



Wayne Martin Garchow

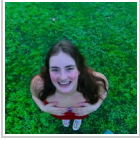
March 27, 1937 - November 2, 2020

Wayne Martin Garchow of Grand Ledge passed away November 2, 2020 surrounded by his loving family. Wayne was born March 27, 1937 in Saginaw, Michigan to the late Martin and Marguerite (Sands) Garchow. He graduated as Valedictorian from Saginaw High School Class of 1955 and attended the University of Michigan for his undergraduate studies. Wayne went on to receive a Master's Degree from Michigan State University. He taught World History for 30 years at Waverly High School when it opened in 1963. Teaching history was Wayne's passion, and reading was an integral part of his daily life. Wayne's thirst for knowledge was contagious; allowing him to touch and inspire countless lives as an educator. Wayne was an accomplished woodworker whose favorite trademark was a four-leaf clover. He and Judy loved to dance and enjoyed the Harmony Club together for many years. Wayne actively worked with the Grand Ledge community by promoting the Grand Ledge Historical Society, Opera House, and Library. Wayne had the unique ability to make everyone feel important. As a deep thinker, he openly advocated for others. Wayne will be remembered for his intellect, compassion, generosity, and warmth. Wayne cherished his family. He is survived by his high school sweetheart and loving wife of 64 years, Judith (Bartels); daughters, Ann (John) Pohl and Karen (Rich) Friberg; daughter-in-law, Laurene Garchow-(Tom) Packer; grandchildren, Lyndsey Pohl, Emily (Jacob) Sommers, Kelsey and Kyle Friberg, Garrett (Sarah) and Lauren Garchow; great grandchildren, Owen

Garchow and Henry Sommers. Wayne was preceded in death by his beloved son Mark; brothers, Marlin, Marwood and Edward.

A Celebration of Wayne's life will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions in Wayne's name may be given to the Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson Street, Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837. Arrangements by the Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home, Grand Ledge.

Tribute Wall



“ *I think i'll forever have a special place in my heart for Mr. Wayne! He was the sweetest human, he was always so happy and excited. He was so smart and caring and an amazing human!!!! i'll miss him forever!* ”

Chloe Willobee - December 29, 2020 at 11:22 PM

“News of Mr. Garchow’s passing just reached me. Echoing the sentiments of many, he was among my favorites too, though it’s worth noting that Waverly possessed an outstanding faculty in lower grades through high school spanning my experiences in the mid-60s to mid-70s. Following my father’s advice, I took Wayne’s Honors World History class as a sophomore. Dad taught history in Waverly’s junior high school and had become good friends with Wayne via joint district-wide curriculum planning meetings and other activities of mutual interest as both families had children on Waverly’s track and field teams. Mr. Garchow expertly tied the contemporary war in Vietnam to broader explorations of Southeast Asia and world political and economic policies. He also celebrated with me and other classmates intrigued to learn that Jethro Tull was an important agricultural pioneer and inventor in addition to being namesake of a popular rock band. My most enduring memory of Garchow’s class were his weekly “Jeopardy” contests, pitting various sections of his class against each other for nothing but bragging rights. He freely admitted that this was a thinly-veiled strategy to get students to read the hefty textbook. Usually Todd Halbert, one of Waverly’s best sprinters, led a fiercely competitive group of seniors against Mike Engelhardt, ringleader of our motley gang of sophomore history buffs. Wayne limited Todd and Mike’s participation to every third question or so, in order to give the rest of us a chance. One day, with the groups in a virtual dead heat entering the Final Jeopardy question, Wayne observed Todd and Mike’s hands shoot up as he’d barely begun reading the question regarding a famous murder during the French Revolution. Pausing with a twinkle in his eye, he changed the question mid-stream to something the effect of: “What was the first sentence of the letter held by the dead journalist in the famous painting on page so-and-so of the text?” That content was, of course, illegible in our book. “Todd?” Without batting an eye, the unflappable Halbert smirked, then replied, “You’ve had it, Marat!” prompting Mr. Garchow to double over, laughing as hard as everyone in the room. A tie was declared and, as usual, we left the class energized. That is, of course, a hallmark of an outstanding teacher. Rest in Peace.

