



Michael Dean Hadley

October 3, 1948 - January 15, 2020

Michael Dean Hadley was born to Dr. Alonzo L. Hadley and Hattie Evelyn Cunningham at Williamsport, IN Community Hospital on October 03, 1948. He left this earthly existence on January 15, 2020.

In 1957, the family moved to Dowagiac, MI where his father opened a Chiropractic Office. Mike attended Dowagiac Union Schools to Graduation in 1967. After High School, he enrolled in Southwestern Michigan College where he studied for two years in the sciences and met the pretty young lady who was to become his life mate, his soulmate for the entirety of his life – Judy Ann Weber. She worked in the College library AND sold AMWAY products. This caused two things to happen: he never spent more time in the library “studying” and he had enough AMWAY products to start a dealership. They both transferred to WMU in the fall of 1969, married in August of 1970 and graduated from WMU in 1971 both with teaching degrees. Their “student teaching”, as it was known at the time, was in Vicksburg Community Schools.

Judy was able to get her teaching job very quickly in her hometown of Edwardsburg and they rented a home there. Mike’s teaching assignment came just a week and a half before the fall start and it was in Coldwater teaching biology, replacing a teacher on sabbatical. It was 60 miles from the front door in Edwardsburg to the front door of the HS in Coldwater. He always remarked that his Plymouth Fury made good time and thankfully the police were apparently nearsighted!

They moved to Vicksburg, MI in the Summer of 1972 where Mike had been hired to teach 8th grade general science and 7th grade math in the Junior High. He never moved from there for 31 years, retiring in 2003. Many changes occurred in the Science Department during those years and he was Department Chair for about 20 of them. He completed his MA in Middle School Education in 1979 and went on to participate in many workshops and earn 24 college credits after. After his retirement from K-12 education, he spent 8 years as a part time instructor in the WMU Education Department working with intern teachers in their assigned schools.

The 70s produced another crowning achievement to add to the list of accomplishments of both Mike and Judy – the birth of their only child, Sarah. Sarah was a pleasant infant, sleeping through the night and tugging at her Dad’s heartstrings. Over the years, we spent

a great deal of time teasing each other. Sarah has promised to watch documentaries on Gettysburg at least once a month. Mike and Judy are very proud of Sarah's achievements. She holds a BA in education from WMU and a MA in Education from Walden University. She also has earned an Administrative Certificate. Currently, she works as an Assistant Principal at Dunlap Elementary in the Pennfield School district. She and her husband have provided many hours of inservice training at various conventions and workshops in the field of education. Mike and Judy were so very pleased that Marvin was Sarah's choice for her spouse. He is an honest, hard-working gem.

Mike was recognized as a "Significant Educator" twice by a graduating Senior and appeared in Who's Who Among America's Teachers for 4 editions. He received the honor of being Vicksburg's Teacher of the Year in 1996. He was selected to participate in WMU's "Exemplars of Excellence" (Binda Project) where a cadre of area teachers videotaped themselves delivering lessons which were to be used to serve as teaching examples in the Education Department classes for future teachers.

Being an active band member in high school, Mike carried on this skill and played the trombone for many years in the Kalamazoo Concert Band. He could also be seen playing his instrument with his coworkers for students in the hallways on special occasions.

Mike was diagnosed with Prostate cancer in December of 2009 and spent all the time from then to his death obstinately fighting this disease. He could not have done so without the loving care and support of his beloved Judy who was with him every step of the way, giving up a great deal to care for his needs.

He wishes to give special thanks to the Lord and to Drs. E. Kwon of Mayo Clinic and Sabat Siddiqui of DeKalb, IL., for fighting the good fight right along beside him

Mike has been cremated and a memorial service will be held later. In lieu of flowers, please donate if you wish to an endowment scholarship that has been set up at Southwestern Michigan College- the Michael D. Hadley Education Scholarship. This is where he met Judy and their story began.

Finally, I want to thank those who have taken time out of their lives to be here. I hope I was as good a friend as each of you were to me. I thought of having a larger visitation and so forth. I figured former students ought to have the opportunity to come and gaze upon me so they could be satisfied that the old bastard was really dead. But after pricing it out, I decided they would just have to take my word for it!

Michael D. Hadley passed away on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at the age of 71. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Judy; his daughter Sarah Taylor.

