



## Jean Paul Berard

December 30, 1927 - January 6, 2014

Jean Paul Berard, 86, beloved husband, father, and teacher, of West Hartford died Monday, January 6, 2014 at St. Francis Hospital. He was married to his soul mate Marion Parker Berard for 62 years. Born in Hartford, CT on December 30, 1927, he was the son of the late Victor and Christine (Kinney) Berard. Jean Paul was a graduate of Weaver High School Class of 1946 where he played on the football team and began his lifelong commitment to community service, raising funds for the Community Chest. He was drafted into the Army upon graduation and assigned to the 19th C.I.D, during the Occupation of Japan. His great heart enabled him to see beyond the brutality of war to the individuals he worked with, forging a lasting friendship with his Japanese interpreter, Tsukasa Sasaki which is maintained by their children and grandchildren. This summer Tsukasa's grandson, a helicopter pilot in the Japan Defense Force, visited his American "grandfather" at their home. After leaving the service Jean Paul married Marion and graduated from Teachers College in New Britain (now Central CT State University). He taught in Windsor and lived in Windsor Locks where he successfully challenged the town to bring kindergartens to the school system and fluoridation to the water. He was the Chairman of the largest civic polio clinic in America, which administered more than 29,000 doses of polio vaccine between 1957 and 1964. He also wrote two polio bills for the 1959 State Legislature and was head of the drive to pass the State law 53-344 which required that the notice "Sale of Tobacco to Minors Prohibited" be posted on all tobacco vending

machines, which passed in 1963. He was the winner of the Junior Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Award and due to his work with the Jaycees, nominated as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men of America. He was appointed by Governor Dempsey in 1964 to the Connecticut Clean Air Task Force. The Berard family moved to West Hartford in 1971 when Jean Paul began teaching at Talcott Junior High School while Marion pursued her nursing career at St. Francis Hospital. Jean Paul taught at Plant Junior High and Sedgwick Middle School until his retirement in 1997. He continued to substitute teach at Sedgwick until age 83. For many years he lead the Service Club at Sedgwick and served as Youth Group Coordinator at St. Peter Claver Church, teaching students the skills to advocate for and help those in need in the Sudan, in Guatemala, and here in Hartford. He was a Life Member of the National Education Association, Life Member of the CT Education Association, VFW Post #6123, American Legion Post 92 and a Justice of the Peace from 1961 – 2012. For 33 years he and Marion organized the placing of flags at Fairview Cemetery each Memorial Day and Veterans' Day. He was the Vice Chair of the West Hartford Veterans Memorial Committee, responsible for bringing a beautiful memorial to West Hartford Center. In addition to his wife Marion, he is survived by his five children and their families: Victor Berard of Southwick, MA and his daughters Felicia and Theresa, Suzanne Rodriguez and her husband Mario of Bristol, CT and her daughter Erin, Sally Devine of Vineyard Haven, MA and her daughters Kelly and Tracy, Denise Berard Hall and her husband Tom of West Hartford, and their children Lindsey and TJ, and Steven Berard and his wife Trisha of Seattle, WA and their children Jean-Paul and Luke. Also surviving him are his ten great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother Edward. The Berard family would like to thank the St. Francis Hospital community who are their friends and who cared for him throughout his many health challenges. Calling hours will be Wednesday, 3-7 p.m. in the Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford. Funeral services will be Thursday, at 9:30 a.m. from the Funeral Home with Mass of

Christian Burial at 10:00 a.m. at St. Peter Claver Church, 47 Pleasant Street, West Hartford. Burial will follow in Fairview Cemetery, West Hartford, Donations in his memory may be made to the West Hartford Veterans Memorial Fund, c/o The Town of West Hartford, 50 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107. Online expressions of sympathy may be made at [www.molloyfuneralhome.com](http://www.molloyfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Fairview Cemetery

200 Whitman Ave.  
West Hartford, CT

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

JAN 8. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

## Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 9. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Peter Claver Church  
47 Pleasant St.  
West Hartford, CT 06107

# Tribute Wall

KI

“ Kiley sent a virtual gift in memory of Jean Paul Berard



kiley - January 17, 2014 at 11:03 AM

YK

“ I'm so sorry to hear the loss.  
Mr.Berard took care of me very much when I went to CT 4 years ago and this summer to do a Homestay. My grandfather, Sasaki and Mr. Berard have been the best partner since after WW?. He talked me about my grandfather's stories happily every day.  
I lost my grandfather just before my entrance examination of The National Self Defense Academy. I chose that way to follow in my grandfather's footsteps. Though I passed the examination, I was overwhelmed with sorrow of my grandfather's death. Mr. Berard always encouraged and kept watching me as my American grandfather. Passing the license of a helicopter pilot and interpreter's upper course, he always congratulated and cheered me up.To see his face while talking about my grandfather , I really realized that my grandfather and your father are eternal best partner and friends. Mr.Berard was a fine man, friendly and generous and kind. He will not soon be forgotten by the many who admired and respected him. I never forget many memories with Mr.Berard.