Mark Havitz, Class of '75

Mark Havitz - December 18, 2020 at 12:16 PM

SU

“ *Mr. Garchow was my favorite teacher at Waverly High School as well. Before taking his class, history was my least favorite subject. I became a history teacher because of him. My condolences to losing one of the most awesome human beings ever.*

*Sue
Class of '71*

Sue - December 15, 2020 at 09:24 PM

JM

“ *Mr. Garchow was one of my favorite teachers of all time. We learned to think in his classes through active discussions, which he loved. He had us read classic books in history and economics. I loved it when I would see those books on my college syllabi or see them as main references for other works! Mr. Garchow took me along with some other students to UM-Ann Arbor (his alma mater) to listen to speakers. Those talks were given by influential Americans and were deeply thought provoking. Mr. Garchow and I shared a deep respect/reverence for indigenous Americans. He contributed to the development of my empathy for others.*

I send my heartfelt sympathies to the Garchow family. I know you will sorely miss your husband, father, and grandfather. Wayne had a gentle soul; he sought truth and light always. I am blessed to have had Wayne in my life.

Jan Smith McGoldrick, WHS Class of 1978

Jan McGoldrick - December 04, 2020 at 11:57 AM

K1

“ I was lucky to have stumbled into Mr. Garchow's honors history class. His teaching went beyond history. He helped me become a better writer helping to prepare for college. Waverly High School was blessed to have Mr. Garchow for so many years. He was a beloved and dedicated educator.

Kerry Potter Johnson WHS Class of 1974 - November 15, 2020 at 08:02 AM

PA

“ Mr. Garchow was a teacher who inspired students to academically challenge themselves. Without much direction in my life, I ended up in his class because it was required for graduation. His personality, kindness and knowledge of subject made history a subject I loved. By inviting me to his honors class he inspired confidence and the beginning of a journey towards an academic path. This journey culminated in a life changing career choice to become a high school history teacher. He was an inspiration to his students and an example of what excellent teachers can achieve and the legacy they leave. Thank you for being a teacher that impacted student lives and made their world a better place.

Pat Ainslie (Bowersox) Class of 1974

Patricia Ainslie - November 11, 2020 at 12:24 PM

JS

“ Mr Garchow was my favorite teacher. I was in his social living class when they announced President Kennedy had been shot and killed. He was amazing with us, very kind and patient teacher. He made history interesting as well. I am so sorry for your loss.

Joyce Newton Savage - November 10, 2020 at 08:16 AM

MS

“ Dear Judy and family, I was so sorry to read of Wayne’s passing. We saw each other less but each time we did touch base it was so nice. You and he were dear friends of ours and we will miss him.

With love, Marian Stolz

Marian Stolz - November 09, 2020 at 07:11 AM

KW

“ Judy and family,

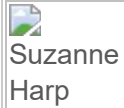
I am so sad to hear of Wayne's passing. Not only was Wayne a great teacher, he was one of the most important mentors in my life. For Mr. Garchow teaching was a calling. Typical of Wayne's generosity of heart and mind, and feisty, progressive nature, he saved this bored, floundering high school senior from himself by pressing the more conservative Waverly School District to initiate the first independent study in its history.

During this year we had together, Wayne introduced me to the works and wisdom of Carl Jung, Albert Camus, Soren Kierkegaard, Martin Buber, Erich Fromm, and his favorite, Paul Tillich in addition to educational treatises and history books that at the time were banned by the district. Wayne's sage-like mentoring and wide-ranging conversations filled our dedicated time each school day and led to many thought-provoking evenings during my high school and college years as well as decades later.

I am forever grateful to Wayne Grachow, my mentor, my sage, my friend. His passing is our loss.

Keith Wentworth

Keith Wentworth - November 08, 2020 at 07:00 PM



Suzanne Harp

“ Wayne was such a wonderful human! He was our student council advisor and my teacher and was always kind, a true guide on the side, nurturing and challenging. I'm sure he'll be missed and deeply celebrated! Peace to the family. Peace and light for his passing. 💖

Suzanne Harp - November 08, 2020 at 02:31 PM

DL

“ Only one way to describe Mr. Garchow and that was as a "good" guy. He helped to facilitate the "good" years at the high school.

