



Terry Sheesley

November 28, 1942 - July 14, 2019

Terry Sheesley, 76, of Oskaloosa died peacefully on Sunday, July 14th, 2019, at Northern Mahaska Specialty Care Center after a lengthy battle with Parkinson's disease.

He was born on November 28th, 1942, in Oskaloosa, Iowa, the son of Max and Marjorie (Zach) Sheesley. Terry graduated from Oskaloosa High School in 1961. Following graduation, he attended Eastern New Mexico University twice for several degrees and graduated from Northern Missouri State University. Upon returning to Oskaloosa, he married Connie Ray and would have celebrated 51 years of marriage in August.

Terry was a respected teacher at Oskaloosa High School for 34 years, taking his profession very seriously as well as a privilege, leading many students over the years through his creative and knowledgeable methods.

He earned many honors and awards during his early years. He distinguished himself at the state level as a young golfer himself and also as a coach. In addition to Terry himself being an outstanding athlete, he instilled that dream into many young adults over the years. He was also a celebrated coach for 16 years for both basketball and golf, taking his golf teams to 11 Conference Titles, six teams to state, winning the 4A State title twice, and one team finishing 2nd once. Terry received a high honor by being elected to the Iowa High School Coaches Hall of Fame in 2012 for his golfing career.

In addition to his enthusiasm for sports, Terry loved to read and write. He composed all of his research papers for his degrees on his manual Smith-Corona Typewriter, and he enjoyed using it long past the advent of computers. He cherished his ability to express himself through the written word, and even after his illness began taking its toll, Terry continued to practice his writing skills. For three seasons, Terry mowed at Forest Cemetery. During that time, he became interested in the history of some of the people buried there, taking the time to research their lives and write a book.

He is survived by his wife, Connie, and his younger brother, Rob Sheesley of Des Moines, a sister and brother-in-law, Patt and Pete Bennett of Arizona, several cousins, as well as many multigenerational nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his beloved 7-year-old great niece, Alexandria "Lexie" Gaston, to Osteogenic Sarcoma (bone cancer) in 2000.

Terry and Connie have attended the Nazarene Church for over 40 years. It was his faith that gave him the quiet courage that carried him through the years that he endured Parkinson's Disease. He will be greatly missed and was loved and respected by many.

A Celebration of Life Service will held at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, July 18, 2019, at the Gateway Church of the Nazarene with Rev. Darren Melton officiating. Private burial will be in Forest Cemetery before the Celebration of Life Service. Open visitation will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday at Langkamp Funeral Chapel. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, any contributions can be directed to the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital in Iowa City, Iowa, in memory of Alexandria Gaston and Terry Sheesley.

Cemetery Details

Forest Cemetery

934 North 9th ST
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
secretary@forestcemetery.com
<http://www.forestcemetery.org/>

Previous Events

Open Visitation

JUL 17. 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory
2116 N 3rd St
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
(641) 672-2181
langkampfuneralchapel@gmail.com
<https://www.langkampfuneralchapel.com>

Celebration of Life

JUL 18. 10:30 AM (CT)

Gateway Church of the Nazarene
140 Gateway Dr.
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
info@oskynaz.org
<https://gatewaynazarene.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ Terry Sheesley

October 05, 2023 at 11:57 PM



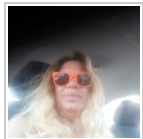
“ Terry was my most respected teacher in high school. History was traditionally my most boring subject . He made it exciting by encouraging documents of that time . To this day I can still recall. Also he showed individual interest in students and encouraged singularity. A sincere and dedicated person and a good example . Until we meet on the other side my friend in the Lord JESUS Christ .

paul Wilson - June 30, 2021 at 01:43 PM



“ Just learned of Terry's passing. I knew him through 4 years of high school. He was a quiet and talented man. We had a wonderful conversation at the 50th. class reunion. We shared experiences from our combined 74 years of teaching and how we both enjoyed them! My condolences. Steve Kennedy-Class of 61

Steve Kennedy - September 30, 2019 at 11:07 AM



“ Connie we are so sorry for your loss. May peace be upon you
Bob & Lorrie (Kirby) Dalton



