



Joseph E. Katona Jr.

July 23, 1926 - August 11, 2018

Joseph E. Katona Jr., Age 92. Joseph passed away on Saturday, August 11, 2018. He was a teacher at Fordson High School for almost 40 years. Beloved husband of Joyce Pennington. Former spouse of the late Evelyn Katona and Patricia Matyas. Loving father of Jane Peltz, Susan (Rodney) Downs, Michael (Ellen) Katona, James (the late Michaline) Katona, Nancy Katona, Thomas (Jeanette) Katona and his stepchildren Larry, Sandy and Joanne. Cherished grandpa of many grandchildren and great grandchildren. There will be Memorial Gathering for family and friends on Saturday, August 18, 2018 at Hackett-Metcalf Funeral Home from 3:00 p.m. until the time of the Memorial Service at 5:15 p.m. Memorial Contributions may be made to Beaumont Hospice by visiting <http://www.beaumont.org>.

Cemetery

Our Lady of Hope Cemetery

18303 Allen Road

Brownstown Township, MI, 48193

Events

AUG **Memorial Gathering** 03:00PM

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Hackett-Metcalf Funeral Home

2640 Monroe Blvd., Dearborn, MI, US, 48124

AUG **Memorial Service** 05:15PM

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Hackett-Metcalf Funeral Home

2640 Monroe Blvd., Dearborn, MI, US, 48124

Comments



“ Loved his enthusiasm for physics. Aced his class at Fordson and prepared me to continue in science at U of Michigan. Deepest sympathies to his family. May his memory be eternal.

Barb Schalk - August 18, 2018 at 09:21 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph E. Katona Jr..



August 17, 2018 at 11:29 AM



“ RIP Mr. Katona. Thank you for making Physics fun. I am so glad that you had years to enjoy after retirement. I have always remembered your comments, your patience, and your wit.

Jackie Rassega - Fordson Class of 76

Jackie - August 17, 2018 at 11:24 AM



“ Mr. Katona,
You were always very nice to me in Physics class at Fordson High.
Prayers to your Family and Friends for Comfort and Peace.
Godspeed

Vicki Bacila - August 17, 2018 at 09:41 AM



“ I had Mr. Katona at Fordson High for Drivers Education. Class of 1986

Joel Hurley - August 17, 2018 at 12:27 AM



“ My condolences to the Family. I was a student of Mr Katona at Fordson for Physics, chemistry and I will never forget how he did roll call. He would start slowly spelling your last name the finish it quickly then say your first name and you sat there not sure if that was your name or not. Another fond memory is when he knew someone was giving him a line of BS, he would disappear behind his counter and when he would stand back up and walk around to the front he had his pants rolled up saying "Had to roll up my pants as the BS is getting deep in here." But my all time favorite is when we had parent teacher conferences, my dad came with me. We got to Mr K's class and my dad asked him how I was doing and his reply was "Better than you did" That was the best line, not knowing my dad had Mr K as a physics teacher too, so that cleared my way thru the rest of high school. Mr K was awesome!

Laura
Class of 84

Laura - August 16, 2018 at 11:38 PM



“ Thank you Mr. Katona for your guidance and friendship. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your entire family.

Gerald DeGrazia. FHS Class of 1968

Gerald DeGrazia - August 16, 2018 at 09:49 PM



“ Mr. Katona was my chemistry and physics teacher as well as my drivers Ed teacher at Fordson. He's one of only 2 high school teachers that left a lasting impression on me. You never knew what to expect from him day to day and that is what made his classes memorable. RIP- Michelle Scott-Abernethy Class of 1984



Michelle - August 16, 2018 at 08:56 PM



“ After living overseas or far away for most of my early childhood, he was the first Grandparent I really came to know quickly! He loved to give! Always giving money or gifts. Extremely generous. Thank god I never had him as a teacher because he was very ferocious when it came to math, and that was second grade! I still don't understand him getting up every Saturday at 4am to make the rounds to the bakeries and other shops like Farmer Jacks, but it seemed to work. There was always what seemed to be an endless supply of bottled soda and snacks available in the basement.

He introduced me to my first Super Bowl in 1988 while visiting Texas, him and Grandma took care of me while I had the flu. For some strange reason I went for the 49ers, even though they were playing the Bengals, which were from his home state of Ohio. He was always there with Grandma to help ease the burden that my parents had going on with other things. Even after Grandma passed away, he still made many trips down to visit. We always looked forward to them! Thank you for being there for all of us. Since 1994 we only had one chance to meet up during August of 2014. I'm glad we had the opportunity. Thanks for being great Grandpa and being there for everyone in our family!