Dave Leisman - November 08, 2020 at 02:11 PM

JK

“ I'm am a pastor and a 1988 Waverly graduate. Just a couple of weeks ago I was talking about how the Apostle John was a caring and nurturing teacher. I noted that when I say that, I am confident that nurturing and caring teachers of our past immediately come to mind. I commented that Mr. Garchow is who came to my mind. Mr. Garhow was by far the best teacher that I have ever had. I find it a wonderful thought that he came to mind so recently. Please accept my condolences! I'm certain that he will be missed greatly. Josh Kesler- class of '88

Josh Kesler - November 08, 2020 at 01:44 PM

JD

“ Judy & family, Sending thoughts and prayers to you and your family,so sorry! Joan Hobbs Doyle

joan doyle - November 08, 2020 at 01:44 PM

TK

“ *Our condolences to Judy and the rest of the family. As a student of his, I can attest to the fact his students loved him and the way he made history come alive. He will be sorely missed.*

Tim Klaver - November 08, 2020 at 01:08 PM

SG

“ *Loved Uncle Wayne, he was funny, intelligent and loved family.*

Steve Garchow - November 08, 2020 at 10:52 AM

RM

“ *My sincerest condolences to the entire family and community. The world was definitely a better place with Mr. Garchow in it. While I haven't spoken to him in 30 years, the news of his passing is extremely saddening to me. He was such a great teacher who motivated me to be better, to achieve more. He had such a positive effect on so many people and taught us all how to think critically. To paraphrase an old proverb, I am trying very hard not to grieve because he is no more, but to live with joy that he was. Rest In Peace (with a good book) Mr. Garchow.*

Rob McLean, Waverly High class of '86

Rob McLean - November 08, 2020 at 08:52 AM

BR

“ As we celebrate our 50 year class reunion in 2021, we will always remember Mr. Garchow as one of our favorite teachers at Waverly High School. In fact, each time a group of us gather to reminisce, he is always mentioned with affection. He was such a positive, interesting teacher and person, who really cared about his students and family. He will be missed but his spirit will live on in all who loved him. Rest In Peace, Mr. Garchow. Well done. Blessings to your family.

Barbara Trinklein Rinckey - November 08, 2020 at 07:01 AM

AN

“ I was a for exchange student at Waverly High in 71. He helped me a lot. I gave him a brazilian record, he retributed with a classical record music that made all the difference in my life. Thank you! All my love to his family.

Angela - November 07, 2020 at 11:01 PM

MT

“ Mr. Garchow was the reason I went Michigan and majored in History! All time favorite teacher!! He was always gently prodding us to do our best. So sorry for your loss.

Michelle Tobin - November 07, 2020 at 03:00 PM

MW

“ I'm truly hurting.... he was an AWESOME teacher. His character voices and the way he made his class come alive. HE is a major reason I am a teacher today, and yes I teach History. I even did some observation hours as I was getting my education under him. The world lost a GREAT TEACHER AND HUMAN. Tears in my eyes as I write this. R.I.P. Mr. Garchow, you will not be forgotten.

Michael Whalen - November 07, 2020 at 01:49 PM

MB

“ *Ann and John and the rest of the family. I'm sorry to hear of the passing of Wayne. He was a wonderful teacher and a friend to everyone in the neighborhood. He will be missed.*

MaryLea Mann Benson - November 07, 2020 at 11:10 AM

JP

“ *A fabulous teacher, a fabulous man. I doubt you'll ever find a student that didn't love his insight, his method of teaching and his family (whom he talked of often). He taught his students how to think and analyze rather than just how to memorize. My deepest sympathies to his family and friends.*

Jacque Tanner Purdy (Class of 1966)

Jacque Tanner Purdy - November 07, 2020 at 11:06 AM

KP

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. Mr. Garchow was one of my very favorite teachers at Waverly high school back in the 1970s. Not only did he keep me engaged in the subject matter, but he was a kind and gentle soul. Wishing your family peace during this difficult time.*

Kathy Popoff - November 07, 2020 at 08:05 AM

BM

“ *A beautiful man has left us. My prayers and love to dear Judy and the rest of the family. How I lived him.*

bonnie miller - November 04, 2020 at 10:56 AM