Lorrie Dalton - July 25, 2019 at 05:44 AM

DO

“*Connie, I'm so sorry for your loss. Believe me when I say Terry was a excellent teacher and coach and his fella teachers, students and athletes spoke very highly of him. He will be missed by many of us. He was serious about any task he took on, and It spoke loud and clear about how he felt about life. You are in my thoughts and prayers. RIP Mr. Sheesley. Former OHS VP (Doug)*



Doug - July 22, 2019 at 01:22 PM

GA

“*Connie, I'm so sorry for your loss. May God's love surround you and bring you peace. I had Terry for a teacher, I remember reading Fahrenheit 451, him borrowing and bringing a thousand dollar bill from the bank to show the class, and how long it took him to fill out a hall pass. He was a very particular man, and he was was strict but fair, and had his own sense of humor. He will be remembered by many.*



Ginger Allsup - July 19, 2019 at 02:29 AM



“*Robert Morrison sent a virtual gift in memory of Terry Sheesley*



Robert Morrison - July 17, 2019 at 10:57 PM

MH

“ We are sorry for your terrible loss, Auntie, but rejoice at his gain of heavenly treasures! Uncle Terry leaves a legacy that only a gifted teacher, coach, and mentor can as is made clear by all the tributes from former students . Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Melissa Hodges - July 17, 2019 at 10:34 PM

KB

“ Mr. Sheesley was a patient, kind, gentle and understanding teacher. He genuinely cared for his students and was great about helping students learn in the way they did best. He made learning history fun. I will always remember his precise handwriting, and thought it spoke volumes about the care he took in other aspects of his life and teaching career. The sign I remember most was "What if History was really Her-story" and how it made me stop and think that perspective is different for everyone. You are in my thoughts and prayers Connie. Heaven gained a beautiful, gentle soul!

Katie Beerbower - July 17, 2019 at 12:19 PM

TS

“ We send love and prayers to you Connie. So sorry for your loss. Terry was my first basketball coach in 4th grade. Later, he was my favorite teacher. Two of things that are still a part of my life today. He impacted many lives in a positive way, he will be missed!

Travis Stout - July 16, 2019 at 08:45 PM

MC

Connie, We are so sorry to hear of Terry's passing. He was always friendly, kind and gentle and great conversationalist!! Sending hugs to you and family

Mike and Shirley Collison - July 16, 2019 at 11:15 PM

GG

“ Sending Hugs to you Connie at your time of loss. Praying for you and your family. The impact he made on others through his teaching, athletics and commitment to the Lord, he will be missed by many in the community.

Gladys Genskow - July 16, 2019 at 08:31 PM

DS

“ I could share many stories of time we spent together. He will be missed .

Don Swim - July 16, 2019 at 05:41 PM

JM

“ One of my favorite teachers ever. May God bless you when yours. Hugs and love from Jane Moe

jane dykstra moe - July 16, 2019 at 01:14 PM

CH

“ Former students have said it all. I think I can speak for the class of '72, he was our favorite too! I'm holding you close to my heart, Connie, and sending love.

Carla Hicklin - July 16, 2019 at 11:50 AM

CH

“ I remember his perfect handwriting in red block letters! He took his time writing as well, teaching. Making sure we all knew the lesson. RIP and prayers to the family.

Cara Heaton - July 16, 2019 at 11:21 AM

JW

“ Terry left a legacy with his years in education and the impact he had on students. I was class of 68 and I was grateful for the help he gave me. RIP

Jill Van Weelden - July 16, 2019 at 08:14 AM

DI

“ RIP Mr. Sheesley. Best teacher ever.

Diana - July 16, 2019 at 07:56 AM

KK

“ What can I say that everyone else hasn't already said? 😊
The man was creative, intelligent, genuine, and a fantastic educator. He taught in a way that none of the others did. We actually learned and remembered history.

I reached out to him after moving to AZ to attend college.

I knew he would offer THE best advice. I still have his typed letters and he inspired me to acquire a typewriter (I type all letters on a typewriter)

It's a dying art...

