



## Stanley Paul Caine

February 11, 1940 - December 29, 2025

ADRIAN- Stanley Paul Caine died on December 29, 2025 at the age of 85 after living with Parkinson's Disease and Lewy Body Dementia for the past 6 years. Stan was born on February 11, 1940 in Huron, South Dakota to L. Vernon and Elizabeth Caine. His family lived in DeSmet, South Dakota. He enjoyed his childhood with two older brothers Clifford and Alan.

His life path reads as a journey through small colleges. He grew up on the Jamestown, Macalester, Illinois College campuses. He returned to Macalester for undergraduate school, earning a BA in History. After a stop at University of Wisconsin for his Ph.D., where he studied American History and published a book, *The Myth of the Progressive Era*, he continued his teaching career at Lindenwood Colleges and Depauw University. As a professor, he loved to engage students in discussions around the social and economic history of the early 20th century. He transitioned from teaching to administration at Hanover College serving as Vice President of Academic Affairs. He finished his career serving as the President of Adrian College for 16 years. After retiring, he served Wilmington, North Carolina Wesleyan and Centenary Colleges in continuing their missions. He was proud of his time serving as a member of numerous NCAA and North Central Accreditation committees, as well as the National Humanities Faculty, which allowed him to connect with educators across the country.

Throughout his career, Stan valued connections with the people in his community. He loved to get to know students and colleagues, learning what made them tick. He kept a candy dish in his office to encourage people to stop by for a “How are things?” conversation. You could always find him sitting in the stands at sporting events hoping to catch up with students and faculty. He was proud of the physical improvements he was able to make at Adrian College, but even more, the connections to people and projects that improved the lives of others, particularly underserved communities. He believed that educated persons had an obligation to be leaders in the never-ending pursuit of a better world.

In retirement, Stan remained an active part of the Adrian community. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Adrian and served on several nonprofit boards. Throughout his lifetime, he had a great love for watching and participating in sports, including his primary interests-tennis and golf. He spent many hours on the tennis courts and golf course with friends and family, as well as walking various paths in the community.

The most important relationship of his life began in 1960 when he met the woman with whom he would journey through life at Macalester College. Stan and Karen (Mickelson) Caine married in 1964 in Crookston, MN. They were a formidable team, raising three children, playing winning tennis, traveling, representing colleges, and serving the community. Stan found great joy in celebrating Karen’s accomplishments as she celebrated his. He also found satisfaction in watching his children and grandchildren find their own paths through life, providing support and advice where needed.

In addition to his wife, Karen, Stanley is survived by his daughter Rebecca and her three children Aaron, Joshua, and Rachel; his daughter Kathryn along with her husband Kirt and their three children Kayleigh (Sydney), Cameron and McKenna; and his son David along with his wife Brittany and their two

children Miles (Annalee) and Peter. He will be remembered by those who love him for his quick wit, his introspective thinking, and his love of storytelling.

On Saturday, January 17, 2026, family will receive friends at 1:00 PM at the First United Methodist Church in Adrian. A memorial service will begin at 2:00 PM with Rev. Alice Ford officiating.

In lieu of flowers the family requests contributions for the following organizations: Lenawee Community Foundation, Lenawee County Educational Foundation and the Adrian First United Methodist Church

Online condolences and memories may be shared at [www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com](http://www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

JAN 17. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church  
1245 West Maple Ave  
Adrian, MI 49221

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## Memorial Service

JAN 17. 2:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church  
1245 West Maple Avenue  
Adrian, MI

# Tribute Wall

TE

“ I had been thinking about Stan and you and your young family lately (I was remembering the tennis courts at DePauw and Stan's advice to "win with form" when you were having trouble winning, so I googled Stan and found this notice. To discover Stan's loss this way is to discover the loss of a good man. Good luck to all of you carrying on his fine tradition. Tom Emery, DePauw University

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**Tom Emery** - February 11 at 04:10 PM

AG

“ I was so sorry to hear of Stan's illness and passing. He and your family have been valued friends to me and my family, especially to Dick's and my Dad, Beano, for many years. My most sincere condolences to all of you. Ann Selby Goodman

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**Ann Selby Goodman** - January 21 at 01:05 PM

“ I met Stan when the college brought him in to be interviewed by the presidential search committee. He struck me then (as he did ever after) as thoughtful, intelligent, and kind. As the other candidates fell away in that search, I believe it was clear to all of us on the committee that there simply wasn't a better person. And when we brought him to campus, I was very impressed with his ability to respectfully listen to everyone and meet each moment with integrity. He never failed to impress me during his time at the college.

