



Kenneth C. Trotter

August 22, 1929 - June 17, 2017

Kenneth Conarro Trotter, 87, passed away on Saturday, June 17 at his residence in the Quadrangle in Haverford.

Ken was born on August 22, 1929 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Kenneth Trotter and Malvina (Billy) Holcombe Trotter. Growing up in Merion, he attended Merion Elementary School, Bala Cynwyd Junior High School, and Lower Merion High School, from which he graduated in 1946. He entered Bowdoin College (Brunswick, Maine) and studied there until 1950 when he enlisted in the United States Navy. After four years of service as a radio mechanic on tours of duty in the Atlantic Ocean, Ken was honorably discharged and resumed his education in 1954 at the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Education in 1956. In 1954 he also married Anne Patricia Hargadon of Ardmore, who preceded him in death in 2014 shortly after they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Marple-Newtown High School was the site of his first appointment as a school teacher, but Ken soon moved on to a position at the former Ardmore Junior High School, where he taught from 1956 until the school's permanent closing in 1978. At Ardmore, Ken's teaching portfolio embraced a broad array of subjects that included mathematics, German, history, English, world cultures, and even Russian, which he introduced as an extra-curricular academic activity following the launch of the Soviet Sputnik satellite in 1957. Throughout most of his tenure at Ardmore, Ken was a common sight at the school long after classes had ended for the day, either on the athletic field, where Ken served as coach of the school's track team in the 1960s and 1970s, or in the school auditorium as he guided students through rehearsals for the original spring musicals (including "First Place," "Competition," "Rancho de l'Amour," and others) that he and his colleague Bill Gray co-wrote over the course of many years. While teaching at Ardmore, Ken also completed a Master's of Science in Education at University of Pennsylvania as well. Upon the closing of Ardmore Junior High School, Ken devoted the remaining years of his service as a teacher to schools where he himself had studied, first at Bala Cynwyd Junior High School from 1978 to 1981 and then at Lower Merion High School, where he taught from 1981 until his retirement in 1993.

Apart from his legacy as a talented, dedicated, and much beloved teacher, Ken gave back

to the community of his upbringing in other ways as well. An avid piano player, Ken regularly provided the musical accompaniment for the Christmas carol sing-along at Narberth train station that preceded Santa's annual arrival on the Paoli local. He and his fellow teachers Leonard Murphy and Pauline Foster formed the musical combo Sentimental Journey which regularly performed in benefit concerts for senior living residences in the area. Many a production at the Narberth Community Theatre benefitted from the contributions of Ken, whether as set-builder, musician, or actor.

Ken and Anne spent 50 summers together at their cabin in Stinson Lake, New Hampshire, where just as on the Main Line, they shared many lifelong friends. It was at Stinson Lake that Ken taught Anne and their three children to swim, discovered a passion for sailing, and honed his considerable skills as a carpenter and engineer by installing the plumbing and electricity for the cabin, constructing outbuildings, and fitting out the interior with rooms and a loft. Just as on the Eastern Main Line, Ken took an active role in the life of the Stinson Lake summer community, serving as president of the Stinson Lake Association, writing weekly reports about doings on the lake for the Plymouth Record, and regularly calling out the numbers for the weekly bingo games at the community house. Ken is survived by his children Mark Trotter, Julia Trotter, and Kit Markle; by his grandchildren Joseph Markle, Daniel Markle, Arina Trotter, and Maria Trotter; and by his sister Margaret "Peggy" Thomas. He was preceded in death by his wife, parents, and brother, John Trotter.

Ken's family will receive visitors from 11:00 to 11:30 am at the Quandrangle (3300 Darby Road, Haverford, PA) this Saturday, June 24. A short memorial service will follow. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Lower Merion Scholarship Fund or the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Events

JUN

24

The family will receive guests

11:00AM - 11:30AM

The Quadrangle

3300 Darby Road, Haverford, PA, US

JUN

24

Life Celebration

11:30AM

The Quadrangle

3300 Darby Road, Haverford, PA, US

Comments



“ Mr. Trotter was my teacher for 2 years in the 1960s at Ardmore Jr. High. He was a great teacher, made learning fun, and left a life long impression for me to continue my education.

My sincerest sympathy to his family.

Grace Bonanni Cowan

Grace Bonanni Cowan - June 25, 2017 at 06:08 PM



“ We wish to express our sympathy to the Trotter and Thomas families.

