



## George J. Reed

March 15, 1954 - May 24, 2015

George J. Reed, aged 61 of Ludington passed away on Sunday, May 24, 2015 at Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids. George was born on March 15, 1954 in Ludington, the son of George W. and Marilyn (Rickers) Reed, and graduated from Ludington High School with the class of 1972. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Education from Western Michigan University in 1976 and began his teaching career for the Mason County Central Schools.

On March 23, 1979, George married Jayne A. Halvorsen at the Scottville United Methodist Church and they have celebrated 36 years by each other's side.

George taught, coached, and directed musicals at every level in his 30 plus years of teaching for MCC. He taught in the elementary and middle school buildings, coached basketball, football, and cheerleading, and directed over 30 plays and musicals with the students in the middle and high school. George also directed musicals at West Shore Community College, and at the Ramsdell Theatre in Manistee. George had a special way of connecting with the students he worked with. Whether in the classroom, on stage, or in competition, George saw the potential in each person and through his humor and patience helped them thrive.

George loved being outdoors, and when he wasn't out on the course playing golf, he could be found working in his gardens around the house. He was a longtime member of Community Church in Ludington where he sang in and played bells with the choir's. In their retirement, he and Jayne would spend the winter in Texas at the Lakewood RV community playing golf and volunteering for the countless activities at the park.

George was preceded in death by his parents. He will be greatly missed by his wife Jayne, his son Stephen Reed and friend Kelly Smith of Mason, his daughter Kathryn Reed of Astoria, NY, his grandchildren Alexandra Reed of Ludington, Zakary Gibson, Addison and Vincent Reed all of Mason, his sisters Christine (Ronald) Harr of Ft. Mead, Baltimore, MD, and Mary Chavalialia and friend Steven Anderson of Ludington, his niece Amy (James) East of Baltimore, his nephew Christopher Chavalialia of Ludington, his sisters-in-law Mary Halvorsen and Janice Ramponi both of Ludington, and countless students and friends whose lives he touched.

In keeping with George's wishes, his family will have a private funeral service and there will be no additional visitation. Burial will take place at Lakeview Cemetery in Ludington. Those who wish to make contributions in George's memory are asked to consider the American Cancer Society.

# Cemetery Details

## Lakeview Cemetery

800 N. Lakeshore Drive  
Ludington, MI 49431

# Tribute Wall

TW

“ *To Chris and Ron Harr and the Reed Family I extend condolences in the death of your brother.*

*Sincerely,  
Terry Williams*

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**Terry Williams** - March 07, 2017 at 05:34 PM

AB

“ *Alexandria Bradow lit a candle in memory of  
George J. Reed*



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**Alexandria Bradow** - July 12, 2015 at 03:16 PM

SQ

“ Dear Jane

*I send my deepest sympathy to you and your family. I am so sorry for your loss. But, I am also sorry for my loss. The loss of a great teacher, director, coach and a wonderful friend.*

*From the time I met George, in the 6th grade and throughout my terrible teenage years, he was one of the most influential men in my life. He saw my difficulties as a child from divorced parents. He saw me struggle with 'teenage stuff'. He saw ME! He always had time to listen. He was always there when I needed him and I always felt he understood me.*

*George had a fantiastic ability to make me feel that I was special. That I was important. And he instilled in me the belief that whatever I wanted out of life, I could get.....If I worked at it. He helped me to laugh at myself and accept myself for who I was/am. He believed in who I was and who I would become.*

*Meeting George last summer was a beautiful reminder of the magnificent man that he was. I was reminded of how proud I am that knew him. I was reminded of his ability to me me feel good about myself. I was reminded of how lucky I was, to be one of his "children".*

*George will always be one of the most important people in my life. And will always be a part of who I am.*

*I will miss him.*

*I will honor his memory and*

*I will love him....always.*

*Thank you Jane for letting me be a part of your lives. Thank you for years of love and support. Thank you for treating me as one of your own. And thank you Jane for taking such good care of George all these years.*

*All my love*

*Sheila K. Quinlan*

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Sheila K. Quinlan - July 02, 2015 at 06:51 AM

DF

“ Dawn Gulembo Flores sent a virtual gift in memory of George J. Reed



Dawn Gulembo Flores - June 04, 2015 at 12:44 PM

DF

*I am so sorry to hear of George's passing. He was such a great guy. My mom (Vernice Gulembo) ALWAYS talked about him when she was in the school system...how much she liked him and what a wonderful person he was. He never failed to say "HI" or start a conversation with me. You were lucky to have all them years with him, Jayne! His memory will live on forever. Dawn Gulembo Flores*

Dawn Gulembo Flores - June 04, 2015 at 12:58 PM

BD

“ Jayne and Family, we just want you to know that we are very fortunate to have known George. He will be missed at Lakewood, he was such a nice person and always had a big smile on his face. Our sympathy to your family.

