht of him with high respect as her very favorite (and fun) teacher. It's obvious this feeling was wide spread. What a fine, wonderful, and influential person those kids had "pullen" for them! I look forward to meeting him one day. Rest in Peace, Mr. Pullen, and thank you for all you gave. A Mom.*

Marilyn Cook - October 14, 2014 at 10:08 AM

MO

“ I had the privilege of knowing Joe for the past 30 or so years through canoe trips that he took out of Ely MN into Canada's Quetico Park. He had a genuine love for canoeing and camping in the Quetico, usually taking three (sometimes more) trips each summer through our family canoe outfitting business. Joe always had a big smile when he'd walk through our doors and was quick to share his trip experiences and memories with all of us. He will be sadly missed by the Olson Family and our employees!

Mark Olson - October 14, 2014 at 09:56 AM

AI

“ Mr Pullen, you taught me the most important lesson- be true to yourself and make no apologies for who you are.

aimee - October 14, 2014 at 08:27 AM

RH

“ 7 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Rick Harris - October 14, 2014 at 08:21 AM

DW

Great photos. Could you please email this photo to info@wagleyfuneralhome.com to include in his memorial DVD. Thank you

David Wagley - October 15, 2014 at 10:08 AM

RH

“ 3 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Rick Harris - October 14, 2014 at 08:01 AM

SA

“ *Few educators leave such a huge impression on their students as Mr. Pullen did. He had a passion for teaching, always challenged us and made learning fun, long before anyone else did. He spoke at the AHS Class of 1968 40th reunion a few years ago, recalling many funny and fun stories - he had us laughing. Mr. Pullen was tickled pink to be with his former students and we loved that he took the time to attend and share his memories with us. I am sorry he is gone but understand he died doing what he loved to do, hiking in the woods. You were an inspiration to all of us; I/we will miss and always remember you!*

Susan Arbaugh - October 14, 2014 at 07:53 AM

MS

“ *What a great teacher and friend was Joe! He student taught under my Dad, Bud Smith, and they shared a friendship over the years. My son then went on three canoe trips through Quetico Wilderness Area, the last two years ago. What an influence he had on my son! He will be sorely missed by all!*

Melissa Smith Stimson - October 14, 2014 at 07:42 AM

TR

“ I cannot think of AHS without including Mr. Pullen. I had him as a freshman and he always remembered me long after I graduated. He was a great teacher - who will ever forget the aquatic field trips, the classroom tank with the crayfish he would have hold his chalk (and break), or that taxidermied pike on the wall? He certainly left an impression! He will be missed.

Theresa Robideau - October 13, 2014 at 10:17 PM

MS

“ My thoughts are with you the family of Mr. Pullen. I took a summer field biology class with him and will NEVER forget all the knowledge and experience he shared with us that summer! Many memories were made during those weeks. When ever I am in a river or in lake Michigan I think of all the fun adventures he took us to! Thank you Mr. Pullen for all your wonderful knowledge and hope you are having fun with your dog (I remember when you brought him to Drager Middle school to educate us about the wolves in Michigan)

Megan Molter Smithburg - October 13, 2014 at 09:28 PM

DD

“ What an honor to work with such a competent, ethical, and dedicated teacher. He helped his students learn that science can be fun. RIP, Mr. Pullen Larry & Diane Deveau

Diane Deveau - October 13, 2014 at 09:14 PM

VW

“ I will always remember Joe when I was the manager at the Big Boy in Brooklyn. He would walk in with his arms full of news papers. He will be dearly missed by all. Vickie Webber

Vickie Webber - October 13, 2014 at 08:44 PM

TC

“ I remember bog-tromping in the marsh behind Bixby, our contests to see who could make the most bad puns, and identifying leaves for one of his exams. I miss you already.

Todd Crawford - October 13, 2014 at 08:41 PM

VH

“ I did not have the pleasure of having Joe Pullen as a teacher, but his lively presence observed on a daily basis! In the past 5 years I have seen him several times at the Brooklyn Big Boy. I have posted more than once a "Joe Pullen" sighting on a social network site. Last year I took the time to share with him that he had a big following and beloved by many! He was very humble about it. What a great fellow and inspiration!

Vicki Hall - October 13, 2014 at 08:21 PM

PD

“ Joe was such a big part of the lives of my family. He inspired many to go into science. My brothers and my son went on his canoe trips. He was my cross county and swimming coach. I still can't accept that I won't see him walking his dog, or volunteering at the quiet water symposium. On the very first earth day we did skits in the high school auditorium. One called for a scientist. I wore a white lab coat and walked that happy bouncing Pullen walk--because he was my model for a biologist. I'm grateful for the time we had with him, but so sad that he is gone.

Paul Davis - October 13, 2014 at 08:19 PM



“ *Fall Fantasia was purchased for the family of Joseph W. Pullen.*



October 13, 2014 at 08:08 PM



“ *Joe gave a piece of himself to everyone he met. Memories I have include a time we were canoeing down Bean Creak and we came around a bend with a swift current. Joe and I encountered a tree that had fallen across the river and we hit the tree and the canoe turned sideways in the current. The canoe flipped under the tree and we were hanging on to the tree. The tree was a huge thorn tree and I had climbed up and helped Joe up so we could walk off to the shore. It was like walking on a balance beam except we had to use the limbs to steady ourselves. We were soaked and very happy that we were okay. A few minutes later we started laughing because Joe had many thorns sticking out of his head. Needless to say we wore life jackets after that. It was a trip starting in my freshman year with Joe myself and John Hollenbeck that started at Devils Lake and ended with Joe and I my senior year. Joe never asked for anything and gave everything. I'll miss seeing him driving down the road in his truck and always recognizing me and waving as he drove by... Joe passed doing what he loved and being where he loved to be. You will be missed but never forgotten....*

John Clark - October 13, 2014 at 07:33 PM

JB

“ Joe was a mentor as well as a family friend to many. This picture depicts Joe at Burt Cebulski's home in Adrian. Burt and Joe, both biology instructors at Adrian High School, were an exceptional teaching team. Out of the classroom, Burt coached the Men's Cross Country team while Joe often, if not canoeing, served as the official for many home cross country races.



John Bauman - October 13, 2014 at 07:25 PM

JB

“ North Lake Quetico Provincial Park (1998). Joe was discussing with a pupil, as he often did near a campfire on canoe trips, both his favorite song and his favorite past presidents. If I remember correctly his favorite song was the 1812 Overture. Joe said when the cannons began to fire he would feel inspired. I can't recall that he favored either political party, yet he spoke fondly of both Roosevelts.



John Bauman - October 13, 2014 at 07:11 PM

JB

“ *Kawnipi Lake in Quetico Provincial Park, Ontario (1997). Allowed only a half-a-piece of bacon a month, as prescribed by his doctor, Joe eats his piece after a long journey to Kawnipi Lake. Joe stated that we traveled 13 miles as the crow flew, a trip which included several long portages.*



John Bauman - October 13, 2014 at 06:42 PM

JB

“ *1998 - Joe leading a small group of students with clipboard in hand. I hope this picture captures the motion of "Jumpin" Joe.*



John Bauman - October 13, 2014 at 06:29 PM

CW

“ *As a former Adrian High School student I remember seeing Mr. Pullen in the halls. I did not have him for Biology but classmates who did always had great things to say about him. I remember his smile, his love of the outdoors and recently hearing stories from classmates who went on those Boundary Water Trips - they still go on their own to this day! Thanks for being a wonderful teacher!*

Christine Collard Wagoner - October 13, 2014 at 06:21 PM

JB

“ This picture was taken near the DJ Angus, a research vessel from GVSU that Joe used as a tool to introduce summer field biology students to Limnology and lake monitoring. When finished with data collection he took his students to play on the sand dunes near Lake Michigan. Joe found very innovative ways to motivate students to be conscientious of human impacts on each other and the environment.



John Bauman - October 13, 2014 at 06:14 PM



“ I was a biology student my sophomore year and then his assistant my junior year. When I was in his biology class he gave us quizzes I think every day, there was always a bonus question. One particular bonus question was what happened to the tadpoles because a bunch of them were missing. Everyone answered that question Terry Frederick. He was puzzled as to why. Little did he know the day before someone had bet me a dollar for each one I ate. I ate 17 tadpoles that day. At along he thought it was a snake that had gotten out and ate them. After he found out the truth we all had a big laugh and everyone got that bonus point on the quiz. Mr Pullen was a fantastic teacher and I can say he influenced me a great deal. RIP Mr Pullen

Terry Frederick - October 13, 2014 at 06:07 PM

JB

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



John Bauman - October 13, 2014 at 06:01 PM

JC

“ *Teaching with Joe at AHS meant his smile, loping walk and good nature - always. I'll miss you, Joe.*

Janet Crawford

janet Crawford - October 13, 2014 at 04:30 PM

PG

*Mr. Pullen,
I remember the phrase that, "I'll be pullen for you." You were an outstanding educator. I always looked forward tp going to you your class. "King Phillip Comes Over for Good Supper" I know you will be at peace, but I will miss you.*

Paul Gotts - October 13, 2014 at 08:19 PM