*Please accept our sincere condolence*

*Yushi Komiyama*

Yushi Komiyama - January 11, 2014 at 08:47 PM

MS

“ Your father had energy and spirit. He didn't watch life from afar; he was involved and lived it. He set the example for everyone who knew him. He was accessible, generous and hungry to share life with others. The gifts he shared with you, you will have for the rest of your life. I'm glad you had each other for so much of your life. He was a very special man. Mary Silverberg

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**mary Silverberg** - January 11, 2014 at 02:18 PM

DL

“ Growing up as a young boy, I was viewed as a person most likely not to succeed by my peers, That was until I was assigned to Mr. B at Talcott Junior High in 1970 then again at Plant Junior High. in 1971 It was through his teaching along with his compassion, humor and kindness that helped me become the person I am today. His example will live with me forever!

*My sincere condolences to Mrs. B and the entire Berard family.*

*Dave Lamb*

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**David Lamb** - January 11, 2014 at 11:23 AM

RS

“ I believe Mr. Berard was my principal at the Deerfield school in Windsor in the 50's. He was also my teacher in the 6th grade. He was fair to all and funny. Any disrespect or fooling around was not tolerated. He once made me stay after school for a couple hours for laughing at an inappropriate time. His punishment was copying a page in the dictionary (ton's of fun!). Afterwards he took me home. He had already called my parents and they said he could keep me as long as he wanted. He even got so mad at Charlie Sanborn for cutting up when he was out of the room that he picked him up and carried him to the coatroom for some time out (Charlie got an airplane ride). He finally got caught and deserved it. We all wanted to laugh but would never dare especially if Mr. B was mad. He was such a good teacher and I loved him. He was 1 of the reasons why I decided to go into teaching. (38 years in Enfield). Thanks Mr. Berard for all your guidance and inspiration!!! My sincere condolences go out to all the family. Ray Stoll

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Ray Stoll - January 10, 2014 at 05:38 AM

KD

“ Kaori Aida (Kaori Sasaki, Tsukasa's daughter) purchased the Full Heart for the family of Jean Paul Berard.



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Kaori Aida (Kaori Sasaki, Tsukasa's daughter) - January 09, 2014 at 06:36 PM

SF

“ Our condolences to the Berard family. Mr. Berard was a wonderful presence that will be missed by many. A Patriot, our favorite memory of him is leading the Memorial Day service the Saturday before Memorial Day at St. Peter Clavier Church. He had a wonderful way of making sure young people were actively involved in it. We will never forget him . The Snyder family

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**Susan and Mark Snyder and family** - January 09, 2014 at 05:07 PM

ML

“ Dear Denise and Family,

*I am very sorry for your loss, Your father was an amazing person and so accomplished. There are some people in this world that accomplish a great deal and make an incredible difference in others lives. Your father was one of those people and the kind of person that books are written about. My deep condolences.*



*Mark Lewis*

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**Mark Lewis** - January 08, 2014 at 08:14 PM

KH

“ Steve - We are very sad to hear of your fathers passing. What an amazing life he lead and gave so much of himself to others. Our family sends prayers of peace to you and your family.

*I will forever remember your fathers wonderful happy personality and bright smile.*

*Kurt, Tina, Jacob & Nathan Hallenbeck  
West Simsbury, CT*

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**Kurt Hallenbeck** - January 08, 2014 at 07:36 PM

AM

“ *My deepest sympathy to the family of this wonderful, caring and most generous man. I had him as a teacher for 8th grade at Sedgwick Middle school 1988. He was a great teacher and mentor to many of us.*

*Amy Bastien*

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**Amy** - January 08, 2014 at 07:26 PM

VS

“ *Vic, Your dad sounds like the gift that fathers are. Craig and I send our condolences. Remember that your dad will always be with you! Fondly, Ginny and Craig Schneider*

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**Virginia Schneider** - January 08, 2014 at 06:46 PM



“ *America the Beautiful was purchased for the family of Jean Paul Berard.*



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January 08, 2014 at 04:49 PM

MG

“ To Marnie, Vic, Susan, Sally, Denise and Steve, You are so much in my prayers today and I wish I could be with you. Jean was the love of your life, Marnie and I loved him too. As I read the obituary and your mention of his great heart I remember this hymn which speaks of Jean.