Ken "Duff" made a tremendous impact on the Lower Merion Community, as a beloved teacher and his involvement with music and the community theater will inspire many, for years to come.

We expend our love and sympathy to you all. You shall be in our prayers.

The Rt. Rev. James and Mary Lou Flanagan
(across the street neighbors)

mary lou flanagan - June 24, 2017 at 10:32 AM



“ Dear Trotter Family:

We are so sorry to hear of Ken's passing. Our connection to Ken was based on his musical skill. For many years, he accompanied me on the keyboard at the Christmas Sing-a-Long at the Train Station. I was amazed at his ability to provide accompaniment even though he claimed to be unable to read music. This talent is still a hard one for me to understand since my wife and I have been involved in music for many years. We also appreciated his participation with our son Michael and Al Gebhart in performing and entertaining everyone with his keyboard ability.

Jim and Marolyn Buchanan

Jim and Marolyn Buchanan - June 24, 2017 at 09:05 AM



“ Condolences to the Trotter family. He was a model for improving the experiences of others who he came in contact with, and will be missed. Thank you Ken for being a great teacher and for the experiences of playing music with you and Al Gebhart over the years. Mike Buchanan

Mike Buchanan - June 23, 2017 at 07:27 PM



“ Thank you, Mr. Trotter for being an impactful teacher. RIP. God bless the Trotter family.

Tracy Scholl - June 22, 2017 at 01:46 PM



“ Always a light in school. He was a terrific colleague and my brother had him as a track coach. He always remembers him running backwards in front of them. I can picture him playing the electric piano at faculty luncheons. You made a huge impact on the world Ken. My prayers and condolences to his family. Louise Pierce - teacher, LMHS

Louise Pierce - June 22, 2017 at 11:22 AM



“ Wherever you are Mr. Trotter, I'm sure things are "solid and groovy" as you used to say in class. What a wonderful teacher.
Haley Miller LMHS class of '92

Haley Miller - June 22, 2017 at 06:41 AM



“ Both my mother and I had the great fortune to have Mr. Trotter teach us--in her case, at Ardmore Jr. High, and in mine, at Lower Merion. He was a wonderful, ebullient teacher who managed to make math make sense to me--no easy task. I still remember his catch phrases--"Like your smile, like your style, like your crocodile" is one I quote often--and feel truly lucky to have crossed paths with this remarkable man. His impact on the students of LMSD was enormous. My sincere condolences to his family.
Caryn Karmatz Rudy, LMHS 88

Caryn Rudy - June 21, 2017 at 09:20 PM



“ Correction--Mr. Trotter taught me at Bala Cynwyd Middle School, but his impact lasted well into high school!

Caryn - June 21, 2017 at 09:24 PM



“ The model of teaching that Mr. Trotter displayed at Ardmore Junior High, (1960-1963) made me more determined to become a teacher. His memory will live on in the students he taught.

Carol Merrill-Bright - June 21, 2017 at 06:54 PM



“ so sorry for your loss, thinking of you at this time.
Sheila whitelaw

sheila whitelaw - June 21, 2017 at 08:51 AM



“ Mr. Trotter was one of the best teachers I was fortunate to have. Math was not an easy topic for me but Mr. Trotter taught so wonderfully that I learned how to do it. He had a great sense of humor and was a fun teacher. Rest In Peace Mr. Trotter.

Dierdre Amey - June 21, 2017 at 08:13 AM



“ Mr. Trotter was one of the best teachers I ever had. Junior High School musicals were the best with him and Mr. Gray. Prayers to the Trotter family.

Sue Trudgeon Tallman

Sue Tallman - June 21, 2017 at 07:56 AM



“ Very fair teacher. Extremely approachable in class. Had Mr. Trotter in 1993. His classroom management was second to none as he made the course academic and entertaining. RIP. Max, Class of 1995.

Max A' Million - June 20, 2017 at 10:36 PM



“ Being a part of Mr. Trotter's middle school musicals was wonderful. He was full of joy and enthusiasm.

David Aureden - June 20, 2017 at 01:14 PM



“ I remember Mr. Trotter as a kind man who always had a good word for every student at LMHS. I'm sad to hear of his passing and hope you find comfort in many good memories. Regina Melchiorre LMHS '85

Regina Melchiorre - June 20, 2017 at 08:22 AM