



David J. Sheehan Jr.

October 25, 2013

David J. Sheehan, Jr., 90, of West Hartford, husband of Nancy J. Sheehan (deceased), decorated World War II veteran and retired West Hartford teacher for 48 years at Sedgwick Middle School, passed away Friday (October 25, 2013). He graduated from the University of Connecticut with a Bachelor's degree in Government and Masters' degree in Education. Prior to graduating from UConn, David enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942, was commissioned 2nd Lt. from Officer Candidate School (Fort Benning, GA) and served in the Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns as a WWII Infantry Officer (Anti-Tank Unit Commander- Reconnaissance Officer) with increasing leadership responsibilities with active ground combat. During his Army career, he earned the American Campaign Medal, European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, WWII Victory Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, and Bronze Star Medal. After WWII, he transferred to the U.S. Army Reserves (CT Civil Defense Office) and ultimately retired as full Colonel with 30+ years of service. David moved to West Hartford in September 1949 to teach Social Studies & History at Sedgwick where he educated an estimated 4500+ students in his 48 year tenure, retiring in June 1997. Former students may recall his crew-cut, his reputation as a tough but fair teacher and/or his acronyms such as "L.O.P.P." (Lack of Prior Planning). While at Sedgwick, among other activities, he organized the Washington, DC student trip for 15 years, ran the 8th grade Field Day for decades and even shared some of his military training by teaching the first Sedgwick marching band how to march!

He was the recipient of the 1996 West Hartford Education Association's Teacher of the Year Award. David was a St. Thomas the Apostle Church parishioner and past Parish Council officer, member of the Holy Family Retreat League, the West Hartford Squires, and the Executive Board for West Hartford Fellowship Housing. He supported his wife's involvement with Girl Scouts by being a volunteer in any capacity needed. He also enjoyed his 15+ years volunteering in the Admitting Office at St. Francis Hospital and was passionate about distributing books for newborns through the Read to Grow program. He was an avid conversationalist and "a character" with a twinkle in his eye, a booming teacher's voice, sharp intellect and steadfast devotion to his family. He loved to travel and annual family trips were the norm with a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Australia. He is survived by his two daughters, Meg Sheehan of West Hartford and Patti Albee and her husband Scott of West Hartford and his four grandchildren, Ashleigh, Bryan, Justin and Kylie Albee, all of West Hartford. He also leaves other friends (like family) behind: Kaye Riddle of Enfield, Johnnie E. Jordan of New Britain and Julia Marshall and her partner Tim Zielonko of England. Calling hours will be Wednesday (October 30) from 4-7 p.m. at the Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave, West Hartford. Friends are invited to join David's family at the celebration of his Mass of Christian Burial on Thursday (October 31) at 10 a.m. in St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 872 Farmington Ave, West Hartford. Burial will follow in Fairview Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in his memory to Sedgwick Middle School PTO, 128 Sedgwick Rd., West Hartford, CT 06107 to create a lasting memorial.

Cemetery Details

Fairview Cemetery West Hartford

200 Whitman Ave.
West Hartford, CT

Previous Events

Calling Hours

OCT **30**. 4:00 AM - 7:00 AM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home
906 Farmington Ave
West Hartford, CT 06119
(860) 232-1322

Mass of Christian Burial

OCT **31**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Thomas the Apostle Church
872 Farmington Ave.
West Hartford, CT 06119
(860) 233-8269

Tribute Wall

SH

“ I am truly sorry for your loss. May you find comfort in Gods promise found at Revelation 21:4-" And He will wipe out every tear from their eyes and death will be no more..."

shannon - October 30, 2013 at 05:46 AM

LB

“ Patti and Ashleigh and family,
You are in our prayers at this time. We are so sorry for your loss. David was a kind and funny man. I always enjoyed talking with him when I stopped by the house to see Nancy. We wish you peace and comfort at this difficult time. With love, Laurie and Maggie Brown

Laurie Brown - October 29, 2013 at 03:44 PM

SH

“ I knew Mr. Sheehan as a teacher and Dave as a colleague. He will always be remembered as a man with a vision who led many of us to strive to be great. While his time with us has ended, his legendary teaching will live on. Ask any of his former students, and they will most certainly remember a story about Mr. Sheehan that will make you smile.

Sue Henneberry

Sue Henneberry - October 27, 2013 at 06:33 PM

JK

“ Dave was an amazing man; a "character" as his obituary states. He was beloved at Sedgwick and we all loved him. His spirit was amazing. He made such a difference in the lives of so many people. Deepest condolences to the entire family. May you find strength in the many memories you will share about him. He truly is unforgettable.

Joan Samuels Kaiser FL

Joan Samuels Kaiser - October 27, 2013 at 06:05 PM

BH

“ Although I never had Mr. Sheehan as teacher during my time at Sedgwick, everyone had a story about him! Mine was when he caught us painting our class numerals ('61) on the west side of the school directly under his classroom window. We received the proper punishment - but what I admired most about his handling of the incident was that he never reported it to our parents, and I believe not to the school office either. Nice guy.

Blake Hyfield, CA

blake hyfield - October 27, 2013 at 11:33 AM

KB

“ Patti - our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. The Barnetts

Kathy Barnett - October 27, 2013 at 10:07 AM

SD

“ Everyone who went through Sedgwick during Mr. Sheehan's tenure certainly remembers him fondly. He was more than just a teacher, he was a moral pillar that helped to shape and guide so many of the kids that passed through that school.

Steve Dunn - October 27, 2013 at 08:45 AM

TH

“*Dave was a legend. He believed in what he did, he always gave his all, and he set high standards. Gruff on the outside, but driven by a gentle heart, Dave left his mark in ways too many to list. He will forever be in my thoughts. My deepest sympathy to his family.*

Tom Hart

Tom Hart - October 27, 2013 at 06:52 AM