*Whom shall I send?*

*" I have heard you calling in the night,*

*I will go Lord, if you need me*

*I will hold your people in my heart"*

*Jean was the best man at my wedding to Paul Grisevich, his childhood friend. I know he is in Heaven and saving a place for his friend, Jean-Paul. Rest in Peace Jean--rest in Peace. Marjorie Grisevich Ginn*

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**Marjorie Grisevich Ginn** - January 08, 2014 at 02:52 PM

MF

“ My condolence to the family.....Mr. Gregory Friedrichs



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**Mr. Gregory Friedrichs** - January 08, 2014 at 02:10 PM

RA

“ Dear Steve and Family,

*We are so saddened to hear about the loss of your dad/grandfather. He lived a full, good life and left the world a better place. We send sympathy and hugs from Seattle.*

*The Bartlett Family*

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**Raina** - January 08, 2014 at 01:21 PM

ML

“ Vic and family,

*Deepest sympathies to you. Sounds like your Dad was a wonderful man.*

*Love and prayers,*

*The Illing nurses*

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**Mary-Rose Lombardi** - January 08, 2014 at 12:05 PM

M(

“ *My condolences to the Berard Family. I had Mr. Berard for 8th grade in 1981 and he was by far the best teacher I have ever known. His personality made learning fun, but we had respect for him and he challenged us through his humor. He always made me laugh and read out loud in class (which was not easy back then--but I learned to love reading). I admired him so much that I asked him to marry me \*\* 20 years later when I learned he was a JP. It was so nice to see him again and he still made me laugh. He was such a great person and and I will cherish all the fond memories. May he rest in peace - Michelle Smoloski (Fisette)*

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**Michelle Smoloski (Fisette)** - January 08, 2014 at 09:00 AM

JU

“ Simply put, Mr. Berard was a wonderful man. He not only was an incredible teacher full of interesting real life stories, but his dedication to the community was inspiring. I was lucky to get to know Mr. Berard through his Sedgwick classes and Saint Peter Claver's Youth Group - he taught us good values, the importance of volunteering and even took us on ski trips! He will be dearly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. May the memories of his incredible life comfort you at this time~

Best,  
Julie (Peck) Vincent

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**Julie** - January 08, 2014 at 08:53 AM

YK

“ Yushi Komiyama purchased the Rose Romanesque Bouquet for the family of Jean Paul Berard.



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**Yushi Komiyama** - January 08, 2014 at 05:03 AM

SK

“ SHU KOMIYAMA purchased the Forever Beloved for the family of Jean Paul Berard.



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**SHU KOMIYAMA** - January 08, 2014 at 02:29 AM

NM

“ Jean Paul and Marnie were long time friends of ours beginning in the year 1972 and we shared many great times around the pools on Cherryfield Drive and in Simsbury until our move to Florida in 1999. We saw them in Florida as well. When I called our children, Jeff and Jan today, we shared a lot of memories about Jean Paul. He was a great patriot and loved his students when I worked with him at Sedgwick School. His family will miss him and I wish that I could be with Marnie this week.

*Blessings, Nancy Mellon*

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**Nancy Mellon** - January 07, 2014 at 07:46 PM

RK

“ Dear friends,  
We think of the Berard family with great fondness. We extend our condolences and know we keep you in our thoughts and prayers today and in the days to come.  
Rebecca (Samsvick) Keller and Stephen Keller and all the Samsvicks

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**Rebecca(Samsvick) Keller** - January 07, 2014 at 06:34 PM

MG

“ Mr Berard.. You made such an impression on me. You were a great teacher. You always had a way about you that we knew not to try to get out of line. I am wishing your family peace. They have lots of great memories of you . Michelle Grenier

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**Michelle Grenier** - January 07, 2014 at 06:15 PM

FA

“ *Mr. Berard... you are still on my mind as simply put... a great teacher. Your smile still warms my heart. Wishing your family peace and comfort in your memory. Falguni.*

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**Fal.** - January 07, 2014 at 05:26 PM

JK

“ *Jean Paul loved the students and was a valued member of the Sedgick family. Deepest condolences on the loss of this beloved man. He made his mark and made a difference in the lives of so many people.*

*Joan Samuels Kaiser*

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**Joan Kaiser** - January 07, 2014 at 05:04 PM

KM

“ *Mr. Berard was a very special teacher and certainly touched many lives in West Hartford. Mr. Berard was my 8th grade teacher and my neighbor. I remember that he loved doughnuts and would often share them with his students who hung out in his classroom before school started. I also remember his passion for Japanese history. I enjoyed learning about his adventures in Japan as a member of the armed services. Most importantly, he was a gifted teacher who truly cared for all of his students and was proud of their work and accomplishments in and outside the classroom. As a teacher, I aspire to be like him. I am grateful that I was able to see him on Veterans' Day when my family helped others in the community to place flags in the cemetery. Mr. Berard has been an inspiration to me and has touched the lives of many generations, including my children. Mr. Berard will remain in my family's hearts forever.*

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**Kathleen Slane McDaniel** - January 07, 2014 at 04:58 PM

AD

“ I am so sorry to hear of Mr Berard's passing. He was a favorite teacher of mine at Sedgwick and a wonderful leader with the youth group. He will be greatly missed.  
Amy Rowean Dumais

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**Amy Rowean Dumais** - January 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

EB

“ Dear Marion & Denise & Family,  
So very sorry to hear about the passing of Jean Paul. He truly was a great man & American Patriot. I always enjoyed talking with him at different events. My Son adored him as his teacher at Sedgwick. He now begins his journey home; May he rest in peace;  
You all will be in my thoughts & prayers. God Bless you all.  
Love, Eleanor & Larry Brazell

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**Eleanor & Larry Brazell** - January 07, 2014 at 01:07 PM

SM

“ Stephanie Meleady purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Jean Paul Berard.



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**Stephanie Meleady** - January 07, 2014 at 11:54 AM

KJ

“ He was a wonderful and generous man whom I had the honor of knowing as my teacher and neighbor. Lots of great memories ranging from him bringing our 8th Grade English Class to Newport, RI and watching him drive the giant mowing tractor down Ridgewood Road for his lunch breaks during the summer. He truly lived a full life and impacted so many people. My condolences to his family.

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**Kevin Slane, Jr.** - January 07, 2014 at 08:55 AM



“ What an impact Mr. Berard made! I remember placing flags with him, caroling around the neighborhood and freezing my toes off, and even traveling overnight to Newport, RI with the St. Peter Claver gang! I take lots of photos these days and I'm sure to print them and share them--just like he did! Long before social media I think he knew how special that made us feel as middle schoolers. May we all live in such a way to leave a legacy of love like his. Thinking of you and your family! --Heather Scott

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**Heather Scott** - January 07, 2014 at 08:36 AM

JF

“ We are so very sorry for your loss. It was such an honor for us to have known such a special man. He was kind, loving, caring and brave. He made life better for so many of us. We will truly miss him and all that he has done, Our thoughts and prayers are with your family at this very difficult time. Richard and Janet Fournier and Family

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**Janet Fournier** - January 07, 2014 at 08:09 AM

BH

“ *Marnie, Vic & Family*  
*We are saddened to hear the news. "The Great One" was truly enjoyable to be with and an inspiration to all. From his post World War 2 stories-his thoroughbred horse racing tips-along with your Kentucky Derby parties, Sedgwick school teacher remembrances and our "Mountain Commons" daily coffee breaks-we enjoyed his friendship and we will miss him.*  
*Love,*  
*Bill & Bob Hunter*

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**Bill & Bib Hunter** - January 07, 2014 at 08:04 AM

JS

“ *My mother was a graduate of Weaver, Class of 1946. She was very ill for a long time & we spent much time poring over her classbook. Whenever we came to Mr. Berard's picture, she would say the same thing, "he was the most gorgeous man with piercing blue eyes & one of the nicest." Years later when I worked for Lane and Lenge, a very nice, very handsome man came in to order flowers for Memorial Day. Before he even gave me his name, I shared this story with him. May he rest in peace. My heartfelt sympathy to all.*  
*Joni Suppin*

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**Joni Suppin** - January 07, 2014 at 07:52 AM

EM

“ *Mr. Berard was a true american hero! He was my teacher at Sedgwick. A stern, but fair teacher with such a kind heart. God rest his soul.*

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**Eric Morander** - January 07, 2014 at 07:47 AM

JH

“ *Condolences and prayers to the Berard family. Mr. Berard was a wonderful teacher and mentor--by far my favorite teacher in my time at Sedgwick Middle School. I have fond memories of Service Club and planting flags on Memorial Day. He will be missed. Please know that he had a huge impact on so many people!*

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**Julie Faenza Halatek** - January 07, 2014 at 06:34 AM

RS

“ *So sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Berard. He used to be a "taste tester" in our home ec. class at Plant back in 1976-78. Thank you for the memories Mr. B.*

*Renee Robinson Staples*

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**Renee Robinson Staples** - January 07, 2014 at 05:37 AM