



Don Sturgeon

January 14, 1937 - December 11, 2020

On Friday, December 11, 2020, Donald Sturgeon, loving husband, caring father, inspiring educator and former County Magistrate passed away at the Frankfort Regional Medical Center at the age of 83. After graduating from Elkhorn High School in 1956, he earned a BA and MA from Eastern Kentucky University. Don taught history at Franklin County High School for 42 years during which time he also coached the swim and gymnastics teams, the academic team and served as the school's first athletic director for 16 years. A committed and dedicated educator, Don was a twelve-time member of the All-American Honorary Faculty and was the first recipient of the John Ed McConnell Extra Mile Award, given to exceptional educators.

After retiring from education, Don turned his attention to public service of a different kind and was elected the 3rd District Magistrate in 2006. During his 12 years in office, he served on the Capital Plaza Development Advisory Committee, the Frankfort Human Rights Commission, The Franklin County Ethics Commission, the Health Insurance and Employer Benefit Committee, Home Health Advisory Board, Franklin County High School Youth Service Board and the Lakeview Park Board where a splash park bears his name. Don's dedication to his church, community and commitment to education made lasting impacts in Franklin County and beyond. He was a lover of knowledge and Franklin County High School athletics, enjoyed a good pun and was quick to smile and strike up a conversation.

Don was preceded in death by his parents Lester and Bessie Smith Sturgeon. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Pamela Mitchell Sturgeon; and two children, Krista Lee Sturgeon, Gardner, Massachusetts and Ryan Sturgeon, Louisville, Kentucky. Also surviving are two sisters-in-law; Janet Mitchell Tuttle (Crugar) of Richmond, Kentucky and Barbara Mitchell Saylor (Ike) of Sebring, Florida. Don is also survived by a niece Blayne Tuttle Borden (Stacy) and a great-nephew Quinton Borden, all of Lexington, Kentucky. Arrangements are under the direction of Harrod Brothers Funeral Home and Crematory. Private services will be held. Live streaming will be available on Tuesday, December 29, 2020, after 1:00 p.m. via <http://www.harrodbrothers.com/service-videos>. A Celebration of Life gathering for friends and family is planned for a later date in 2021.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be made to Forks of Elkhorn

Baptist Church (495 Duckers Rd., Midway, Kentucky 40347) or to the Booster Club of the Franklin County High School sports team of your choice.

Events

DEC **Live Streaming of Service**01:00PM

29

HB Live Streamed Services

KY, US

Comments



“ Wings of Comfort Necklace was purchased for the family of Don Sturgeon.



December 29, 2020 at 11:55 PM



“ Mr. Don Sturgeon was one of those unique life-changing individuals God used to teach, motivate, and inspire everyone he was around.

He taught world history with such enthusiasm that it made events of the past and present come alive. He soon became one of my favorite teachers.

He retired after more than forty years at FCHS. I attended his teacher's retirement ceremony in the school auditorium where he was presented the traditional retirement rocking chair.

I knew Mr. Sturgeon was not about to retire to his rocker for long. Soon he turned his interest to local politics. He served us well as magistrate for twelve years.

The contribution Mr. Sturgeon made to our community can never be fully measured. He touched so many of us in so many ways. It was a privilege to know him and call him friend.

There is only one “Sturge”. He will be sorely missed.

Eddie Morse Watkins
FCHS Class of 1965

Eddie Morse Watkins - December 29, 2020 at 11:13 PM



“ Mr. Sturgeon was a special friend to me. I was in his fifth period World History class with the brightest and best students (not sure how i got in there), class of 1977 He was a great teacher but I wasn't such a good learner. Still, he made me feel welcome and even treated me special. He found out that I was a singer and my name was Mary Wells so he always made over that and called on me a lot. He and I would also hang out before school started in the mornings in the hallway and talk about life and what was going on that day! His special interest in me always encouraged me to try my best even though history was not my forte. Once, I got very close to a B- so he gave me a C++. Unfortunately that was the best grade I ever achieved in his class, but it did make me continue to strive to do better. Thankfully, he never held my inability against me. I also babysat for his children, Kristen and Ryan when they were young and always loved being with them and playing games together. I've been told that he has told others that I was his favorite student which always made me chuckle but secretly I have always appreciated that he would make that remark. I have not seen him that often as an adult but when we have run into each other, he was always that friendly interested fellow who I loved catching up with. I loved reading his daily words and gleaning wisdom from his insight on FB. Best of all was his reference to the Bible and following Jesus. I am thankful that he made that decision to make Jesus his Savior and although I am deeply saddened that I will not see him here again, I know I will see him and spend time again with a faithful friend in eternity someday! I love you Sturge!

