



Carl A. Suriano

April 24, 1938 - November 21, 2010

Carl A. Suriano, age 72, a resident of Royal Oak, formerly of Dearborn, died November 21, 2010 at his home. He was born April 24, 1938 in Detroit. Mr. Suriano was a graduate of Wayne State University. He retired from Warren Consolidated School District, where he worked as an elementary physical education teacher and boys and girls tennis coach at Cousino High School. He enjoyed traveling, building model ships, gardening and golfing. He was a natural athlete and a fabulous dancer. He was a definite "people person". He is survived by his wife, Cynthia Ann Weaver Suriano; the couple married August 10, 1963 in Greensburg, PA; sons, Todd Joyce Suriano, Scott Jessica Suriano and Andrew Carlyn Suriano; siblings, Carolyn Garrison Schwab and Joseph Patricia Suriano; and grandchildren, Michael, Julia, Alex and Sebastian. The visitation will be Friday 2-8 p.m. and service Saturday 10:30 a.m. at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W Eleven Mile Road 4 blks. E of Woodward, Royal Oak. Share your memories at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com.

Tribute Wall

AT

“ Sorry for the late addition, we just heard of Carl's passing this week. We didn't know Carl and Cynthia real well but met them through The Band Boosters. We have fond memories of meetings and dinner parties at their home. We are very sorry to hear of his passing.

Anne & Harry Tillotson - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ I was so sorry to hear the news about Carl. I will always remember him from the Northwood road rallies - remember wearing the paper mustaches? And Ellen's plays. He was always kind and willing to help with tennis or anything. Thinking of you all and remembering him fondly. Sincerely, Deb

Debra Burr - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TA

“ I not only was a student of Mr. Suriano's at Wilde Elementary early 90's but was fortunate enough to have vacationed as a child with my mom in the Bahamas and run into him and his wife staying at the same hotel. It was always "so cool" to see your teacher, especially when you were on a vacation. He was a wonderful teacher and person. May he rest in peace and look down upon us always.

Tarra Andonoff - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Coach Suriano was a wonderful man. He was my gym teacher in elementary and my High School Tennis Coach from 1990-1994. There are a few people in the world that I truly looked up to as a mentor, and Coach Suriano is one of them. Still to this day when I play tennis I hear him coaching me. I find that when I am teaching my own children the game of tennis, I hear his words and the wisdom he shared with me and I am honored to pass that on to my kids. I am honored to have known him. God Bless you Coach!

Christine Splatt - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to Coach Suriano's Family and Friends today as i learn of the passing of 'Coach'. Having played High School tennis under Carl while at Cousino H.S. for two years, I understood the meaning of effort, determination and class. It was an honor to be taught about tennis, and life, from such a high caliber man. Rest in Peace, Friend.

brett j lawrence - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Cousin Carl, Although there is a 25yr.age difference between us, and me being the "baby" of the grand children I do remember how funny you were and always had a smile to share.It has been many years though that we haven't seen each other but I can remember the last time. You couldn't believe it was me all grown up and said " Is that little Debbie!" God Bless you,rest in peace.

Debbie Suriano Doyen - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LK

“ Cynthia & Family, You have my deepest and most heartfelt sympathy for the loss of Carl, one of the most pleasant and congenial men I knew. Bobby & I always enjoyed our visits with you and Carl

Larry Keys - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ I just got an e-mail from a fellow teacher about Carl. I not only know him as a fabulous gym teacher, but a great tennis player and coach. Carl and I taught together for many years. He also watched and gave a few pointers to my daughter when she was playing tennis tournaments. Carl was funny, sincere, and a great phys.ed teacher. He talked about his wife and kids all the time. I wish I had known sooner as I would have been at the funeral. Carl will be dearly missed. Annette Leone

Annette Leone - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SI

“ Coach Suriano was a wonderful man. He was my Cousino High School tennis coach from 1986 to 1988. Coach used his humor and kind words to inspire and teach. While I never had him as a school teacher, years later, I find myself in an elementary school teaching young children and my own. I hope that I am able to reach them and inspire in a way that he did. He's the only one who I ever allowed to call me "Susie". Deepest Sympathies Susan Ingram nee. Schassberger

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

AS

“ Carl was my senior prom date at Fordson High School, June 1956. I remember him as a wonderful athlete 4th place state diving championships, a superior dancer, but most of all a kind and witty gentleman. At high school reunions he seemed like a happy and contented man, proud of his sons and his wife. I am deeply saddened to hear of his passing and extend my deepest condolences to his wife and family.

Anne Ricamore Sullivan - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Though we haven't socialized much in many years past, we have fond memories of all our family gatherings where you stood out with your wit and humor. You certainly were a joy to be around.

Bob & Norma Suriano - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ We would like to thank Carl and all of the Suriano family for the wonderful Grant and Northwood memories. Our condolences to Cindy and the boys.

Steve & Noel Poissant - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ Dear Cindy, How sad we were to read of your loss. What fond memories we have of Carl when we think of our once a month bowling nights with you both. His happy & jovial mood was felt the minute he walked into the bowling alley. We have the fondest & fun memories of which Jim and I will be eternally grateful to have known such a wonderful loving character like Carl. Our deepest sympathy to you and your family. Our prayers are with you. Ann & Jim Malkowski

Ann Malkowski - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Hey Cuz, You will sorely be missed by me and every one else who had come across your path in life. You had the charm to mesmerize my mother your aunt Diane. We loved the way you brightened her up whenever you were around her. Say Hi to Grandma and Grandpa and all our aunts and uncles and especially your parents and my dad. Give them my love. To Cynthia, Todd, Scott and Andy, know that he is always with you and watching over you. You all have my deepest sympathy. Love to all of you.

Dorothy Moore - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ Part 9 I kept the sheets in my shoes all 4 years of band because my feet never did grow into them. In addition to smelling April fresh, as odd as it sounds, I thought of him every time I put them on. The band shoes are long gone, but the man who filled mine that day remains alive and well in my most cherished of memories that came during my most impressionable years. The story of the shoes reminded me that easy fixes do sometimes exist and the smallest gesture can make difference in every step we take, making this rock hard world a little more bearable, softer and forgiving, which is what Mr. Suriano did while he was with us.

Pete Wurdock - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ *Part 8 Through the years the visits became less frequent and thinking about it now, I'm both ashamed and sorry I didn't make a trip over to the house to see him like I had planned to this fall. I didn't because I knew it would be hard and because I knew it would really be a goodbye disguised as a visit to say hello. And I knew I would likely do nothing but cry. Crying in front of a Gym teacher was not something I wanted to do because helplessness is something that never seems to grow on us, no matter how old we get and how old our parents get, even when we know what's coming.*

Pete Wurdock - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ *part 7 I always called him Mr. Suriano and never did warm up to calling him Carl because, it just didn't feel right. The “mister” had become a permanent part of me, just like he did. He was forever a parent and I was taught to respect my friend's parents. I always did, but I also just liked him and knew there was nothing wrong with that either. With Mr. Suriano, it was easy. In his quiet and straight faced way, he could be your friend's father who understood you, or he could boss you around with his booming Italian gym teacher voice. But regardless, as I grew up and life changed directions, one thing that didn't change was the respect and laughter that was found in the conversations at his house on many occasions*

Pete Wurdock - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ Part 6 I kept the same fabric softener sheets in my band shoes all 4 years of high school and year after year, Todd and I followed the same routine. Mr. Suriano always had great advice for everything. He'd say “suck in your gut, like this,” and he'd point to his flat and trim mid section. “The older you get the bigger this is gonna get, so if you start getting used to flexing those muscles now and sucking it in, it'll become second nature and you'll do it all the time.” Now THAT was some awesome advice that I still try to implement. There was other no nonsense advice that came through the years too, such as “Don't become a teacher because you'll be poor” or “Be careful having sex so you don't become a father too early,” or “don't call me if you get arrested,” but perhaps the most important bit of advice he had which he freely gave to any of us was: “Just be your damn self.”

Pete Wurdock - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ Part 5 All I could do was picture myself in the middle of the band formation marching onto the field and tripping; which I then envisioned would cause a mass pile up of trumpets, drums, clarinets and tuba's as the entire marching band fell like dominoes all because some stupid freshman was wearing black Bozo shoes that were too big. But after Mr. Suriano stuffed a few more sheets into them they were snug, comfortable. Do you think it'll work?” I asked him. “Of course!” he said. “You'll be fine, now get going or you guys will be late and don't worry about the shoes.” It worked.

Pete Wurdock - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ Fortunately being part of the marching band we had an advantage over other freshman, because we had an opportunity to bond with other upperclassmen the week before school started. We used this opportunity to find a spot under the wing of a senior, who would meet us in the hallway, even walking with us to class that first week and calming our nightmarish fears of the pranks we surely thought we’d all suffer. Thank God for marching band, for being in it, camaraderie was formed unlike any other sport or group I’ve been a part of before. It has lasted decades.

Pete Wurdock - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ Part 3 Nothing could prepare us for that phase of life and looking back now whether it was going to Rec’s, the movies or some other adventure, Mr. Suriano didn’t force any advice on us; he just made it clear when we were supposed to be back if he was the parent in charge that night. On the night of the first Rec, he laughed at our clothes as we left and told me to zip up my pants, wash my hands and have a good time. High school was a whole other ball game. As freshmen I remember Todd and I and others being sure that when we arrived on the first day we’d be subjected to some High School “initiations,” such as “swirly” in the bathroom, getting stuffed in a locker or the embarrassment of getting a wedgie, which unfortunately and eventually occurred later on.

Pete Wurdock - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PW

“Part 2 Todd and I and the others were getting set to go to our first “Rec” at Barton. A “Rec” was a term some administrator created for reasons I’ll never understand because it was really a dance; complete with sawdust on the floor, multi-colored lights in the DJ booth above the gym and a glitter ball in the middle where underneath 7th and 8th graders would nervously stand around with their friends trying to get the guts to throw down on the dance floor and boogie to Barry Manilow and the Bee Gees. Or, if we were part lucky and part ambitious, we’d get a shot at a slow dance to Debbie Boone’s “You light up my life” with the girl we had our eye on.

Pete Wurdock - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PW

“Part 1. At first glance and before he uttered a word to me, I found Carl Suriano a bit intimidating as I glanced at him from across the room. He had a five o’clock shadow, his legs crossed comfortably sitting in his sofa and a cigarette dangling o...ut the side of his mouth. He was half watching TV, half reading a magazine, while at the same time acutely aware of every word being spoken in the other room as his house was invaded by 7th grade boys. As a 7th grader at Barton Jr. High the world was suddenly a different place to Todd, I and the rest of our “gang.” Gangs of course were something else back then and not what we think of today when we hear that word. We were just a bunch of kids from Royal Oak all dealing with the awkward state of adolescence and the nervousness of a new school format in Junior High, discovering girls, band practice, having different classrooms, discovering girls and of course the inevitable new stage we were about to encounter, which was discovering girls.

Pete Wurdock - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PD

“ *My warmest sympathy to the family. He was a wonderful man. God Bless you all and may he give you strength and peace during this journey.*

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

CT

“ *Whenever I heard his name or saw him in one of the elementary schools that we work in together, a smile came across my face. Carl Suriano ALWAYS brought a smile or a laugh after a great story he told or something that had happened in one of his classes. If there was something that needed to be done and he was available, Carl would do it without being asked. The children loved Carl. He ALWAYS made gym fun! He ALWAYS put their needs and concerns above his own. He could be walking down the hall or outside at recess or just relaxing, but if a child or group of children descended around him, they had his complete attention. Carl Suriano was an outstanding educator and friend!*

