



## Michael J. Murphy

January 26, 1937 - September 3, 2015

Murphy, Michael J Age 78, September 3, 2015.

Beloved husband of Katherine for 50 years. Loving father of Shannon (Dennis) Kent, Sean (Juliet Tropea-Murphy) and Ryan. Proud grandfather of Olivia, Devin, Seamus and Liam. Dear uncle of many nieces and nephews.

Mr. Murphy was predeceased by his parents Irving and Nellie (nee Nolan) as well as his siblings Bryan, Loraine, Jack, Lawrence, Marie and Patrick.

Michael worked over 30 years with Utica Community Schools, was a Washington Township Trustee and a member of the Gerald C. Friend Memorial Trust Scholarship Board. He loved to travel and gardening.

Memorial visitation Friday, September 11, 2-8 p.m. at the Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home 8459 Hall Road (3 Blks E. of Van Dyke) Utica. Memorial Service Saturday, September 12 ~ 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Memorials appreciated to the American Cancer Society. Please share a memory at [www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com](http://www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

SEP **11**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
utica@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Memorial Service

SEP **12**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
utica@sullivanfh.com  
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# Tribute Wall

DT

“ It was our privilege and unique experience to share our careers with Mike. Mike was first of all a great person who loved a good time, a quick wit, and genuine individual. Knew Mike when I first started teaching and valued him as my mentor as my career continued. He always was available to give some advice, especially when I was a new principal. Continued to value his knowledge when he worked in human resources. Brigitte loved teaching for Mike and then Fred when they were principals. She would relate so many stories which could only be authored by Mike. His sense of humor was like no other, and he could say things that no one else could and get a laugh for it!

Our prayers and sympathy to Kathy , Shannon, and family. Our memory of Mike will always be there

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**dave turrel** - September 11, 2015 at 03:13 PM

AS

“ While I did not personally know Mr. Murphy, I had the pleasure of working with Kathy for a few years at Utica High School. My heartfelt condolences to you Kathy and your family.

*Andrea Solomon*

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**andrea solomon** - September 11, 2015 at 01:36 PM

LB

“ My deepest sympathy to your family. Mike was truly unique! When he became principal of Davis, everyone's life changed dramatically. We worked with him, not for him. . .what a concept! He created the beginning of a family atmosphere that continued on to Heritage. He encouraged our creativity, allowed us to grow as educators, and made it fun! Because of him, I had the greatest job in the world! Everyone on the staff was part of our extended family. We laughed and cried together, celebrated everything, and truly cared about one another. Mike was our leader, our mentor, our friend. For me, it was like having a big brother. I was so fortunate to be a part of the world he created. He will be missed.

*Linda Bryant*

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**Linda Bryant** - September 10, 2015 at 11:04 AM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Michael J. Murphy .



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September 10, 2015 at 08:26 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael J. Murphy .



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September 10, 2015 at 07:56 AM

MM

“ Aunt Kathy and Family, I'm so sorry. Uncle Mike had the best laugh and wasn't afraid to use it. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. He was a smart, kind and funny man. He will be missed. Sorry isn't enough to take your pain, Bless all of you. Maureen

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**Maureen Murphy** - September 08, 2015 at 07:46 PM

TS

“ Although I only really knew Mike Murphy as Shannon, Sean, and Ryan's father, my parents (Alan and Joan Sturm) knew Mike and Cathy as more than just co-workers but as lifelong friends. Kimber street where we grew up was a teachers heaven. Murphy's, Pearson's, Rewalt's, Sturm's, etc were all UCS teachers / administrators during those days. I've heard of all the shenanigan's that went on between these UCS friends. They all bought houses together on the same street. They took trips and vacations together. From canoeing together, to renting a cottage in Caseville, to spending time up at Muskegon where Cathy was from, it was 1 adventure after another  
My uncle (Lynn Sturm - Counselor for UCS) was good friends with Mike as well. My mom has lots of stories that I love hearing about these close knit of friends and adventures they shared together. Seem people today don't have this type of closeness with other people. God bless those all we've lost in the last few years. Al Sturm, John Rewalt, Leonard Morrison, Jack McRoberts, Mike Murphy. Rest in Peace my extended family. I will never forget what contributions you made to all of use kids on Kimber Street. Todd, Joey, Mitchell, Shelby, Joan, Wendy, Lynn Sturm....

