



Bruce B. Graden

November 28, 1929 - May 20, 2012

Bruce Bryant Graden, age 82, a resident of Royal Oak since 1987, died May 20, 2012 at his home. He was born November 28, 1929 in Detroit to the late Niles and Muriel Graden. Mr. Graden was a graduate of Dearborn Junior College and the University of Michigan. He was a vocal teacher at Adams Junior High and John Glenn High School in the Wayne-Westland School District. He was the church organist and Agape at Fellowship United Methodist Church in Troy. He was the choral director at the Livonia Suburban Chorale and a member of the Detroit Together Men's Chorus. He loved traveling and attending Broadway shows, opera and the Detroit Symphony. He was the president of the Just Us Senior Social Organization and a volunteer for Meals-On-Wheels in Oakland County. He is survived by his siblings, Ralph Jeannine Graden and Niles Mary Lou Graden; brother-in-law, Robert Wray; nieces and nephews; long-time partner, Gaynor Fox; and many loving friends. He was preceded in death by his sister, Delores Wray. A memorial service will be held Saturday, June 23, 2012 at 10 a.m. at Fellowship United Methodist Church, 4050 Coolidge Hwy., Troy. Memorials to the donor's choice of charity appreciated. Arrangements by Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, Royal Oak, 248-541-7000. Share your memories at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com.

Tribute Wall



“ I sang in concert choir from 8th to 12th., class of 71. He and I had a special friendship. I think he knew I was gay. He never brought the subject up but he looked out for me. I could see this in his eyes. He stepped in to help, when needed and believe me, I was a handful. Thanks for being there for me. Tony Cobello

Tony Cobello - July 03, 2025 at 09:41 PM

GR

“ Funny, I can still hear his baritone voice. He knew how to bring out our best. There is none better than Mr G. Mixed Chorus, Glenn Men, Girls Glee, Barbershop octet, Chamber Singers, & of course, his Concert Choir. He gave it his all. We shared his passion for music & in return he worked endlessly for perfection with a smile.

We loved Bruce Graden. He made the world a better place. Rest in peace, Mr G.

*George Ross
JGHS 1970*

George Ross - March 17, 2020 at 10:09 AM

JC

“ I was thinking of Bruce tonight, and came here to read all the memories of him. Bruce was my cousin; 1st cousin once removed. He grew up with my mom and her sibs (Janice June, Laura Mason, Hazen Kurth, Marjorie DiFilippo). I wish I could have known him better, but we moved from Michigan in the late 70's, and so I rarely got to see him. I remember as a child in Michigan, he was in a Fourth of July parade in Dearborn. He was playing a calliope, and he played a song just for me; so thrilling! My grandmother, Nettie Kurth, would visit Michigan every summer to visit family. She always stayed at least a week at Bruce and Gaynor's place. Gin and tonics were served every evening at 5pm sharp!

As far as I can tell, Bruce and I were the only two musicians in our large, extended family. I'm very sorry I never got the chance to share music with him. From the comments here, I see he was an extraordinary teacher, and I wish I could have witnessed that.

I remember Bruce as a bon vivant, a cheerful soul and a terrible tease! When I told once my mother hated the nickname "Janie", he gleefully told me he wouldn't call anything else!

Thanks to all Bruce's students who posted here. So lovely to read how he impacted lives for the better.

Jennifer June Clark - March 21, 2016 at 10:56 PM

TS

“ Bruce Graden retired in 1986 from John Glenn High

Thomas Earle Snyder - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

PR

“ Mr. Graden was a wonderful music instructor , and it was an honor to see him every morning for zero hour. Inspirational, fun-loving & sweet...that's what I remember!Patti DeSaeger RingeJGHS 1984-1986 moved Senior year

Patti Ringe - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

DJ

“ Bruce helped make the chorus experience, for me, much more fun, more welcoming and he did so much to help make it a community.

Doug Dennis JD - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

CD

“ I was a student in the Concert Choir & Chamber from 1967-1970. Best time & best teacher.

Connie Dover-Brillhart - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

CS

“ My deepest sympathy to Gaynor and Bruce's family and friends. He was much admired and will be missed by many who knew him. I've always found the following prose comforting at times like this: TIME
“Time is too slow for those who wait, too swift for those who fear, too long for those who grieve, too short for those who rejoice, but for those who love, time is eternity.” ~~Henry Van Dyke 1852-1935

Charles Senseman - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

GC

“ I'm Ginny Cook, and I'm Bruce's 2nd cousin and Laura Cook's sister. I didn't know Bruce too well growing up but was very happy that he invited me over for dinner parties where I got to know Bruce and Gaynor quite well. We had a great deal of fun eating fancy cuisine and taking pictures of his cats! My thoughts and prayers are with Bruce and Gaynor at this time of Gaynor's bereavement.

Ginny Cook - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

CH

“ What wonderful memories flood my mind when I think of your energetic and inspirational music making, your and Gaynor's fantastic party hosting and your ever-present friendship. We certainly go back.....from by accompanying your Gilbert and Sullivan musicals at Adams Junior High to our friendly Concert Choir rivalry between John Glenn and Wayne Memorial. Rest in peace Bruce.

Charles Heard - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

LC

“ My name is Laura Cook, and I'm Bruce's second cousin. I remember fun family get togethers at the Graden home in Dearborn, MI. I really got to know Bruce when we took an airplane flight my first to Minnesota for a family reunion weekend 1987 celebrating my parents 50th anniversary and the Wrays 40th. My coming was a planned surprise for my parents Bruce's idea. I was excited but squeamish, and Bruce put me at ease. Uncle Niles Bruce's dad was also with us. Sun. night flight back the flight was cancelled but our luggage had been sent on so we flew Mon. morning hoping our luggage would be at Metro. Sure enough it was! Bruce was so calm, fun, and a joy.

Laura Cook - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

MM

“ Bruce and I shared the love of singing with others and sharing music with our communities. He came and shared himself with many. They in return will miss his generous spirit. Condolences to all who feel his loss. Remember him with music.

M. Diane Masura - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

BG

“ Dear Mr Graden I can still see your smile, your face light up, your hands in the air, ready to lead us to sing. You taught and inspired generations, the Greenfields sent 9 your way, we all thank you from the bottom of our hearts and god for sending you to us. Bob Greenfield John Glenn 68'

Bob Greenfield - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

LM

“ I have many memories of Bruce. Our families spending Thanksgiving together going to Frankenmuth in Uncle Niles trailer, Dad and Uncle Niles in the pickup and the rest of us riding in the trailer; picnics; Bruce visiting my family at the cottage on St.Clair River he was fun to be around. Naturally my best memories of Bruce have to do with music. Visiting at Aunt Muriel's, sitting in library listening to Bruce play. He was also the organist and choir director at Waterman U.M.Church when Barbara Branch and I sang in the choir. With my voice something tells me Bruce would have asked me to leave if it wasn't for me being his cousin. Reading all the memorials from his students was very heartwarming. Gaynor, as Bruce's caregiver, you showed your love these many years and truly you are exceptional. Thank you so much.

Laura Mason - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

BS

“ If it wasn't for Mr. Graden I wouldn't be able to sing. He spent his time and talent with me and for these gifts I will always be thankful. God bless him.

Brian Smith - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

BR

“ Mr Graden was my BEST TEACHER ever. He impacted my life more than any other teacher that I had. I will never forget concert choir, chamber singers, the glenn men, & barber shop octet. I can say I loved Mr. Graden. May he rest in peace. Class of 1969

Bill Rohn - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

RJ

“ Peace and joy to you and your family Mr. Graden. "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

Rev. Bob Jernigan - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

DE

“ We were sad to hear the news of Mr. Graden's passing. Bruce was the most influential teacher we ever had...he was mentor for us. He was always truly interested in us in and out of the classroom. He even attended our wedding in 1969. He's the reason we are totally involved in music to this day! Our sincere condolences to the family...he was a good man! May God give you the comfort during this difficult time.

Dan & Irene Eddy - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ There has never been a teacher of your stature MR. G. I'll never forget concert choir, chamber singers or any part of my singing experience with you!..RIP Mr. G.

karen ward - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ Our deepest condolences to Gaynor & the entire family...we knew & loved Bruce for so many yrs..our brother was a dear friend also..his love of music & people was a beautiful thing...he is probably playing bridge with Hazel & Nick up there right now..but waiting for his "Partner" to join him...Gaynor..our thoughts & love are with you...Don & Bobbi

Don & Bobbi Robertson - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ I am Bruce's cousin, Barbara from the small town of Holly, north of Detroit. When I went into Detroit to visit our grandparents as a teenager Bruce would always get in touch with me and off I would go on an adventure with him. He taught me how to ride the buses and streetcars to get to fascinating places and he showed me many of them. I went with him to a very large church in downtown Detroit, where he had to practice music on the organ for the upcoming Sunday service. I sat in awe of the music he was playing and the beauty of the church. I was truly in another world. But whether we were out on the town or just at his parents home and he was playing Gilbert and Sullivan and we were singing he was always fun to be with. He played the organ for my wedding to my Bruce in Holly. Thanks for these memories and many more, Bruce.