The family will receive friends on Sunday from 1-2pm at the McCowen & Secord Funeral Home, Rupert-Durham Chapel, 409 S. Main Vicksburg, MI. The memorial service will be held on Sunday at 2pm at the funeral home.

Please take time to visit www.mccowensecord.com where you can sign the guestbook and

light a candle, share photos and memories with the family. Those who wish may make contributions payable to Judy Hadley for an Endowment Fund being setup at the Southwestern Michigan College.

The family is being assisted by the McCowen & Secord Funeral Home, Rupert-Durham Chapel, 409 S. Main, Vicksburg, MI 49097 269-649-1697.

Events

JAN **Celebration of Life Gathering** 01:00PM - 02:00PM

19

Rupert-Durham Chapel

409 South Main Street, Vicksburg, MI, US, 49097

JAN **Memorial Service** 02:00PM

19

Rupert-Durham Chapel

409 South Main Street, Vicksburg, MI, US, 49097

Comments



“ Mike and I were neighbors in dowagiac and we would get into a little mischief,, I had a love for cadillacs and his dad owned one...Mike pulled it out of the garage one time so I could see it up close... RIP my friend..

Reuben Miller - January 31 at 10:13 AM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Mike at VMS. He was so passionate about the job and the kids. His wicked sense of humor always made the days so much brighter. His outside of the box thinking with Minds in Motion was an example of excellence in teaching. I am so blessed to have learned from him.

Mary Burke - January 19 at 04:07 PM



“ I had the pleasure of buying their old Vicksburg house on Park St. In all the homes I have ever purchased , the whole process was the most welcoming experience I have ever had . I spent two hours on that day talking with them learning about their history, the houses history , and a little bit of Vicksburg history . That happens Only with good people.

Gina Szpak - January 19 at 12:11 PM



“ We're so sorry for your loss! Mike was a caring teacher that supported his students in their endeavors beyond graduation. His love will not be forgotten. God bless!!!

Randy & Janine Hughey

Randy Hughey - January 19 at 09:09 AM



“ I've only known Mike and Judy this past year, and it's been a very wonderful blessing! They are such a loving and giving couple. They had such a unique way of handling Mikes illness that just worked for them. They were two of the strongest people I have ever come across. I did learn Mike had taught my daughter and others in my family in middle school so hopefully they retained some of his knowledge. Judy I really wanted to be there for you today but the body isn't able. hopefully I'll see you soon. Take care of yourself!

Sincere Condolences
. Sandy Miller

Sandra Miller - January 19 at 09:05 AM



“ The adjective that has been coming to my mind as I think about Mike is “caring”.

Mike was an outstanding teacher because he cared so much. He wanted to give his students his best because he cared about them; he cared about his subject, he cared about the time he had with them, he cared about being well prepared, he cared about his peers (especially his podmates), he cared about his school and community. He was a very effective leader because he was never about self aggrandizement; he was able to get others to join into a community and common vision to do outstanding work together. He was incredibly funny, and also a truth teller who got to the point.

I was fortunate to work with Mike during the time that Sarah was in Middle School, and when she would come over to the building after school during her high school years, and enjoyed seeing the closeness and caring in their relationship. That same warmth and caring was also evident whenever Judy stopped by, or they were together.

Mike was a unique, talented, and hard working warrior and advocate who fought for his students, his peers, his family, his school, and the right and good, as God enabled him to see the right and the good. He touched many lives so positively. He will be missed.

Charlie Glaes

Charles Glaes - January 18 at 09:52 PM



“ Todd and Linda Morgan purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Michael Dean Hadley.



Todd and Linda Morgan - January 18 at 10:08 AM



“ Mike was an exceptional teacher and individual. Students at Vicksburg we're blessed to have him in the classroom. He had a sharp wit, great sense of humor and was a real asset to Vicksburg both in the classroom and community. He will be missed!
Skip Knowles

Skip Knowles - January 17 at 06:40 PM



“ Love, Dunlap Elementary Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Michael Dean Hadley.