*Bud & Carol Van Dyke*

Bud & Carol Van Dyke - June 03, 2015 at 08:06 PM

 Dee Johnson

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Dee Johnson - June 03, 2015 at 11:18 AM

 Dee  
Johnson

“ To have been a part of George's life was such a blessing! He brought creative energy into everything he attempted to do whether it was directing the church choir or organizing the many kitchen menus to put on magnificent events at Lakewood RV resort in Harlingen, Texas where we first met. We first met when he was M.C.ing a Ladies Fashion Show in his white dinner jacket. What a presence he had every time he entered the room. Always smiling and generous to a fault! We were privileged to be the dinner guests at their table on a 70 person cruise he organized to the Caribbean during one of those wonderful winters in South Texas. George & Jayne are one of the couples who really made a difference wherever they were. We will always have fond memories and smiles when we think of him. Our deepest sympathy to Jayne and the family. Until we meet again.....

*Dee & Lee Johnson*

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**Dee Johnson** - June 03, 2015 at 11:14 AM

CM

“ We are very sad to hear of George's passing. He was very special to our daughter during her years of OM competition. He was a wonderful coach and role model to so many. We have many fond memories of practices and OM meets with George. Jane, you and Katie and Stephen will be in our thoughts and prayers.  
*With deepest sympathy, Colleen and Mike Mullen*

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**Colleen Mullen** - May 31, 2015 at 09:19 PM

CL

“ George was a great asset st Lakewood. We grew to love and respect him. We will miss him greatly. Our love and prayers are Jayne snd her family. Mel & Claudia

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**Claudia & Mel Lofgren** - May 30, 2015 at 12:04 PM

SW

“ Honorable, trustworthy, inspiring,giving, fun, happy & smiling.....he leaves a Legacy to be proud of. Praying for healing for the Family.

Steve & Donna Wright - May 28, 2015 at 03:12 PM



“ Cyndy Enyart-Waskelis lit a candle in memory of George J. Reed



Cyndy Enyart-Waskelis - May 28, 2015 at 02:19 PM

DD

“ Dottie, Dot & Ditto purchased the Violets And Butterflies for the family of George J. Reed.



Dottie, Dot & Ditto - May 28, 2015 at 01:04 PM

DM

“ Jayne & family, my heart goes out to all of you!! He touched so many lives & taught us so much, he will be missed so much by so many of us at Lakewood. Hugs & hands together for all of you!!

Dottie Melko - May 28, 2015 at 11:52 AM

LP

“ Will always remember George's kindness, good nature , his caring for others and his abilities in teaching. Loretta Pankow

loretta Pankow - May 28, 2015 at 09:55 AM

DS

“ George and Jon L. enjoyed playing golf together for many years - and ruling the Monday night Scottville Optimist league. They were champions, mostly because George was a good golfer and Jon L. had a high handicap (with random good games)! I remember, too, the endless pinochle games; Jayne and I could never win. George was a good friend, a bundle of creativity and will be greatly missed.

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**Debby Saxton** - May 28, 2015 at 04:22 AM

MS

“ Just want to say that George was always so supportive of the students in his classroom; all students! He cared for them greatly and was a blessing to their Middle School experience. It was a privilege to have been a colleague of his for so many years.  
Mik Sutton

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**Mik Sutton** - May 27, 2015 at 07:41 PM



“ I am so sorry Jane and family for your loss. As I told you today Jane the pain will lessen as time goes on but the loneliness will remain forever. I think Chuck had him in class and now they are in heaven together. Someday both of us will be joined with them and for now Jesus is with you and I and He does give me Peace and pray He gives you the same. I am here if you need to talk regarding pain I know you have. Blessings my dear and Blessings to your family.  
Charlotte

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**Charlotte Eberbach** - May 27, 2015 at 06:58 PM