Barbara Thomas Mitchell - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ Bruce was a lot of fun. Prosaic statement? Perhaps, but it sums up what Bruce was to me. I'll leave it to others to extol his well-known virtues as an accomplished musician and a beloved teacher, his character and integrity, but I'll remember him mostly as just a nice guy to be around. As his sister's husband, I was always treated as a brother, not as an in-law. Uncle Bruce was a favorite of our four children, to whom he was caring and generous to a fault. And I must express gratitude to Gaynor, Bruce's companion for many years and faithful care-giver more recently. "There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."

Robert Wray - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ My favorite memory of Uncle Bruce happened when I was about 5. He had purchased a cool sports car called a Triumph. He was giving all the visiting relatives from Ohio a ride around the neighborhood. It was almost my turn when my parents said it was time for me to go to bed! Oh no! But Uncle Bruce insisted I have my turn, and I remember putting my hand out while we were driving, and being able to touch the street! I felt on top of the world that night - thanks Uncle Bruce, for caring for the feelings of a little kid!

Connie Hermerding - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ I knew Bruce first as a teacher, and after as a friend, when I joined Detroit together Mens Chorus. Bruce was very special to me. He was a good teacher, and a special friend. I will never forget cocktail time and the fun we used to have after choir practice. I remember unforgettable times when Sylvain and I and Bruce and Gaynor went out for dinner and cocktails. What the most important thing for me was Bruce loved everybody, He was a fantastic musician, a good teacher, and a good friend. I miss him already! I Love you Bruce you are a peace now!

Mark Anger - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ One of the greatest gifts that Bruce gave to me is my love and appreciation for classical music. He began teaching me how to read music at a very young age. He shared his knowledge and enthusiasm for all forms of musical expression. Listening to beautiful music continues to be a way of life for me. On a lighter note, he gifted me with his unwanted Michigan Football tickets for which I was very grateful. Although opposites, we bonded in all the important ways. I admired his academic record, accomplishments in the world of music, and his nurturing nature. He respected my strengths, as well. It was a good relationship which I will miss.

Ralph R. Graden - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Bruce gave the greatest hugs...I will continue to treasure the memories associated with them. The first one welcomed me into the Graden Family. He was the Organist at our wedding when I married his brother, Ralph. This was a role he graciously took on for family and friends throughout the years. When we attended his many musical presentations, it was clear that he had earned the respect and admiration of his peers and students. It is wonderful to read the love, appreciation, and accolades expressed by so many in the Guest Book. He gave of his time and talents to make a difference in so many lives. Caregiving for his parents was just one way this was displayed. What better Legacy than to have given so much and be remembered so well.

Jeannine E. Graden - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Mr. Graden was a kind soul and brought out the best in so many fortunate students. His life was well spent and the world is a better place for his having lived among us.

Don Hutchinson - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ My Uncle Bruce was an idol of mine as I was growing up. My Mom had the good taste to give me his name, after all! He was smart, sophisticated, and articulate. But he was also kind, loving, and giving. He shared music with me I would never have been exposed to otherwise. And he always gave the most unique Christmas gifts to our children. I hope I can earn a spot in the tenor section of the heavenly choir he'll be directing. May all of us in his family, as well of his many friends, be comforted by the good memories we have of my Uncle Bruce.

Bruce Wray - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ So sorry for your loss--to Gaynor and Bruce's family and friends. Bruce's musical talent was shared by many. His first name was given to my husband, Bruce, so in a small way, he will be remembered by this. My favorite memory of him is that ever since the kids were small, we received a box with gifts from Bruce, including one for my mom. The gift for the adults was a long hanging wall calendar written in French. We always enjoyed those gifts and appreciated the love behind them. I still have a Christmas card--paper cut out choir that I display at Christmas time and think of him. Praying for Gaynor and the family during this time of remembrance.

Cheryl Wray - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ Mr. Graden always had a kind word and plenty of encouragement.

terry butler - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TT

“ I will always remember Mr. Graden for helping me find my voice. As my high school chorus director, he was very passionate about his directing and always got the most out of his students. He was one of a kind. My deepest sympathies to his loved ones.