*For instance, when several African American students--who had been harassed on campus, and who had rightly seen that the college needed to do more to address various inequities--staged a sit-in in the administration building, Stan actually ordered pizza for them and sat down to hear them out.*

*Indeed, Stan would always make an extra effort to enrich the life of someone else.*

*When the college decided to award an honorary degree to Mildred Benson, who wrote many of the Nancy Drew books under the pen name of Carolyn Keene, he called me.*

*“Did you read Nancy Drew books as a child?” He asked.*

*“I sure did,” I said.*

*“Then I have a treat for you!”*

*It was a treat for me to make the presentation—I will remember it forever. And Stan made that moment happen, just as he did for countless others.*

*I taught in the English Department at Adrian College for 38 years, and Stan will forever remain one of my favorite people from that experience. After he retired, I truly missed him, so I was glad he stayed in the area, and I was able to see him and Karen in the community. He never missed an opportunity to share a memory or bring something to my attention that he thought I would appreciate. And I suspect he was this way with everyone. I will remember him*

*fondly forever, and I hope Karen and the rest of the family take some comfort in his joyful legacy.*

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**Beth Johnstone Myers** - January 17 at 07:44 AM

WS

“ *Dr. Caine is a caring, humble educated sympathetic man. Over social events, I had the honor to discuss different worlds issues. With care and sympathy, he talked, discussed and understand culture , history, and heritage. politics is a transient state that one day will melt away ,and what will be left is the truth, he pointed. I loved this Man. Our sympathy goes to his family. May his memories always bring a smile.*

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**Wafa sader** - January 11 at 10:43 AM

AA

“ *Adrian College Athletics purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Stanley Paul Caine.*



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**Adrian College Athletics** - January 08 at 10:42 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Stanley Paul Caine.*



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January 07 at 01:24 PM

NU

“ On behalf of North Carolina Wesleyan University, we extend our deepest condolences to the Caine family. We are grateful for Dr. Caine's leadership and service, and we hold each of you in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

North Carolina Wesleyan University - January 07 at 10:49 AM

JB

“ Prayers for Stanley's family in their time of grief and in appreciation for his service to Wilmington College. From Brent Bill, chairman of the board of trustees of Wilmington College.

J. Brent and Donna Bill - January 05 at 01:44 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Stanley Paul Caine.



January 05 at 10:36 AM



“ An amazing man.  
He was a role model to me of what a person should be to make this World a better place.  
I'll miss him.

Craig Weatherby - January 03 at 06:12 PM

KW

“ Under Dr. Stanley Caine's leadership, Adrian College became a second home to a group of students from Detroit's David Mackenzie High School. On behalf of the participants of the ASPIRES Program, we would like to thank Dr. Caine for his caring, vision, and support of these Detroit-area students.

*Kevin L. Williams*



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**Kevin Lamont Williams** - January 03 at 01:51 PM

KV

*He was so proud of this program and the students in it! Thank you so much for commenting. I am one of his daughters, and cannot tell you how many times he mentioned the ASPIRES students over the years!*

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**Kathryn VanOveren** - January 04 at 08:26 PM



“ Stan was a gentleman's gentleman - thoughtful, deliberate, and compassionate. His understanding of the role of higher education in civic life was powerful and profound, and he excelled in the application of lessons from U. S. history to public leadership. Personally, he was very kind to me, and I am grateful that I was able to serve with him. Stan left a deep and consistent legacy.

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**Chris Momany** - January 03 at 08:49 AM

WC

“ I was truly saddened when I heard about the passing of my good friend and former patient, Dr. Stan Caine. He served as Adrian's President when I served on the Board of Trustees. In 1995, while I was volunteering my dental services in Brazil, he sent an e-mail to me asking if I would be the Commencement Speaker for their upcoming graduation ceremonies. I was humbled by his request and truly moved by him then awarding me an Honorary Doctorate that year. We miss you, Stan, but the memories we have of you will be a reminder to all of us as to what a wonderful and loving person you were to so many.

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**WILLIAM Robert Chase** - January 02 at 02:30 PM

SK

“ Mrs. Caine, I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Dr. Caine. My father, Gaylord Baker, thought the world of your husband and valued their friendship and professional associations. May he rest in peace now, free from pain.

*Sarah Baker Korth*

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**Sarah Korth** - January 02 at 12:50 PM

AP

“ I was saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Caine. I have always held him in the highest regard. I was privileged to serve on the Adrian College Board of Trustees during part of his tenure as President of the college. I was also honored to receive an Honorary Doctorate Degree from him in 2000. Stan was a humble man of great intelligence, deep faith, and strong commitment to the values of Adrian College. He will be missed, but his legacy will live on in the lives of the many people he nurtured along the way. My thoughts and prayers will be with Karen and the family in the days ahead.

*Reverend Doctor A. Edward Perkins*

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**A. Edward Perkins** - January 02 at 12:33 PM

PB

“ I am sorry to hear about Dr. Caine's passing. He was an incredible mentor to me and many others. His patience and concern for other's well-being was always apparent. Stan was patient and generous with his time. He will be missed.

*Pam Boersig*

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**Pam Boersig** - January 02 at 09:31 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Stanley Paul Caine.



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January 02 at 09:09 AM

JF

“ Karen, so sorry to hear of Stan’s passing. Our sincere condolences . Gary and Jan Fox.

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**Jan Fox** - January 02 at 08:54 AM

CL

“ Oh, Karen, I’m so sorry for your loss. I pray the peace of our Heavenly Father comforts you. I know you have many wonderful memories to keep Stan alive in your heart. My sincere condolences.

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**Charlene Linderman** - December 31, 2025 at 08:54 PM