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

ST

“ Of all the other dads in the neighborhood in Royal Oak, Carl was the best. He was always so much fun, energetic and funny. As a child, sometimes dads could be kind of scary. Not Carl. When I think of him, I think of him with a Pepsi, perhaps on his way to play tennis. My favorite memory was when he and my dad, Ed Cannon, paid \$2 for a red dress at "Huge Harold's Happy Happening," the Grant Elementary rummage sale which was named by his son, Todd. They purchased the dress for Michaline Platz's birthday. I still cherish the photo of my dad, Carl and Michaline in her red dress. My first kiss, when I was 5, was from Todd Suriano. After the kiss, I asked Todd: "Why did you do that?" He responded, "Well, that's what my dad does to my mom when he leaves for work." Well in saying good-bye to you, Carl, I send you a kiss, because that's what you would do. Love to you Cynthia, Todd, Scott and Andy. Love, Sidney

Sidney Cannon Thomas - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ When I think of Carl, I am reminded of the 'Perfect Sailing' day we shared a couple of summers ago. The sky was clear, the air so warm and the wind blowing a constant speed. Carl had made the sandwich's and we packed a small cooler with snacks, then set off to Elk Lake with my { our! } sailboat { Carl had purchased a \$10 part and claimed some ownership } and wind in our hair {well, Carls } to conquer what came our way. We laughed and talked as if he was Socrates and I was Plato, solving the earths mysteries. It was a perfect sail. Thanks Carl.

Bob Fox - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Expect the unexpected! Carl was the master of the practical joke. We had placed a sink in our flower garden to be used as a birdbath . Unfortunately, a chipmunk decided to take a swim and could not get back out. Carl witnessed the result of the chipmunk's bad judgement. The next time they came for a visit, he presented us with a miniature life rescue package; a toy ladder, a life saving ring and a hook in case the chipmunk had a friend who could help him out. Cynthia wondered why Carl had been searching the kids toy boxes but she had seen Carl on a "joke mission" on more than one occasion. He had a gift that he shared with all of us. Thanks for the memories, Carl. We love you. Donna

Donna Fox - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

IB

“ Carl was a sweet and gentle man. He is going to be missed by many. I'm glad i could meet him the couple of times i did. The world needs more kindness like what Carl had to offer, and the world is much better for having had Carl in it.

ian busch - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ My heartfelt condolences to the family. I have been in Californis since 1946 and have not seen Carl since then. But I've heard of his prowess from the family. Love, Aunt Tibby

Tibby Schneider - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ My heartfelt condolences to the family. I have been in Californis since 1946 and have not seen Carl since then. But I've heard of his prowess from the family. Love, Aunt Tibby

Tibby Schneider - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Dear Cynthia, Todd, Scott and Andy, We send our deepest sympathy to you at this hard time...we have such great memories of you all with Band Boosters and the crazy things we did, while we embarrassed our kids and they embarrassed us! especially in Huntington Woods! Hope to see you Friday. God bless you all.

Clairellen & Chuck McLaughlin - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ Carl's presence will be missed but his humor, love and friendship will carry on in our hearts and memories. It was always a delight to be in the same room with Carl, anticipating what comical story was being structured in his mind for our joy and entertainment. Our love and deepest sorrow to his beautiful and loving wife, Cynthia, and family.

Maureen and Joe Weaver - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ We will miss you, Carl. It was wonderful having moments with you through Carlyn and Andy's wedding, the baby shower, and the birth of our beloved Sebastian. Rest in peace and know we will always be there for Andy who is like our son and a part of our family. God Bless. Betty and Jack Gleason

Betty & Jack Gleason - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ May you find strength in the love of family and in the warm embrace of friends.

Christy Smith - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ *My deepest sympathy to Cynthia and family. May God hold you close in this time of sorrow to fill your hearts with the comfort of His love.*

Mary Ellen Barnes - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BN

“ *Carl, you will be missed. I always enjoyed our talks and your incredible sense of humor. Michelle and I still laugh about your dance with her at our wedding. You always had a way to find the humor in life and your knack for pointing out the painfully obvious was unparalleled. I truly hope you are at peace and bringing laughter to all that you are around. Blessings, Brian & Michelle Nixon and Family*

Brian & Michelle Nixon - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM