



John Francis Kern

November 23, 1933 - September 26, 2014

OBITUARY

John Francis Kern was born in Hibbing, MN, the son of John and Jessie (Scofield) Kern on November 23rd, 1933. After graduating from Corvallis, MT High School, he worked for the Forest Service before joining the U.S. Navy. After being discharged, John worked as a meat cutter in a locker plant in Upsala where he met his future wife, Phyllis. They married in December, 1960. John attended St. Cloud State University obtaining an Elementary Teaching Degree.

John began his teaching career in Wheaton, MN where he taught for two years. In 1966, John was hired as a sixth grade teacher in the Alexandria School district where he taught for twenty-eight years. He retired in 1994. After retiring, John enjoyed doing volunteer work at St. Mary's, Bethany Home, Habitat for Humanity and the Douglas County Food Shelf. John was family oriented, helpful, considerate and loved to play cards and bridge. He was always teaching and educating and had a knack for remembering students by name.

John is survived by his wife , Phyllis; their children, Michelle (Steve) Behm of Reno, NV, grandson Michael; David (Daena) of West Fargo, ND, grandson Caleb; Dan (Naomi) of Arlington, WA, grandchildren, Elizabeth, Paul and

Samuel; Mary (Shane) Weber, grandchildren Carly, Maya and Porter of St. Bonifacius, MN; sisters, Veronica (Bill) Wilson, Rita (Dennis) Amende both from Couer d 'Alene, ID; Monica (Michael) Folchert, Mauretta (David) Folchert both from North Platte, NE; brother, Leo (Judy) of Missoula, Montana; Norbert (Dorothy) of Bozeman, MT and Donald of Red Lodge, MT along with many nieces and nephews.

John was preceded in death by his parents, John and Jesse Kern; step-mother, Mary Kern; Sisters, Carmella Brislan, Jueletta Wandler; brother-in-laws, William Brislan, Ludwig Wandler.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to St. Mary's School Fund, Habitat for Humanity, the Food Shelf, and Demontriville.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery

723 West Winona Dr.
Alexandria, MN 56308

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 30. 4:00 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
421 Hawthorne St
Alexandria, MN

Prayer Service

SEP 30. 7:30 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
421 Hawthorne St
Alexandria, MN

Visitation

OCT 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
421 Hawthorne St
Alexandria, MN

Service

OCT 1. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
421 Hawthorne St
Alexandria, MN

Tribute Wall



“ *Anderson Funeral Home and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of John Francis Kern*



Anderson Funeral Home - October 10, 2014 at 08:08 AM

SJ

“ *Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers are with you, Phyllis and family! John was a wonderful, caring, kind man who will be missed by all who knew him. We always enjoyed visiting with him!. Cherish your memories of him, as he will always be very much a part of each of you. God bless and comfort you as you miss him and celebrate his life.*

*In Christ's love,
Roger and Sue Johnson*

Sue Johnson - October 01, 2014 at 10:57 PM

HB

“ My memories of Mr. Kern as my 6th grade teacher make me smile. He made school fun. My favorite memory of him is he caught me passing a "note" to another friend, he didn't get mad but he kept it (completely embarrassing for a 6th grader). The last day of school, he returned my note. He was always joking around!!

He will be missed. I am so sorry for your loss!

Heidi Borgen (Marusak)

Heidi Borgen - October 01, 2014 at 04:40 PM

LT

“ Mr. Kern was my 6th grade teacher in the experimental Bemo/Kern team room during the 1970-1971 school year. I have very fond memories of Mr. Kern as my teacher and when I think of 6th grade it makes me smile. As a life long resident of Alexandria I ran into Mr. Kern several times over the last 40+ years and was lucky to get to know him outside of the classroom. He was truly a great guy who impacted many, many young lives. I will miss seeing him around town.

So sorry for your loss,

Lynn Norton Thoennes

Lynn Thoennes - October 01, 2014 at 09:25 AM

RS

“ Mr. kern was my 6th grade teacher. He co- taught with Mrs. Bemo. He was always patient and kind with a rabble-rouser like myself. Years later, he played bridge with my Mom, Pearl Thorson. He never failed to inquire about me. That's what makes a teacher great: someone who takes an interest in each child and makes them feel special. I'll never forget that! I'm sorry for your loss.

Sincerely,

Robin Thorson Sweeney

2nd Grade teacher

Fargo, ND

robin carey- sweeney - September 30, 2014 at 08:18 PM

 Cindy Grabow

“ Mr. Kern was my 6th grade teacher and made a big impression on my life. What a great man. I am now 55 years old and still remember him as my favorite teacher!!!

Cindy Grabow - September 30, 2014 at 08:10 PM

GL

“ John was my mentor when I returned to teaching and was placed in Lincoln Elementary School. What a fortunate opportunity for me, I could not have had a better model for how to be a quality educator. I had the distinct pleasure to teach with, and learn from, John for several years. He grew to be a valued friend. John's footprint in this school district and community was large, and the number of people he influenced was great.

A life well-lived John, you will be missed. God bless you Phyllis and family, and grant you peace.

Greg Lanners

Greg Lanners - September 30, 2014 at 02:26 PM

TH

“ *The Danielson's, Johnson's, Miller's, Nelson's, and Hickok's purchased the Basket of Joy for the family of John Francis Kern.*



The Danielson's, Johnson's, Miller's, Nelson's, and Hickok's
- September 30, 2014 at 10:08 AM

MZ

“ *Mr. Kern was my 6th grade teacher, dad of my friend Dave, and helped in the Boy Scouts. I remember his teaching lessons to this day and it was one of the reasons I went back to school for my Social Studies teaching degrees. Things that I will always remember are Rutabage stew (terrible) which we had while camping during the Miracle on Ice, going on paper drives, some of his Navy stories and the underhanded football passes. I know he is missed.*

Mike Zavadil - September 30, 2014 at 10:03 AM

AB

“ *As I think of John Kern I think of a man who was so wonderful to work with and had a special gift of knowing each of his students. He was always the one who would keep calm and deal with whatever situation you were called to deal with. Phyllis and children, I know you have countless memories of his love and concern for others. He was one of those silent heroes that did things not for the recognition but because he was a child of God and that's what you do!*

Amy Dianne Bakkken - September 29, 2014 at 04:22 PM

LF

“ *Love, your Freshwater family. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Francis Kern.*



Love, your Freshwater family. - September 29, 2014 at 03:58 PM

KO

“ *Mr. Kern was my 6th grade teacher. He had a way of making each student feel special!*

I feel fortunate to have known him in my adult life as well. He was always so friendly to me and my family! I always enjoyed visiting with him at church and will miss seeing his smiling face.

My sympathy to the family. I will keep all of you in my prayers.

Kalee

Kalee Olson - September 29, 2014 at 09:14 AM

LO

“ *Mr. Kern was my 6th grade teacher. We started each day with jokes. He was a special guy.*

I will always remember when he gave each student an award for a gift he felt they had. I might even still have mine.

His caring and passion for people was evident! I am very sorry to hear of his passing. My sympathy to the family!!

Lori - September 28, 2014 at 06:05 PM

JN

“ *John was an inspiration to so many of us. He was such a kind and caring teacher, and his positive outlook carried on throughout his battles with cancer. It was a joy see him working at the elementary track and field days for years after his retirement, and visiting with him on those days was a pleasure. Our sympathies go out to Phyllis and family on the lost of a wonderful man.*

Jan Nelson

Jan Nelson - September 28, 2014 at 01:33 PM

CC

“ *Val and I will never forget John, as we taught with him for years in the Alexandria Schools. His kindness, caring, and willingness to help others was always evident, and we both feel we became better teachers because of our contacts with him. Our deepest sympathy to Phyllis and the kids...know that he now suffers no more. The light of our Lord surely shines on John, as he shone on others during his stay here.*

Charlie and Val Christopherson

Charlie Christopherson - September 28, 2014 at 10:28 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Francis Kern.*



September 27, 2014 at 12:20 PM