He was the epitome of what we all strive to be-memorable and to make a positive impact on everyone we encounter. He succeeded in that.

Rest In Peace, Mr. Sheesley

kat kalbach - July 16, 2019 at 07:19 AM

JW

“ Mr. Sheesley was an amazing teacher. I graduated in 1998. I took every elective course he taught because he was funny, interesting, and unpredictable at times (all good). I did not enjoy high school, but I enjoyed Mr. Sheesley's creativity and passion for the subjects he taught. I especially loved his Vietnam class. His handwriting was unique and easy to read. Terry's wall in his classroom was covered with all sorts of interesting things to look at. I believe he had some life size cut outs of interesting characters in his classroom. I think he had some puppets too. Terry used to pass around clippings or mailings from historical events he had collected over the years (immaculate condition). He had a record player in his classroom. I remember him playing John Denver, "Rocky Mountain High" after Denver had his plain crash. I was terribly shy in high school. I regret never telling Mr. Sheesley what a great teacher he was and his class (es) were a bright spot during my high school years. He is an inspiration to anyone who has crossed his path. God Bless.

Jessica L. Walker - July 15, 2019 at 11:32 PM

MS

“ When I was 18 years old Terry would pick me up at 6 o'clock in the morning on Friday mornings in the summer. He would take me to golf courses in little tiny towns. I soon realized that he was picking these courses based on the ice cream shops in the towns. No matter how hot it was we always walked our round of golf. This is my best memory of Terry... and the ice cream was awesome! Thanks Terry.

Matt Sherlock - July 15, 2019 at 10:51 PM

LR

“ *Mr. Sheesley was one of my favorite teachers. I loved his dry sense of humor, and he was always calm and patient. He was so interesting and I loved spending time in his class. I will always remember him as a truly inspiring teacher who cared deeply about each student. He will be deeply missed. My deepest sympathies, Connie. You have taken such wonderful care of him. Prayers and blessings to you!*

*Lynne Rogers
Class of '71*

Lynette Rogers - July 15, 2019 at 10:31 PM



“ *I had classes with Mr. Sheesley in the late 80s and he was one of my favorite teachers, not just for the knowledge he was passing on, but the humorous congenial nature in which he taught. I don't have a great recollection of many teachers I had during that time (because I was probably such a bad student), but Mr. Sheesley had an impact on my life. He will be missed by me, and those students who will no longer be able to take his classes. Thank you for the positive influence you had on my life, Mr. Sheesley. Even if part of it was your great dry sense of humor!*

Jonathan Wolgamuth - July 15, 2019 at 09:56 PM

 **Rocker
Welsh**

“ *One of my all time favorite teachers! RIP Mr. Sheesley. Thanks for all the lives you touched. God Bless.*

Rocker Welsh - July 15, 2019 at 08:47 PM

AM

“ 4 files added to the album Uncle Terry



Ashleigh McGill - July 15, 2019 at 08:19 PM

LS

“ *Lois (Kelderman) Scott*

An educator of unlimited knowledge and grace. A master of pedagogy who captivated students with the task to be not only competent in his subject but develop curiosity and passion as well. And then seared into my memory is his epic penmanship. RIP Class of '75

Lois (Kelderman) Scott - July 15, 2019 at 07:59 PM



“ *One of the best teachers I ever had. Very influential, inspiring...his Vietnam class was an eye opener. Prayers and condolences to the family 🙏🙏🙏*

Amy Walker - July 15, 2019 at 07:50 PM

CJ

“ Mr Sheesley was a wonderful teacher. I asked to come play on the golf team my senior year. He said, "Come on and enjoy the game." I learned a great deal during that season. Thanks Mr. Sheesley for being who you were to us all.

cliff jones - July 15, 2019 at 07:27 PM

J7

“ Mr. Sheesly was a class act. Always felt he was a mentor not just a teacher . He will be missed!