“ *Blooming Garden Basket was purchased for the family of George J. Reed.*



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May 27, 2015 at 05:29 PM



“ *I believe Mr. Reed invented the word Abbie dabbie doo. Everything worth remembering and the excitement of childhood memories include my friend Mr. Reed I will always love you!*



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**Abbie Woodmansee** - May 27, 2015 at 03:33 PM



“ *I have many fond memories of Mr. Reed as my coach in high school. He was a fun loving and caring individual. I am so sorry for your loss.*

*Vicki (Stakenas) Selinger*

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**Vicki Selinger** - May 27, 2015 at 02:21 PM

JG

“ I was so sad to hear Mr. Reed passed away. I was hoping to see both him and you, Jayne, (or Miss Halvorsen to me, back in school), again soon at Steve and Mary's. I wanted to see if Mr. Reed remembered a paper I wrote when I was his student in 8th grade. The assignment was to write a paper about a person, and I chose to write about him. This was back in 1978, I believe while you two were dating, and I wrote the paper and stood up and read it in front of the class like I was spilling the beans about you dating each other. There were things in it like, "I know I probably shouldn't say it so I will just say the initials of the woman he is dating, her initials are..... Miss Halvorsen!"

It was kind of a gutsy thing to do but he had a smile on his face when I was done reading it when I walked back to my seat. I don't even remember the grade he gave me on the paper, but I risked getting a bad grade if he didn't want the beans spilled yet! He was a great teacher, always smiling.

I am praying for comfort for you and your family and will continue to do so.

Jill (Johnson) Giese

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Jill Johnson Giese - May 27, 2015 at 12:12 PM

AB

“Mrs. Reed - words cannot express the sadness I'm feeling over the loss of Mr. Reed. He truly was a friend to so many students whether he was their teacher, coach, or drama director. I was one of the lucky ones. He was my teacher, drama director and friend! A true mentor to hundreds of MCC students. I have so many memories of hours and hours of play practice, dress rehearsals, opening night, final night and spaghetti dinners. I have great memories of him being my second grade teacher - the year that you were married! :) He once wrote "PU" on my cursive writing paper. I guess he didn't like my writing style. :) My favorite memory happened during the dress rehearsal for "Music Man". My battery was low for my microphone, so he jumped up on stage with a new battery, which was connect on my waistband in the back. He was trying to change the battery while I was singing and I knew he was having a hard time finding the battery pack under all of the ruffles of that pink dress I had to wear, so while I was singing, I flipped up the back of my dress so he had easier access to it. My mom was sitting out in the audience watching the rehearsal and couldn't believe that I had done that. I had shorts on underneath, but she couldn't see them! :) Mr. Reed believed in me and knew I was the one for that part that year. He failed to mention to me that I would have to kiss Jon Wennstrom until after I accepted the part. :)

*Thank you for allowing Mr. Reed to spend countless hours with all of us students when it would have been so much easier for the two of you to go home after a long day of teaching and spend time with one another instead of all of us teenagers. Both of you were a huge part of my elementary, middle school and high school years. My thoughts and prayers are with you, Stephen, and Katie, as you grieve this great loss.*

*Thank you, Mr. Reed, for believing in all of us! You are missed.*

*Allison Bradshaw ("Wizard of Oz", "Sound of Music", "Annie Get Your Gun", "Annie", "Bye Bye Birdie", "Oklahoma", "Music Man")*





Allison Bradshaw - May 27, 2015 at 09:35 AM

TM

“ We have such wonderful memories of George. He was a bright star shining on everyone he was in contact with. I remember all his crazy antics during play rehearsals, school activities and such. My son Chris had him in Kindergarten and 5th grade, only to teach with him in years to come and become the principal at the same school. My son Erik was in his 5th gr class and in plays with him from 3rd grade on and has wonderful fun memories of their days together not only at school and plays but staying at his house many times with his son Stephen. Erik always referred to George as his 2nd Dad as he felt that close with him. George touch so many lives in such a positive way. He was a delight to be around and I'm proud to call him my friend. Thanks George for all the memories. You took a piece of us with you when you left but I know we will see you again one of these days. Glad your pain and suffering is over. Jayne I know how hard this will be on you and the kids. My heart and prayers are going out to you all and the Peace of the Lord to surround you. Terri Mendelsohn (Etchison)



Terri Mendelsohn - May 27, 2015 at 09:29 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of George J. Reed.



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May 26, 2015 at 04:08 PM