Theresa Lancaster Thompson - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PP

“ Mr. Graden was my favorite music teacher. I learned a lot from him. How to breath properly, don't drink milk before a concert, if you get dry mouth, gently bite your tongue. "ME MAY MA MO MOO..." Loved those warm-ups lol. He was simply the best and a good friend. Gods choir of Angles now has a new music director.0:-My prayers to his family. Rest In Peace MR. Graden.

Pat PalkoskiMohrlock - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ Mr. Graden's love of music was so contagious. I had so much fun in our "High School Musicals," *The Music Man*, *Oaklahoma*, etc. And then there were the bagels every Friday. Didn't know what a bagel was till Mr. Graden. Thanks for the memories Mr G.

Sherry Fuller Wells - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ Bruce Graden was not only a fellow teacher of mine but a true friend and mentor. I was the new kid in the Fine Arts Department at JGHS, the Dance teacher. I have thought of Bruce often and the rest of our Department Lois Tobin and Norm Logan. Now that I have retired I appreciate those times and memories all the more. Bruce, I am so glad to have known you. You were a remarkable teacher and someone I always looked up to. God be with you and your family and especially Gaynor. Love, Marji WoodsWright

Marjorie Wright - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ I owe much of my musical career/ministry to you and your wonderful teaching. You brought a voice out of me that I didn't realize was there. Thank you for your investment in my life. Sean Heady JGHS Class of '86

Sean Heady - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Mr. Graden was a great person. My brother, myself and my sister all had him at Glenn. RIP

Judy Mpwery - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Mr. Graden saw and nurtured the potential in all of us and his talent with people brought out the best in us, too. You brought all of us from different groups and backgrounds together as one; being in your choirs was one of the most memorable times in high school that I'll always cherish. Thank-you Mr. Graden. My condolences to your loved ones at this time.

Jill Money - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

L1

“ Mr. Graden was absolutely one of the biggest influences in my life. He inspired me every single day to push myself and realize my potential. He was strict, but kind. He respected us as his students, and enjoyed us. That's the kind of mentor you want to have. I have thought of him so many times throughout the years. He will always live in my memory.

Lynne Bader - Class of 1986 - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Mr. Graden, you were an amazing man. You were my Teacher in 1984,85,86. The best three years of my school days, because of you! Not only were you my teacher but you were my Friend. You were always there for me! You truly taught me more than any other teacher I had. And I can honestly say you help me to become the woman I am today for the better! I thank you for that! You would bring a group of students that would never of hung out together or been around each other and made a group that was proud to be with each other and made some of the strongest bonds and true friendship of their lives. You probably never knew how many students lives you touched. Your dedication to your students was unsurpassed. The life lessons I learned from you were equally as important. I have shed some tears when I heard of your passing! The world has lost a great and truly inspiring man! Heaven has gained a wonderful angel! My Deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Mr.Graden.

Doris Carter Pruett - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NG

“ So many wonderful memories of Uncle Bruce. He will always be thought of and remembered as a giving, loving, caring man. God bless you Uncle Bruce.

Nicole Graden-Pinkerton - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ Sorry to hear about your loss. Remember him well. Was in his concert choir at JGHS 71-73. Remember one time when we were going to have a concert, he banged on the baby grand and said "I am not tense!" Made us all laugh.

Susan Grant - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ So saddened to hear of Mr. Graden's passing One of the best teacher's ever!His love for music was outstanding.He also took pride in his students.He just wasn't a teacher.He was also a friend.He will be greatly missed. R.I.P. Mr Graden

chuck cole - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Our most sincere condolences for Mr. Graden's family. He was the most influential teacher from my high school years. I loved his class, and his understanding of personal fears and his encouragement to overcome them.

Beth Danklefsen Brayman - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PK

“ Saddened to hear of Mr Graden's passing Many remember him for his dedication to his students as a music director. He had passion & drive. He was fun but his goal for us was with direction & leadership. I choose to remember the man. We all have favorite teachers that pass through our lives. He was everyone's favorite. He was my favorite because he had character. He was humble, honest & a man of integrity. Mr. Graden was trustworthy. He went above & beyond his "duty". He was kind, compassionate & fair to everyone. His heart was big and he gave of himself. He had a passion for life that was displayed through his music. I look at the man he was and I am humbled by his example. He made a difference not only in his teaching of music but as the life he gave to others. I am a better person because of him & truly blessed. Mr. Graden you were loved & will be missed. Prayers go out to his family. Tears for the man we've lost...smiles for what heaven has gained..

