



Maurice 'Maurie' Close

February 21, 1925 - July 28, 2014

ADRIAN – Maurice H. 'Maurie' Close, age 89 of Adrian passed away Monday, July 28, 2014, at his home under the loving care of his family.

He was born February 21, 1925 in Detroit, Michigan, the youngest child of Martin and Wilhelmina (Mann) Close.

After graduating from Redford Union High School, he attended Wayne State University, earning a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree in Education.

During World War II, he served as a medic in the United States Army.

On June 27, 1959, Maurice married Marilyn Casper, whom he met while teaching together in Redford Township, and they have celebrated 55 years together.

Maurie's love of children was evident in his work as a teacher, and later as principal in the Adrian Public Schools where he retired in 1985. He was a faithful member of St. John's Lutheran Church. He was a former member of the Lions Club, and served as president of Lenawee County Retired School Personnel. He was affectionately known as 'Moe' to his fellow golfers and friends.

In addition to his wife, Marilyn, he is survived by their sons, Michael (Kathy) Close of Boiling Springs, SC; and Mitchell Close of Manitou Beach; and ten grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three sisters and two brothers.

Memorial services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, August 8, 2014, at St. John's Lutheran Church with Rev. Joel Sarrault officiating. Visitation will take

place at the church from 10:00 a.m. until the service.

Contributions in memory of Maurie may be made to St. John's Lutheran Church or Hospice of Lenawee. Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagley Funeral Home where online condolences and memories may be shared at www.WagleyFuneralHome.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John's Lutheran Church
3448 North Adrian Highway
Adrian, MI

Service

AUG 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John's Lutheran Church
3448 North Adrian Highway
Adrian, MI

Tribute Wall



“ Maurice 'Maurie' Close

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ Maurie was a very special man. My sisters and I will never forget him. Met him shortly after he was dating Marilyn. As preteens, we would stand outside and tease them when they were going out on a date. This was when Marilyn was doing her student teaching at Fordson High School in Dearborn.

He was a very care no nonsense man who looked for the best in people. He had a warm wonderful sense of humor. I am thankful my twin sister and were able to spend time with both of them shortly before his health deteriorated. We had lunch; a tour of Adrian including family home sites not seen in years; sundaes & cones at their favorite spot; and time at their home catching up on family news, events and so forth. He will be dearly missed.

Sharon I. Lonskey - August 06, 2014 at 01:05 PM



“ It was my privilege and good fortune to have worked with Mr. Close for a number of years as a teacher in Adrian Public Schools. As has been stated, he loved what he did because he loved those children and the people who worked under him. It was also my honor to have his two boys in the Orchestra. I remember them as being responsive and polite and a joy to have in class. I attribute this to a father and mother who brought them up well. I last saw Mr. and Mrs. Close at a concert in the Adrian High School theater. He will be missed by this community. My condolences to his family.

Helene Bleecker - August 05, 2014 at 02:44 PM

KP

“ Many games of "Kings on the Corners" have been played in honor of Mr. Close! The Lighthall kids love to tell stories of how their principal would come over and play cards. I love this picture as it is exactly as I remember him. I also do the finger exercises with my students! Mr. Close will always be special to our family.
Kellie Lighthall Poli

Kellie Poli - July 31, 2014 at 01:17 PM

TR

“ "Maurie" was very special to our family as he was principal at Alexander School for my sister as well as our sons. He always remembered you when he ran into you out in the community and he will be sorely missed by all he came in contact with. Tom and Sandie Ray

Tom & Sandie Ray - July 31, 2014 at 09:34 AM

DM

“ The Meyers Family-Paul, Diane, Lisa and Mike- have many fond memories of Mr. Close and Alexander School in the late 70's and 80's.

Our deepest sympathy.

Diane Meyers - July 30, 2014 at 06:55 PM

AF

“ Mr. Close was my principal at Alexander. I will never forget how he always said "Use your grey matter". He was a very kind man and I have lots of fond memories. So sorry for to hear of his passing.