Jim Ide class of 70 - July 15, 2019 at 07:24 PM

TB

“ He was One of those teachers 🧑🏫 that had such an impact on us, he loved teaching history and made it fun. I always enjoyed going to his class. I am grateful and blessed to have met him. Tammy Backen Class of 1990

Tammy Backen - July 15, 2019 at 06:55 PM

DS

“ Mr. Sheesley...what can I say?? You inspired your students and athletes to think for themselves, to look and think from different perspectives. Lessons that are so very important. I count myself very lucky to have had you as a beloved teacher, and obviously hundreds of others did also. I have visited you the last several summers. You recognized me 4 years, the last time, and even remembered my name. Unbelievable!! Thank you for all your gifts that you shared with so many of us.
Debbie Eckerman Slack



Debbie Eckerman Slack - July 15, 2019 at 06:53 PM

BL

“ I knew who Terry Sheesley was when I was in High School. I remember kids talking about what a good teacher he was but it didn't work out for me to take a class from him. As a senior, I was on the first Osky girls' golf team that he started and coached. He made me feel comfortable playing. Later I met his wife when I began teaching in the spring of 1973; she and I became fast friends. Over the years there were many occasions to hear 'Terry stories' and to spend time with both Connie and Terry. I always heard from his former students and people in the community just what a great person Terry was and I saw it for myself, over and over again. The most touching example of this for me is when my Dad was older and had been through 3 heart surgeries. Terry made it a point to contact my Dad, pick him up and take him to the golf course, play a round with him or hit balls on the driving range. This went on for several years up to and including the month my Dad died. My Dad had a nickname for him that suits him perfectly..... Champ. Connie... we will carry on!

Barb Sunstrum Lindenmayer

Barb S Lindenmayer - July 15, 2019 at 06:50 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Terry Sheesley.



July 15, 2019 at 06:49 PM

JP

“ *Mr. Sheesley was one of my favorite and most interesting teachers I ever had. He was a special man and will certainly be missed. Thank you for being you, Mr. Sheesley.*
-Josh Petersen, Class of '94

Josh Petersen - July 15, 2019 at 06:26 PM



“ *Sherry Vogt lit a candle in memory of Terry Sheesley*



Sherry Vogt - July 15, 2019 at 06:20 PM



prayers out to Connie, and family....mike , jeff, laura....I had Terry in the 80's and he taught the 1960's class---I learned a lot from him , he had the smallest neatest hand writing I have ever seen in my life....he was laiid back and never in a big hurry....he was a very intelligent man....he was a great teacher....and he was married to my 4th grade sunday school teacher...Connie one of the most beautiful ladies ever....so sorry for your loss Connie....

Sherry Vogt - July 15, 2019 at 06:22 PM

MD

“ *What a legacy you were Terry to all the lives you touched? I'm honored to have got to spend some meaningful time with you! Rest in peace Terry, love you!*

Melody DeHeer - July 15, 2019 at 05:54 PM

JK

“ *What a great man. Loved his classes.
class of 90*

Jeff Kelderman - July 15, 2019 at 05:12 PM

RU

“ *He was the main individual who lit the fire for my learning of history. He did not make his students feel bad when they asked "stupid questions". His philosophy was that the only "stupid question" is the one you didn't ask. I have taken that philosophy from the late '70s and taught it to my kids and to many coworkers and friends. He was also a great basketball coach. Him and Heiting made practices fun but they were hard. He will be greatly missed on earth but heaven has gained one outstanding individual.*

Robert Umsted - July 15, 2019 at 04:48 PM

 Jean
Morris

“ *This teacher was phenomenal. Mr Sheesley purposefully receded into the background so that his students could develop their minds and actively learn to express their ideas. He had a grasp of the learning process that elevated his teaching from a skill to an art. My friends and I all enrolled in his classes whenever possible because we knew it was a privilege to be in his classroom. He leaves a great and expansive legacy.*

Jean Morris - July 15, 2019 at 04:33 PM

LS

*An educator of unlimited knowledge and grace. A master of pedagogy who captivated students with the task to be not only competent in his subject but develop curiosity and passion as well. And then seared into my memory is his epic penmanship. RIP
Class of '75*

Lois (Kelderman) Scott - July 15, 2019 at 06:53 PM

DH

“ Dean And Pat Hasselman lit a candle in memory of Terry Sheesley



Dean and Pat Hasselman - July 15, 2019 at 04:23 PM

JD

“ By far my favorite teacher and got to know Mr. Sheesley even better as my golf coach during our state championship run of 1985! I took a lot of his lessons in life and incorporated them into who I am today. Great teacher, coach and Gentleman. I always remembered sitting in his classroom and he had a sign covering the clock so you could only tell the time at a certain angle. It said “Time passes..will you ?” Time indeed passes...faster than we want at times. You touched many lives Mr. Sheesley. Thank you!

Jim Dundon - July 15, 2019 at 04:15 PM

JL

“ Connie, Thoughts and prayers are with you now and in the days to come. 🙏
Judy & Larry Lewis



Judy & Larry Lewis - July 15, 2019 at 03:39 PM

CV

“ *Cliff & Leilani VandeWall lit a candle in memory of Terry Sheesley*



Cliff & Leilani VandeWall - July 15, 2019 at 03:33 PM

SS

“ *To Connie and family,
Dan and I extend our sincere sympathy to you and your family for the passing of Terry.
We were in school at the same time in Oskaloosa.
May he be at peace.*

Dan and Susan Sarver

susan sarver - July 15, 2019 at 03:25 PM

BJ

“ *Mr. Sheesley was one of the wonderful teachers I had while attending Oskaloosa High School in the 1990s. Thank you for your dedication to me and the other students you taught over your distinguished career!*

Brett Johnson

Brett Johnson - July 15, 2019 at 03:24 PM

TL

“ Terry Sheesley, rejoice in the Father's presence!! You were an awesome teacher and loved by many students!! Thanks for the memories!! Your education legacy continues in those you inspired!! Still watching 60 Minutes, Shees, and I don't even need an extra credit point for doing it!!



Trisha Lenarz-Garmoe - July 15, 2019 at 03:18 PM

LB



laura bennett - July 15, 2019 at 06:25 PM



“ Mr. Sheesley did a fantastic job of dealing with the sarcastic and often rude tones of my youth and countless others. He embraced our nuances and often times confronted us with the same behavior we displayed. His encouragement and support for uniqueness within the divers population is something to this day I remember fondly and often think about. Frame of Reference and Point of View are 2 points that he was able to leave as lasting memories in my head that I think of today.....well that and his painstakingly time to print on the chalkboard.

I was glad to run into him at HyVee a few years back, and let him know I didn't die a junkie, and he is probably one of the reasons why. His faith in everyone he taught and his concern in all he met is something that I still hone to display, I always feel I fail, but I appreciate all you did for me, and am saddened by this news.

Jack Lowe - July 15, 2019 at 02:45 PM

RM

My favorite teacher in high school. Learn a lot from him about history. Took about as much classes from him that I could. Great teacher and good friend. God bless his memory. Connie bless you t this time. god bless.

ROBERT MORRISON - July 17, 2019 at 10:53 PM

DM

In my first-year Ed Psych class at William Penn, the professor asked everyone in the class to write a paper (handwritten) about our favorite teacher. When I heard of Mr. Sheesley's passing, my mind went immediately to that assignment because he was the subject of the paper I wrote. In fact, I still have that paper and dug through a scrapbook to re-read it. The paper was not memorable, but Terry certainly was. He was and is the best teacher I ever had and he inspired me to think beyond the boundaries! Thank you Mr. Sheesley for investing in my life and in the lives of thousands of others. Oh, and thanks also, Coach, for awarding me an athletic letter, which I probably didn't earn, for my participation on the golf team. I will not forget your kindness.

Don Morrison '71

Donald Morrison - July 18, 2019 at 09:54 AM

BD

What a joy it is to read all these kind posts! I graduated in '92 and I felt such a great connection to him! I always looked forward to his classes...they could be unconventional, he might prefer non-conformist!

To see that he was making that same mark on folks for decades...Wow!

*Why not be a teacher? If I was, who would know it?
You; your pupils; your friends; God. Not a bad public, that.*

That is stolen from a Man for All Seasons. But when I read those stories of him as a coach...a Man for All Seasons seems about right!

Rest In Peace!

Bill Donelson - July 20, 2019 at 01:10 AM