Pamela Kovacs - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ *Mr Graden was a wonderful teacher and mentor. He knew how to bring the best out in people. He also took pride in his students. He will be greatly missed.*

karin mayle hatcher - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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karin mayle hatcher - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ *One of the best teacher's ever! His passion and love for music was Contagious. More then a teacher. A life mentor. R.I.P. Mr Graden .*

Paul Martin - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ *So saddened to hear of Mr. Graden's passing, although I'm sure he lead a most musical life and touched more people than we will ever know. He made high school more bearable for me.*

Cathy Renard Gibson - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ *Heaven will now have a great Choral director and motivator Peace to you now*

Marty Moorehead - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ Thoughts and prayers out to family. Bruce was my choir teacher in high school. Best three years of my life. Were because of him. All teachers should be modled after him. He just wasn't a teacher. But a friend. You could always go to him. With any problem

don gough - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ You will missed by everyone of us who's lives you touched. Thank you for taking a chance on me many years ago. Getting me to stick with music saved me from myself. We'll meet again one day.

Karl Messer - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DE

“ Mr. Graden was one of those teachers, for me, that I can look back and say, "he made a big difference in my life". As so many others have said, he was so passionate about music and he truly loved teaching. When he saw talent in someone, he encouraged and pushed them to be better.... to learn and develop their skills. I always loved to sing and he saw that in me, and took me under his wing. With his guidance, I learned all I could at John Glenn...sang in every choir I could, took extra classes, sang at Solo & Ensemble,etc. I was even one of his student assistants my senior year. I then went on to study music at WMU, and sang with one of the best collegiate vocal jazz groups in the country. I now am a professional singer and own my own entertainment company. It was Mr. Graden's interest in me that gave me the confidence to pursue my musical dreams! Thank You, Mr G. May you rest in heavenly peace! Enjoy the beautiful music up there!!

Darla English - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Bruce Graden was man of great patience and tolerance; Qualities he had tested time and again by young insolent youths,as we were, trying to find their limits but never reaching them. He was an educator, some would say of choir or music; I believe he taught more important lessons, those of commitment, of excellence, of dignity. He taught me that although no one is perfect we can achieve our own greatness if we just dare to stand up and try.

James Monahan - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ Mr. Graden was my choir teacher at John Glenn through 1977. He loved life and music and us kids. We talked about more things than just choir and music. You liked making him proud and he let you know when you did He taught me how to read music and to be sure of myself when singing. Us kids were much better having had him for our teacher. Thank you Mr. Graden.

Catherine Walker Keyes - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ He was my teacher at John Glenn High School.I learned much from him.So very sorry to hear of his passing.I remember working on a set for a concert with him. I also remember,one time in a concert,a group of us girls performed "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Out Of My Hair",and we did a bit where we talking about how badly guys had treated us and when we got to the point where the music should have started,Mr. Graden wasn't there!So we just kept talking and ad-libbing.He suddenly ran into the auditorium and I think he was saying,"I'm sorry--I'm sorry!", and we all started saying,"Isn't that just like a man-showing up late,keeping us waiting,doesn't call", stuff like that.He and the audience just laughed,and so did we!! I hope he had a good life. A very talented and nice person!

Lorraine Parent - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PN

“ Mr. Graden, you are now making beautiful music with the angels. I was so proud to have you as my teacher for my three years at Glenn. I have thought of you many times over the years. My prayers are with your family. With Love, Trish

Patricia Nelson - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ I am sad to learn of Mr. Graden's passing. 31 years ago, as a senior at JGHS and a member of the esteemed Chamber Singers, Mr. Graden urged me to reconsider my decision to resign from the group because I had a conflict with my pompon team. He believed I could have had a future in Music, between my keyboards and vocals. I did not listen. He even called my parents to see if they could change my mind. It was one of the biggest regrets of my life. I still sing on the side for fun but had I but only listened! Today I have 7-yr-old with a natural born talent and I often wished to find Mr. D to talk about her. Now I'll never get the chance. But to this day, I can NEVER hear a Manillow or Broadway tune without thinking of him. He will remain one of the biggest influences of my life. I loved his enthusiasm and learned so very much that I now teach my daughter. May you rest in Peace Mr. Graden, thanks for the memories and the music! Hugs from Chattanooga!!

Janice Fritz-ryken - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ Mr. Graden was most influential teacher in my life. He believed in my talent and gave me the courage to pursue a music career. I have been singing professionally for more than 30 years because of his love and guidance. I was glad to reconnect with him a few years back and tell him this myself. What a great loss...what a great teacher and friend.