Love, Dunlap Elementary Family - January 17 at 01:27 PM



“ Mike was fierce - fiercely loyal, fiercely devoted, fiercely committed to his families - the one at home and the one in the brick building just down the road. After 25 years of teaching, we started again - with the Coalition of Essential Schools. Every day unfolded with the joy and wonder of the first. And, oh, how we laughed! A month or so ago, Mike and I were sharing memories from "the good old days." We concluded that it was only by the grace of God that the two of us were able to stay employed for so many years. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Carol Lafrance - January 17 at 09:00 AM



“ Mary Hester and Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Michael Dean Hadley.



Mary Hester and Family - January 16 at 10:39 PM



“ Truly miss his humor and his smile. Such a wonderful man. It was a gift knowing him.

Mary Hester - January 16 at 10:28 PM



“ Me Hadley is one the best teachers ever! He was a very Inspirational man and will be missed!

Heather Jones - January 16 at 10:01 PM



“ Mike Had: so funny, so profound. Never to be forgotten. Condolences to the whole Hadley family.

MARIANNE Houston - January 16 at 10:54 PM



“ Mike was obviously a wonderful teacher as easily seen in these wonderful tributes. He had a great sense of humor and was a caring man. My sincere sympathy to Judy and the rest of his family. RIP Mike. A life well lived. Thank you

Carol Lohman - January 17 at 08:37 AM



“ Make was one of my favorite teachers! Even though I was not a technically a "student" of his I considered him one of my most influential mentors, as he shared his wisdom and insight. He was masterful in not only the care and intellectual feeding of middle school students, but how to use humor and passion about our profession to really make a difference. I was blessed to work next to him for years and to be his colleague for many more. "Well done, good and faithful servant".

Steve Fryling - January 16 at 09:36 PM



“ Mike celebrated life in the way he taught, the way he wove humor into his day, his love of family, and through his sharp sense of observation and guidance. He served as a role model for many past, present and future teachers by being a loving and caring man. We all share in the honor of knowing him, and reveling in his skill at the Art of teaching. A family man at heart, Mike treasured and cherished his family. He is the measure of a man, and I feel so very honored to call him my friend.

John Pickett - January 16 at 01:19 PM



“ Very sorry for your Loss Judy you and your family are in my prayers

Tina Lowe - January 16 at 12:37 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. My heartfelt sympathy to Judy and Sarah. I have fond memories of working with Mr. Hadley. He was a wonderful teacher! He will be missed!

Jenny DeBoer - January 16 at 12:34 PM



“ Mr. Hadley was easily in my top favorite and most memorable teachers. He was the first to call me shenanigans . He was kind, funny and cared about us. He was a shining light in the otherwise difficult Middle School years. I remember him whistling, standing outside his class room, awaiting our arrival and taking to us. Sending my condolences and prayers for his family

Shannon (Myers) Gerould - January 16 at 09:58 AM



“ Our sympathy...a great teacher in our small school system. You will be missed. God bless you all.
Gail McCloughan

Gail McCloughan - January 16 at 09:02 AM



“ JUDY AND SARA I AM JUST SO SORRY HE WILL BE MISSED BY SO MANY FRIENDS AND STUDENTS .GAY LYNN COLE-WILLIS



Gaylynn Colewillis - January 16 at 06:07 AM



“ Mike and Judy became more like second parents to me. They were always so gracious to me by accepting me in their home. I loved watching the two of them together as I would never leave their home without laughing so hard that my belly would literally hurt. Mike loved his wife and daughter well and carried that into his classroom with the love of his students (even when we were difficult) he would always find a way to show he cared through the use of humor or sarcasm. There are countless ways they have showed their love and graciousness to me throughout the years. I cannot begin to thank or repay them for all of those times. He fought hard for his life and his family and left us so graciously. I'm so thankful I had the chance to tell you I loved you recently Mike during our last visit together. You are so loved and missed. I am truly blessed to have your family In my life.

Becky - January 15 at 08:29 PM



“ Mike was a master teacher when I started at VMS in 1992. His classroom was only a couple doors down from mine. That was lucky! He arrived early each morning, and as we all got ready for the day, I could hear his most beautiful whistling dance down the hallway. That whistle said it all —he loved it , the kids and the teaching. It made his heart sing. And he shared that love for the profession every morning as he literally “whistled while he worked.” And his joy reminded me each day how lucky I was to do the work of a teacher.

Christine Laaksonen - January 15 at 07:00 PM