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**Todd Sturm** - September 07, 2015 at 09:40 PM

FS

“ Even though you and John r. and bill w. we're not the best of golfers and I was, you are always be in my soul and my thoughts, Fred S

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**fred schwark** - September 07, 2015 at 05:01 PM

MS

“ *Murph was the best. He laid the foundation for one of the best schools in Utica. He had the love and respect of his staff and students. If all schools followed the path Mike laid out as an administrator we would have one hell of an educational system. Thanks Mike for allowing me the opportunity to serve under you at Heritage. I was the best time of my life.*

*With respect,  
Mike and Pam Shaw*

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**Mike Shaw** - September 04, 2015 at 10:46 PM

SS

“ *Mike was a very supportive principal and assistant principal. He always had a listening ear and was not afraid to implement your ideas. Best of all he always had a friendly smile and a great laugh. Our deepest sympathy to Kathy and the kids. Sincerely,  
Rick and Steff Starnes*

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**Steff Starnes** - September 04, 2015 at 06:56 PM

MB

“ *We are keeping Mike's family and friends in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. We smile when we think of our fun laden trip with Mike and Kathy to Alaska...what a great time! Mike was a wonderful and caring boss in Human Resources at UCS. He will be missed. With Deepest Sympathy, Maureen & John Brown*

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**Maureen Brown** - September 04, 2015 at 06:54 PM

LH

*I feel blessed to have worked for Mike at Heritage. Besides being an excellent principal, he made Heritage a great school to learn and work in. He always made me laugh. I wish I could thank him for the opportunity he gave me to work for him as it was truly a wonderful experience. He will be missed. My condolences and prayers go to Kathy and his family.*

*Lynne Hummel*

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**Lynne Hummel** - September 06, 2015 at 09:32 PM

RM

*I first met Mike when I walked into my 7th grade English class. He was funny, engaging, challenging and, more importantly, tolerant of an obnoxious know-it-all kids who needed attention. He challenged me to think a moment or two before I spoke, consider others and approach literature as something more than just stories. Later as a teacher, I would would run into him in his role as an administrator and he hadn't changed much. He treated his staff members with consideration, encouraged them to exercise their creativity and supported them in all endeavors. As I became an administrator, I served as an assistant at Heritage JH which Mike had opened twenty years earlier. His legacy was still celebrated by the staff who worked with him. Mike will be remembered fondly by many former students, teachers and administrative colleagues. With my deepest sympathies. Bob McBroom*

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**Robert McBroom** - September 06, 2015 at 09:53 PM

JS

*An infectious grin and a huge, hearty greeting were trademarks of Mike. Toss in the name Murphy and a home town like Emmett and you have the ingredients for a legend...and, Mike Murphy certainly was one. Joan attended Capac High School during Mike's years and the tales and exploits of Murphy and his "Merrymen" were numerous.*

*We will be in Louisville at the time of The Memorial but our thoughts and prayers will be with Kathy and her family. And, memories of a deep, hearty laugh will remain forever.*

*Jay and Joan Smith*

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**Jay Smith** - September 07, 2015 at 01:14 PM

BA

*We also were blessed to know Kathy & Mike & taken under their wings. The Utica Schools were better for their presence & practices. Away from the schools, times were even more fun. We thank you Kathy for sharing Mike with us all. I like to think of him also as a big part of Emmett Michigan. God's blessings on all of the family.*

*Bob & Jo Ames*

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**Bob & Jo Ames** - September 07, 2015 at 04:10 PM

PS

*Mike made me smile and will continue to do so. My thoughts and prayers are with your family during this difficult time.*

*Pamela Schaffer*

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**Pamela Schaffer** - September 08, 2015 at 02:00 PM

ML

*Who remembers Barney Swinehart's retirement? If you do, you are very old, but you still have your memory intact. Congratulations. That party was memorable in many ways but especially for the creation of selfies by Murphy and company.*

*It was the first Monte Carlo retirement blowout with open bar and way too many speeches. To immortalize the peals before Swinehart, the AV gurus set up their equipment and then walked away.*

*Big mistake because they set up the cameras in the aisle by Murphy's table. Thus were selfies created.*

*Whatever happened to those videotapes? No matter. They still replay in my head.*

*Thank you, Mike, for so many Murphy Moments.*

*You are missed.*

*Mary Lu Lockhart*

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**mary lu lockhart** - September 11, 2015 at 05:56 AM