Cheryl Wyatt - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CW

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Cheryl Wyatt - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ *Deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Mr. Graden. I did not have him as a teacher but did know him during my 3 years at John Glenn. R.I.P. Mr. Graden*

Linda Soulliere Cook - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ *Loafers, turtle neck sweaters and sports coats...Banging on the Baby Grand...music like...Bridge Over Troubled Water...1966 - 1971...Mr. Graden...Loved every minute of his music program at John Glenn. He was a teacher who went the extra mile for his students. He made music rewarding and fun. Lots of positive memories from long ago.*

Cynthia Hoffman Mayberry - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ *If we are lucky, we meet people that stay with us throughout our lifetime. I am fortunate to have known Bruce Graden, and he will be with me for the rest of my life.*

Kelly Raines McLean - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ I learned about music from Mr. Graden, while in High School, but the life lessons I learned from him were equally as important. May you rest in peace, and may you sing with the angels.

Brenda Vess Teague - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ To the loved ones of Mr. Graden: He was a dedicated, passionate teacher. He taught me from 1977 to 1980, when I graduated. He loved his music, and helped so many people to love and appreciate the beauty of music. I will miss him.

Lisa Greer - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ God Bless and Rest In Peace, Joyce and I send our prayers. It was a true pleasure teaching with you for 30 yrs. Gary and Joyce Makowski

Dr. Gary Makowski - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ I first met Bruce at Calvary Methodist Church in Redford. After that I joined the Suburban Chorale where he was director. Such a talented person and besides a great conductor and exceptional composer. We had so much fun and I always enjoyed the performances he lead. Will always remember a kind, fun loving, talented person. God be with you my friend. Jan G

Janice Goodman - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LI

“ You will be missed by many. I have thought of you many times over the last 40 years. Your dedication to your students was unsurpassed. May you rest in eternal peace. My condolences to his partner and family.

Linda - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ I spent a lot of time in the band an orchestra room at Glenn so of course I got to know Mr. Graden. In my senior year I too a music theory course with him and it was terrific. Last year, I heard he was ill and through Facebook, a friend got me information to I could use to contact Mr. Graden. We spoke for a few minutes on the phone about that theory class. Of course, he had so many students over the years he didn't really remember me. But he did remember the kinds of things we discussed in the class. I am glad I got to speak with him and tell him how much his class meant to me. Rest In Peace, Mr Graden. May you be surrounded by beautiful music forever.

Craig Matteson - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Mr Graden, always loved you and your classes. I skipped a lot of school at JGHS but rarely missed your class. You probably never knew how many students lives you touched and always got the best voioces out of us. You were a true inspiration !

Debra Hofer Pope - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ Sorry to hear about Mr. Graden he was a great teacher and great encourager. Class of 70

Mary - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ My love, thoughts and prayers to the family, friends and all who knew and loved Mr. Graden. He was truly one of the most influential people in my life. Especially in my senior year when I lost my father. R.I.P. Mr. Graden. You will missed but always loved.

Pat Glidden Hamilton - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Will never forget You!! The Greatest Teacher I ever had at John Glenn High School. You made Concert Choir the best experince that I had in High School! You will be greatly Missed!! Thank you for all the wonderful memory!!! Class of "1971"

Jean Murray Servin - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ So sorry to hear of Mr. Graden's passing. I remember him well from my years at John Glenn even though I never had him as a teacher my condolences to the Graden family

Deborah Bakka Williamson - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ Mr Bruce Graden....you were the man who always had a kind word, a genuine smile and kind words, even when suggesting a change. Mr Graden was of strong character and had such amazing passion for music and life!! He made my life so much better by being in it! My deepest condolences to all who loved and admired him. Debbie Caudle Wade

Debbie Caudle Wade - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TE

“ So sorry to hear of Mr. Graden's passing. He was one of my most memorable teachers that I had at JGHS. He took great pride in teaching us proper harmony when it came to the high school choir. You truly were a great teacher Mr. Graden, I will remember you always! God bless.

Teresa - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ The orchestra teacher removed me from class my senior year. Music was my life. Even though I can't sing, Mr. Graden saved me by taking pity on me and letting me join the Girl's Glee Club. My condolences to his family and loved ones. I will never forget him.

Jan Heller Beaudrie - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ sorry to hear of your passing, you will be missed, you were a wonderful teacher, always ready to give your guidance!

david mintz - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM