



Kenneth Neuenschwander

May 26, 1946 - October 17, 2020

Kenneth E. Neuenschwander, 74, of Napoleon, passed away from multiple health complications on Saturday, October 17, 2020 at the Defiance Area Inpatient Hospice Center.

Ken was born on May 26, 1946 to Alverda (Yackee) and Theodore Neuenschwander. He was a graduate of Wauseon High School and earned Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Bowling Green State University.

Ken married Charlene O'Hara on June 13, 1970.

Ken, Mr. N or "N", was a talented and resourceful leader, a compassionate mentor, a master delegator and an electric personality that definitely made an impact on many lives. He taught high school English, speech, and drama for 36 years. Ken taught communications, acting and theater at Defiance College for several years. As an advisor, he organized many spirited events for the school and community. Ken shared his creativity in directing high school, collegiate, and community theater plays. He often recognized potential in people and fostered confidence and passion for the arts. Although he certainly enjoyed being in charge and dreaming the dream, Ken equally loved performing. He was involved in the Summer Stock at BGSU, Huron Playhouse, a longtime member of the Maumee Valley Civic Theater, contributed to the Fort Defiance Players, and supported the Henry County Arts Partnership and the Napoleon Athletic Boosters. Ken established and developed the Napoleon Community Television (NCTV) program. He spearheaded and gathered the community to erect the Charles Buckenmeyer Stadium. Ken was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Napoleon. He was a passionate and visionary founder of the Napoleon Civic Center. Ken's modesty for his personal accomplishments and community contributions make it impossible to share a complete list. Most of all, Ken was a committed husband, a supportive father and an extremely proud grandfather. In his retirement, Ken especially loved spending time at the lake with his family and attending his grandkids extracurricular activities.

Ken is survived by his wife of 50 years, Charlene (O'Hara) Neuenschwander; children,

Amy (Greg) Rosebrook of Napoleon, Jennifer (Troy) Baughman of Dexter, Michigan, and Laura (Brian) Dean of Powell, Ohio; grandchildren, Paige Snyder, Zack Rosebrook, Kendall Rosebrook, Nate Baughman, Molly Rosebrook, Tessa Baughman, Mia Baughman, Mason Dean and Owen Dean; brothers Larry (Ginni) and Brent Neuenschwander of Wauseon.

Ken was preceded in death by his parents.

Due to the global pandemic, services will be private with immediate family. The funeral service will be livestreamed at 1 p.m. on Saturday, October 24th and can be viewed at <https://www.stpaulnapoleon.org>

Memorials are suggested to Ken's most recent community passion, the development of the Napoleon Civic Center. Donations can be made online at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/napoleon-civic-center-for-kenneth-neuenschwander> or mailed to Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home 1010 Westmoreland Ave. Napoleon, OH 43545.

Comments



“ Our sympathy, Char to you and your family. Kenny was always so full of life and fun to be around. He will be missed and remembered by many. Cherish your memories.
Karen & Butch Fraker

Karen Fraker - October 30, 2020 at 05:11 PM



“ Ken was a teacher but so much more, his endless energy and optimism was an inspiration to everyone he encountered. He impacted so many people and that legacy goes on and on.

Tom Ealey
NHS '70

Tom Ealey - October 27, 2020 at 09:55 PM



“ Char and family, Mom (Jackie), Dan and I send our heartfelt sympathies to you on your loss of Kenny. Mom remembers all the fun times with Kenny and you with the MVCT days in the 70s. So sorry

Jackie Sautter- Dan and Renee Yoder - October 25, 2020 at 10:17 AM



“ I was in Kenny's class in high school. We always had so much fun together. The best times were when we were in the junior class play together "Days of our Lives". Mr. Argabrite was the director and I'd like to think that this experience is what inspired Kenny to be so very dedicated to high school theatrics. He was certainly a natural and such a wonderful person. I am so sorry that he is not with us anymore. I send my deepest heartfelt sympathies to his family.
Jane McGara Corrigan

Jane McGara Corrigan - October 24, 2020 at 05:16 PM



“ I was a teacher at Napoleon in the elementary & middle schools when Ken was teaching at the high school. I met him through his theater work. For a year or two, he organized a variety show that showcased teachers. I enjoyed taking part in them. Later, as the spring musical one year, the high school students put on "Jesus Christ, Superstar." He invited teachers to take part to give some extra singing power to the music. We dressed the part, got to parade in during one song, and stood on the floor by the stage to sing. What fun that was! The staging was amazing. Ken added a scene at the very end to show Jesus rising because he didn't want to end with the crucifixion. My condolences to both his family and his community for their loss.

Karen Murray - October 23, 2020 at 08:11 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kenneth Neuenschwander.



October 23, 2020 at 07:44 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Kenneth Neuenschwander.



October 23, 2020 at 12:26 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss of Kenny. His lake family will miss him dearly!