Nick Downs - August 16, 2018 at 08:09 PM



“ Mr. Katona was my teacher when I believe I was in the 10th grade. .1982. He had a lot of patience with us obnoxious 10th graders. Thank you for investing in so many lives over the years. May the Lord bless your family at this time..rest in peace.

Shari (McDonnell) Parker - August 16, 2018 at 05:21 PM



“ May your dear Dad rest in peace. He was my Physics and driver's ed teacher. Two things spring immediately to mind which I still talk (and laugh!) about. His use of the phrase, "Alas alack, how sad too bad!" and a time when I was on the range driving the Ford Maverick. He came over the speakers in the cars and exclaimed..." WHOA Miss Coke! (Koch) This is not the Indianapolis 500 Motor Speedway...That race was held LAST WEEKEND! :)

To be someone fondly remembered so many years later with laughter is a true gift. May all of you take comfort in your good memories.

~ Karen Koch Krystof, Fordson, Class of 1975

Karen Krystof - August 16, 2018 at 01:48 PM



“ He was my Driver's Ed Teacher at Fordson, Class of 1976. He had to be good, because I never had an accident that was my fault. God Rest his soul.

Patty Monberg - August 16, 2018 at 02:34 PM



“ He was my driver's ed teacher at Fordson.
R.I.P. Mr. Katona.

Maria Delle Fratte - August 16, 2018 at 03:00 PM



“ Drivers ed and physics teacher class of 79 i still tell my kids about him you never knew what he would do or say. Especially when u were driving. RIP you will always be remembered.

Debi - August 16, 2018 at 06:16 PM



“ To Mr. Katona's family, I share your grief. Mr. Katona was one of the best teachers I had at Fordson. To say sorry just not seem enough for all the wisdom he passed on to me. RIP Joe.

William D Short Class of 1963

William Short - August 16, 2018 at 06:26 PM



“ His was the only science class I did well in at Fordson. That crying towel! Rest In Peace, Mr. Katona.

Ruth Ann Czech - August 17, 2018 at 07:17 AM



“ RIP Mr Katona. Thank you for all you taught me at Fordson. My condolences to your family.

Craig Schuelke
Class of 88

Craig Schuelke - August 16, 2018 at 12:30 PM



“ Dear Jane and family,

I had no idea Mr. Katona was your father. He was my high school Physics teacher at Fordson High School. He was definitely 'one-of-a-kind' and dedicated to teaching. I remember him talking off his shoe and socks, and stepping into a sick full of water to demonstrate the concept of volume displacement. I've never forgotten that.

He was my Driver's Education instructor which I remember vividly as well. He took teaching very seriously which I am sure many students did not appreciate then, but most certainly do now. I also remember once during Physics class we had a fire drill. At the time, each class was assigned to go to a specific area outside the school. Our spot was at the northwest corner of Horger and Donaldson which was a long hike from the school. I remember everyone in the class complained that Mr. Katona made us literally walk all the way there and stand on the corner during the drill until the school gave the all clear to return to class. However, as I said he took his job and our safety seriously.

In closing, I remember him with fondness as he was unique and dedicated to teaching. They just don't come any better than that.

May your memories of moments shared with your dear dad comfort you during this difficult time. And may he rest in eternal peace.

Sharon Pearl Picking
Fordson High School, Class of 1980

Sharon Pearl Picking - August 16, 2018 at 08:29 AM



“ I have the exact same memories of Mr. Katona. He was also my Physics instructor and I will never forget how he slowly (without explanation) took off his shoes, socks, rolled up his pants and then stood in a dishpan of water (which splashed all over the floor!) to teach us about volume I will never forget him calling out to students "A Plus Goof Up!" when our experiment didn't go as intended. I also remember being charged a quarter for returning dirty beakers. Great memories!

He was also my driver's education instructor and I have many memories of those first-time behind the wheel experiences. As you said, he was huge on safety - something I didn't appreciate back then, but I certainly do now that I've lived through 2 kids learning to drive.

I am saddened to hear of his passing -- as you said, he was very dedicated to his profession and the safety of his students.

Laura May
Fordson, Class of 1984

Laura May - August 16, 2018 at 02:46 PM



“ When I met Joe he was a bright and interesting man. He married my Aunt Joyce some years ago, and they attended several of our family functions in Chicago. I was fond of Joe, and I visited them at their home in Royal Oak throughout the years. I will remember Joe as the vibrant, genial and gentle man I knew before his long and tragic illness. Sending my condolences to Joe's family and friends.

Susie, (Joyce's niece)

Susie Pinzur - August 15, 2018 at 09:02 PM



“ He loved to travel.
He was a shark when he played Hearts.

Jeanette - August 14, 2018 at 04:05 PM