Mary Hudson - December 29, 2020 at 08:02 PM



“ Mr. Sturgeon was a wonderful coach and teacher. Even 40 some years later he would always remember his "swimmers". He was always such a class act! Frankfort and all of his students will miss him.

Kimberly Gillim Tuttle - December 29, 2020 at 12:52 PM



“ Barbara R. Smith purchased the Clear Memory Frame-Large for the family of Don Sturgeon.



Barbara R. Smith - December 29, 2020 at 12:28 PM



“ Joe Ann Wylie lit a candle in memory of Don Sturgeon



Joe Ann Wylie - December 25, 2020 at 05:50 AM



“ Sorry for your loss. Great teacher. Prayers for Mr Sturgeon family.



Margaret Chaney - December 24, 2020 at 08:54 PM



“ Sturge was one of the very few teachers who ever made me feel welcome in their classroom and like someone in the building actually cared about me as a person. He was a major influence on my decision to become a teacher. I learned quite a bit about history from him, but more importantly I learned the impact a gifted educator who truly cares about ALL of their students can have. Sturge was a special teacher and even better person. He was a hero and a legend, and in one way or another, Sturge will live on in this community forever.

Adam Rogers

Adam Rogers - December 24, 2020 at 10:25 AM



“ MR. STURGEON WAS MY FAVORITE TEACHER - I LOVED HISTORY. ONE DAY MY FRIEND AND I WERE PASSING NOTES IN HIS CLASS AND HE WALKS UP AND TAKES OUR NOTE - SO EMBARRASSED BUT THAT WAS THE LAST NOTE WE PASSED. ALWAYS WONDERED IF HE READ IT. FCHS 1965; ECU 1969 - MOVED TO CALIFORNIA - NEVER SAW HIM AFTER HIGH SCHOOL UNTIL 50TH HIGH SCHOOL REUNION IN 2015 - HE LOOKED THE SAME - DIDN'T SEEM TO AGE - ONCE AGAIN GREAT TEACHER AND WAS LUCKY TO HAVE HIM AS MY TEACHER.

BRENDA GORDON SWEARINGEN CLASS OF 1965

BRENDA SWEARINGEN - December 23, 2020 at 12:26 PM



“ Desiree Howard & Family lit a candle in memory of Don Sturgeon



Desiree Howard & Family - December 22, 2020 at 02:12 PM



“ I am so very sorry for your loss. Our community has also suffered a great loss. I was blessed to have had Mr. Sturgeon in high school and, even more so, to have known him years later in my adult life. I will never forget the day I saw him in Michaels, where I worked, and he told me he still had the small painting I'd given him 40 years earlier! Knowing he not only kept it all those years, but also remembered ME, meant more than I can ever say. He was a sincere person with a gift for encouragement.

Tobi Tate - December 21, 2020 at 07:53 PM



“ Mr. Sturgeon was a man of character. He was my history teacher from the 10th-12th grades and always stuck up for those of us who had trouble sticking up for ourselves. I always enjoyed speaking with him when I would see him after my graduation. May he continue teaching in Heaven.... Sending many prayers to Mrs. Sturgeon and family

Andrea McGraph

Andrea McGraph - December 21, 2020 at 07:42 PM



“ Don was Always there for students and their families. Don would be present at events for our students in athletics and academics. I would enjoy having a chat with him on the track in front of the football field, or around FCHS . Don was present for the staff and students in tragedy and celebration giving wise and caring directions. I hope Pam will find some joy knowing Don is spending Christmas with Jesus .

Su Sheridan - December 21, 2020 at 06:54 PM



“ He made World History come alive. He challenged your opinions made you think & could also make you laugh. Grateful for my time with him.

Gary Eblen - December 21, 2020 at 06:37 PM



“ Mr. Sturgeon was an admirable man who touched the lives of generations of students. He supported FCHS pupils in and out of school. I was lucky enough to work on a project with him while teaching overseas. It was typical of him to go the extra mile to help students here and abroad. I will miss his kindness and sense of fun. He displayed a zest for life. My condolences go to his family.

Stephanie McBrayer May

Stephanie McBrayer May - December 21, 2020 at 05:54 PM



“ Don touched so many lives ... he will surely be missed. His love of this community and his desire to light educational fires made differences in many lives! My thoughts and prayers go out to his family. He was certainly a blessing!



Anne W Vansant - December 21, 2020 at 04:07 PM