*Anna Falor(Wilson)
Class of 1982 Adrian High School*

anna falor - July 30, 2014 at 06:24 PM

CJ

“ When I first came to adrian backn in to 70's Mr. Close was my first principal at Alexander. He went out of his way to make me feel included and welcome. Thirty plus yrs later I ran into him at a loc as I store. Without introducing myself he came up and with a big smile said "Charlie!! How are you how have you been?", after so many yrs that brings a smile to me even today. He was a good man who positively impacted those who had the pleasure to meet him. He will be missed..

Charles E.Henry jr. - July 30, 2014 at 12:07 PM

MS

“ Mr. Close was my principle at Alexander. He was so kind and patient. He was the perfect man at a very imperfect time in my life. I was so scared and Mr. Close was that quiet, calm, kind guide. It's been 30 years but, even if it were 100, I could never forget all he did for me. He is missed. I am really and truly sorry for your loss. Thanks for sharing him with us.



michelle shaffer - July 30, 2014 at 10:12 AM

Amy Slupe

“ I have so many wonderful memories of Mr. Close. I loved seeing his smile in Alexander's halls. He was always cheerful, always positive, always so full of joy. He was a great source of comfort to me there. As an adult, I often saw him around town. He was usually with my former Alexander teachers, Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Smith, and Mrs. Arbaugh. What a powerful testimony to him as a leader and a friend that the relationships formed at the school had remained strong decades later. I'm so very grateful for his example. He was a great blessing.

Amy Slupe - July 29, 2014 at 09:07 PM

JH

“ Mr. Close was my principal at Alexander elementary. He was a very kind and caring man who always encouraged us to use our "Grey Matter". I feel truly blessed for having known him.

Jim Hargrave

Jim Hargrave - July 29, 2014 at 07:13 PM

KC

“ Marilyn, Mike and Mitch,

I'm so sorry for your loss.

I have a lot of great memories of Mr. Close. My first memories are professional. It was somewhere around 1969, I was going into the 4th grade at Alexander Elementary and we were getting a new principal. It just seemed like our school felt younger and friendlier when he arrived. The first thing I remember is he changed an old policy and finally let the girls wear pants to school. (Although it would be a couple years before my mom let me wear jeans!)

Next are the personal memories. Our families became friends and we spent a lot of time back and forth at each other's places. We swam a lot and we played a lot of competitive card games. Oh did we laugh a great deal during those games. To this day, every time the Lighthall's get together to play cards we pay tribute by sharing our favorite Maurie card story.

May you be reminded of all the laughs and good times during this difficult season.

Kim Lighthall Coley

Kim Coley - July 29, 2014 at 07:10 PM



“ *Mr. Close was my elementary principle thirty years ago. I've always thought about him through the years and love telling my kids stories of how my principle also served as our gym teacher. At the end of class he would have us do these finger exercises that out of habit I still do to this day. A wonderful man he was, my thoughts are with his family.*

Megan Thompson - July 29, 2014 at 05:38 PM

BN

“ *Mr. Close was my principal at Alexander Elementary School. I remember him as a great leader and a fair man. He will be missed. Rest in peace, Mr. Close.*

Barry Nofzinger - July 29, 2014 at 03:59 PM

KL

“ *To Marilyn, Mike, Mitch and families. So sorry to hear of Maurie's passing. When the Lord calls our loved ones home, he leaves a gift of memories in exchange. We have a lot of memories when our families would get together, especially playing "Hearts." God Bless!*

Ken and Joan Lighthall - July 29, 2014 at 03:54 PM

TO

“ *Very sorry for your loss. I remember Mr. Close from Prairie Elementary. He was very funny and sincere. I remember when he would begin gym class he would tell us to put our pointer fingers in the air and would do a 3 part finger exercise. 1-2-3 1-2-3.....I work with kids today and carry on the same silly bit. Always good for a laugh.*

Tonie - July 29, 2014 at 03:13 PM

BB

“Marilyn, Michael, and Mitch, please accept my sincere condolences on the passing of Maury. He was my first principal and the person who hired me into Alexander. There was no one who cared more for the children or staff than he did. He will be missed.

Bill Barss

Bill Barss - July 29, 2014 at 02:40 PM