Kim Ashenfelter

Kim Ashenfelter - October 23, 2020 at 11:41 AM



“ So sorry for your loss. Our Sincere Sympathy. Gary & Lila Wernecke and Family

Gary & Lila Wernecke - October 22, 2020 at 08:37 PM



“ We are so sorry about Kenny's passing. He was a great friend and neighbor to us. Archer Lake will never be the same without his eyebrow lift or some comment. We will miss you. Love, Vicki and Smitty

Vicki and Smitty - October 22, 2020 at 06:19 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy to your family, Ken and your family have always made us feel welcome anytime we were with your family, which is a tribute to Great Parents that have raised a very loving family, much to be proud!!! Take Care and God Bless

Mike and Lisa Hoops and Family - October 22, 2020 at 09:19 AM



“ Gone too soon. We are so very sorry to hear about the passing of Ken. I had the privilege of working with Ken when he produced the Napoleon High School TV show. I was on the Henry County Humane Society Board and we would show the animals up for adoption. I also got to work with Ken when he directed Fiddler On The Roof at St Paul. Ken was also our daughter's, Jamy, cheer coach and I would see him from time to time. .Oh, how Ken will be missed! We are sending our prayers to you, Char and the family.

Judy Dickmann - October 21, 2020 at 12:20 PM



“ My deepest condolences to the Neuenschwander Family in your loss. May the peace of the Lord comfort you and fill you with His deepest love

Alfred G. Wiederwohl - October 21, 2020 at 09:40 PM



“ So many thoughts and prayers are with you all during this time. If there is anything at all we can do to ease your minds or help you through this, please let us know.

All our Love

Crockett Dr Smith Family - Bob, Danielle, Truman and Freckles

Smith family - October 21, 2020 at 09:24 AM



“ I was so sorry to hear about Mr Neuenschwander. Back in the 1980s, he gave me the opportunity to get involved in summer theater with very minor background roles in two musicals at John L Johnson Auditorium. I was too shy to audition and he took me on as part of the chorus and dancer. I loved every minute of it!

Mr 'N' came to the NHS about the time I was leaving so I did not know him as a teacher but got to know him and his lovely wife Charlene over the years. He was a bundle of energy with a great sense of humor and he always brought a smile to my face.

I am sending my heartfelt thoughts to Charlene and family.

Janis L Huston

Janis L Huston - October 21, 2020 at 08:24 AM



“ Our deepest condolences to the entire family. "N" was one of a kind and one of the greats! Who else would get the idea to do the Macarena after every touchdown the Cats scored! Ken will be missed by so many. Godspeed "N"!!!

John Snoad - October 20, 2020 at 08:30 PM



“ So very sorry that you lost Kenny. My sincere sympathy to his family. May he enjoy his Heavenly home!

Judi Cotter - October 20, 2020 at 05:11 PM



“ Our sincere sympathy to the whole family. Prayers for peace,



Kathy & Steve Lieb - October 20, 2020 at 03:17 PM



“ What wonderful memories I have of beloved Kenny Neuenschwander. I would have to write carefully to share some of them. Times have changed, and back when I had Mr. N as a teacher, he didn't have to be as politically correct as we do today:) He said some pretty great stuff, and when I think of him only a smile comes to my face. And then another one when I think of something else about him. All smiles. He was ornery and funny and above all, you knew he cared about you. I was so sad when I heard that he passed away. Being in his musicals (high school and community theatre) was one of the funnest things I remember doing in life, really. Without him, I wouldn't have had those experiences. I almost have a movie going through my head of memorable moments with him - teaching in senior English comp, teaching us a tap dance on the stage, teasing me about the types of parts he always chose to give me, and the list goes on. Then I remember him as a dad with his girls, and of course with his wonderful wife, Char. You influenced my life in all good ways, Kenny. You will be missed. Heaven will be having some remarkable productions:)

Joy Good - October 20, 2020 at 03:16 PM



“ Some of my best memories of NHS are with N. I'll never forget learning limericks on bus rides with cheer squad during '81 basketball season, HS theatre and limited MVCT. N was simply one of my favorite teachers at any level of education. Prayers are with you Char and the entire Neuenschwander family

Mike Schnitkey - October 20, 2020 at 06:45 PM



“ My good buddy " Kenny " Always felt sorry for his two brothers because it took so long for his mom and dad to get the gene pool straightened out and Kenny got all the smarts, good looks, personality, and Bee, and Larry got left out. Roger B. Nagel

Roger B. Nagel - October 23, 2020 at 05:20 PM



“ I was so sorry to hear of Kenn'y passing. My sincere sympathy to the family. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Connie (Boyers) Grimes
WHS Classmate 1964

Connie Grimes - October 20, 2020 at 12:25 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Kenneth Neuenschwander.



October 19, 2020 at 09:58 PM



“ There are people we never forget, and people who influence your future more than you realize. Like so many, Mr. N helped realize my love of the theater. Unlike so many, he also proved to me that my love was best served behind the scenes. One walk-on line in Scrooge proved that I should stick with the orchestra pit, lighting, sound, or costuming. So years later, when my child got a chance to shine, I was right there to help with costumes.

I enjoyed late nights babysitting your kids, challenging senior compositions, and every theatrical event of which I was able to be part.

It was a pleasure to know you, sir. You are missed.

Connie Bechtel - October 19, 2020 at 04:46 PM



“ Bob Martinez Family purchased the Garden Accent - Those we love don't go away... for the family of Kenneth Neuenschwander.



Bob Martinez Family - October 19, 2020 at 12:09 PM



“ So sorry for your loss... my thoughts and prayers go out to you all!

Dorothy Lambert - October 19, 2020 at 10:09 AM



“ One of NHS's best. I'm so very sorry to learn of his passing...my sympathies to the family.

Debra Betts - October 19, 2020 at 08:06 AM