
Waldo Thomas Keating

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TRAVERSE CITY — Waldo Thomas Keating was born Sept. 16, 1930, in Petoskey, to Bertha and Frank Keating. Known as "Wheels" for his running ability on the football field, he attended Central Michigan University, where he played football, earned a Bachelor of Science in Education and met his beloved wife, Marcia.

Waldo began his career at Muskegon Catholic Central in 1953, where he taught biology and coached several sports. In 1964, he left MCC for Muskegon Mona Shores. He returned to MCC as the head football coach and Athletic Director two years later.

He earned his master's degree in counseling from Western Michigan University.

In 1971, he moved to Traverse City to become the head football coach and Assistant Principal at St. Francis High School. There he coached his team to win the Class "D" State Football Championship in 1973. In the following year, he became the Assistant Principal at Traverse City Central High School. During his tenure at TCC, he particularly enjoyed interacting with students both inside and outside the classroom. He also kept

involved in football by assisting with Trojan football teams and serving as a "press box" coach for St. Francis.

He "retired" in 1993 after serving as Principal for one year. He returned to TCAPS as a counselor at East Junior High, a substitute principal at TCC and the first Athletic Director at Traverse City West. In recent years, he continued to assist his friend, Ralph Bradley, coaching at East Junior High and had the opportunity to coach his grandsons at Elk Rapids.

Lately, he was a fixture at the St. Francis Parish office, where he offered his time and talents to various charitable endeavors. Waldo was very active in the community. He served on the TC Board of Appeals for several years, as well as the Community Living Center board and the Hall of Fame Committees at St. Francis and Traverse City Central High School.

Waldo was bestowed with several honors, including the Class "D" Coach of the Year in 1973, the Michigan High School Football Coaches' Hall of Fame in 1986 and the TCAPS Outstanding Educator Award in 1992.

His hobbies included fishing, skiing and jogging. He was very proud of his Irish heritage and enjoyed researching his genealogy. He spent his summers at his cottage on Walloon Lake and enjoyed telling tall tales, jokes and quoting poetry around the campfire.

Waldo was preceded in death by his brothers, Ed, Harlow and Bob.

He will be greatly missed by his wife of 59 years, Marcia; his children, Patricia (Charles) Brumbaugh, Deborah Anderson, Linda (Joseph) Watt, Mary (Tim) O'Callaghan, Michael Keating, Margaret (John) Anderson, Laura (Steve Bayne) Keating and Robert (Joseph Klingman) Keating; his grandchildren, David (Anne), Andrew, John, Christian, Nicholas, Patrick, Michael, Matthew, Megan, Robert, Timothy, Danny and Laura. He also leaves behind a sister, Mary Wright and her children; a brother, Patrick and his children; and his "California" nieces and nephews.

Visitation will take place on Tuesday, June 16, from 2 until 4 p.m. and 6 until 8 p.m., at St. Francis Catholic Church in Traverse City, with a Vigil Service taking place at 7 p.m. Deacon Rene Hoenscheid will conduct the service. The funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 17, also at St. Francis Church, with Father James Gardiner and Father William Lipscomb presiding. Burial will take place at Greenwood Cemetery in Petoskey at a later time.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking that contributions be sent to either the Waldo T. Keating Memorial Scholarship or the St. Francis Athletic Association c/o Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools.

The family is being served by The Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home.

This obituary was originally published in the Record-Eagle.

To Plant Memorial Trees in memory, please visit our [Sympathy Store](#).

Published in Legacy on Jun. 14, 2009.

Keating Pages

See more records on Ancestry

MEMORIAL EVENTS

No memorial events are currently scheduled. To offer your sympathy during this difficult time, you can now have memorial trees planted in a National Forest in memory of your loved one.

Funeral services provided by

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home

[305 Sixth Street](#)

[Traverse City, MI 49684](#)

[\(231\) 947-6347](#)

[Plant Memorial Trees](#)

MEMORIES & CONDOLENCES

Guest Book sponsored by Joseph C Klingman

What would you like to say about Waldo?

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31 entries

June 25, 2009

Dear Keating Family,

I was saddened to hear of Waldo's passing. He was a man whom I admired as he helped shaped the character of so many of us in our early years. I fondly remember him "barking" at us on the football field and giving us his famous "stare" when we needed it. Off the field he was a kind and

caring man. May God bless all of you in this difficult time.

Rick Belanger TCSF 73

Rick Belanger

June 24, 2009

To the Keating family-

I live in Muskegon now and just read of Mr. Keating's passing. I was at TCSH for only my senior year (1987-88) but I remember what a kind person he was. My sympathies to you all.

Elaine (Kratt) Bisson

June 23, 2009

Dear Mrs. Keating and Family,

Bob wrote me and told me of his father's recent passing. My husband and I wanted to extend our deepest sympathies to you and your family. We only met Waldo once, many years ago back when Bob still lived in Michigan, but it was an encounter neither of us ever forgot. Your husband had an uncanny ability to make anyone feel comfortable and carry a conversation with you about virtually any topic. He was just one of those people that you never forget. He was clearly a man of immense character and goodness, and all of these years later that's what we remember of him.

May God's peace be with you and your family at this most difficult time. Please know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Heidi & Rob Palmer
(Heidi is Bob's friend from MSU days)

Heidi Palmer

June 20, 2009

Pat and Mrs. Keating,

I think that the last time that I saw Mr. Keating was in June, 1974 when I was at your home for Pat's wedding. So many years ago. I have fond memories of him when I attended Muskegon Catholic Central with Pat from 1966-1970 and also remember how worried he was when Pat decided to room with me at MSU during the turbulent early seventies. May he rest in peace and may all your memories and the memories of others comfort you during this time. God bless you and the whole family.

Diane(Domanchuk)Prisby

Diane Prisby

June 19, 2009

Waldo will be greatly missed by me.

Especially went it is time for the Thanksgiving Baskets time.He was my right hand person at all times,Always ready to lend a hand no matter what the situation .God bless you all and know that you are in my prayers

Sister Katherine Murphy

June 18, 2009

Rest in peace Uncle Waldo. I have fond memories of Waldo's kindness and

generosity during my visit (with my siblings) from California to Traverse City some years ago. My thoughts and prayers are with Aunt Marcia and my Keating cousins.

Betty (Keating) Jennings and Family
Lake Forest, California

June 17, 2009

Dear Mrs. Keating & Family,

It was sad to hear the passing of my coach & friend. I had Waldo as a football coach in his first year at TC Saint Francis when I was a senior(1971). I remember our first football practice. While getting off the team bus a few of us in the front just started to take off running. Coach Keating shouted, "where are you going". We said, "we're taking our laps." Coach Keating then said, " You don't have to take laps. Just get in line and begin calisthenics". I then said to myself, "Wow. This guy is going to be OK". Coach Keating wasn't OK. He was "second to none". I was truly blessed to have Waldo as my coach and friend. He was a remarkable person. God bless his soul.

Mike Kramer

June 17, 2009

I graduated in 1991 and remember Mr. Keating was great to everyone. Last year, I saw him where I was working, and he still remebered my name! (I was not a problem student!!!) I couldn't believe it! He was just that wonderful! this world will be missing a truly great person.

Anne Cole

June 16, 2009

To the Waldo T. Keating family: I was part of a diverse group of students who entered Muskegon Catholic Central in the fall of 1953. I had the privilege of being the first freshman quarterback of the school. Our coach was a 22 year old young man who was appointed to be our coach. He was a wonderful mentor. We struggled being the first freshman team, but it was a joy to play for such a giving, caring, gifted coach. He made our experiences special. I am sure that his friends in heaven will welcome that great smile he had ... and be overjoyed to see him again.

Tom McDermott

June 16, 2009

Dear Keating Family,

I was one of Mr. Keating's high school students from 1990-1993, and in one of Christine Kurtz's "enthusiastic" journalism classes. Mr. Keating was known as a kind person who loved his students. God Bless you during this difficult time, and may Mr. Keating's memory be eternal with God.

-Elan (Stavros) Nichols

Elan Stavros Nichols

June 16, 2009

I am so sorry to hear of Waldo's passing. I, and the rest of our Mercy Associate Gathering Group, will remember and miss Waldo's presence as a regular "dinner guest" at our meetings. He would drive Marcia to our group, leave us to our talking while he did errands or just looked around the community. He would return at the end of the meeting and join us in

conversation and munchies. I will miss his gentle presence, his good humor and insightful remarks. The love between him and Marcia was so obvious and very beautiful. Marcia, I am sorry that I cannot be at either service, but you, Waldo and your family are very much in my heart. With love and prayers, my deepest sympathy...and a hug!

Mary Beth Wakulat

June 16, 2009

Dear Keating Family,

It was with great sadness that I learned of Waldo's passing. My first experiences with him were in high school. I ran track for Benzie and always looked forward to running in Traverse City because Waldo was my favorite starter. Years later, I would have the pleasure of knowing him while teaching for TCAPS and at St. Francis Parish. He was one of those people I thought would live forever. My life is more full because I was blessed to know Waldo and call him friend. God bless Waldo and all of you!

Tamie Rosenberg

June 16, 2009

It was with great sadness to learn of Waldo's passing. His enthusiasm, efficiency and sense of humor made him a wonderful person to work with. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Ed and Bev Merchant, Traverse City

June 16, 2009

Waldo was my favorite administrator at Traverse City Senior High School. I worked with him from 1985 until 1993. I wish he had been principal for more than one year! Although he had to maintain a stern demeanor at times with my class of enthusiastic student journalists, we knew he was really a friend.

Christine Kurtz

June 16, 2009

Dear Keating Family;

My condolences on the passing of a wonderful man. I will always cherish the many memories of him, either watching out for me during my school years 1979-1982 and the many years following working with the Track team.

He will be missed by all, but we shall meet again.

Tina Putman

June 15, 2009

I always remember Mr. Keating's smile and kindness. Kindness and smiles aren't often associated with Assistant Principals, but he was a different sort. When you talked with Mr. Keating, you always felt that you were important, that he cared, and that he listened and would make any response fair.

He loved his family and was very proud of you all. When I would see him away from school with my mother, it was obvious the love and regard with which he held you all.

I am sorry for your loss and my heart and prayers go out to you.

Liz Larson-Shidler

June 15, 2009

I am very sorry to read about Waldo's passing away. My memories of Coach Keating go back to the early years of Muskegon Catholic Central, and my first two years at Mona Shores where he was instrumental in my hiring. He was an outstanding coach, educator, counselor and administrator, and he will be missed by all who knew him.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Jerry and Sheila Fitzpatrick

Jerry Fitzpatrick

June 15, 2009

Our sympathy to all the Keatings. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. May the many memories you all hold dear help comfort you in your grief. Barb & Pete Kutches

Peter Kutches

June 15, 2009

The Keating Family,

Mr. Keating was great Asst. Principle. I had him at TCAPS. He was fair, and to the point. I'll never forget going through a tough time. Then we did not have school of choice. I went to TC, but had no family here. Mr. Keating told me I had to come up with the tuition to go to school there,

like \$3500. I just kept low, thinking I was getting away with sneaking through my Senior Year. When Mr. Keating handed me my diploma he said to me, "Well you made it didn't you." I really believe he allowed me to finish my Senoir year without forcing me to pay. For that I will always be thankful! Class of 90'

Kate Geraci

June 15, 2009

So sorry to read about Waldo's passing. Our prayers are with the family. I had the pleasure of knowing Waldo many years ago at Muskegon Catholic Central.

Thomas & Louise Eddy

June 15, 2009

Hello Keating Family. Fondly remembering you all from the days on Bellevue Road. So sorry to hear of your Dad's/Husband's death. Our sincere sympathy to you all.

Jim and Kay DeVries and
Family. (Lisa, Mark and Sue)

Kay DeVries

June 15, 2009

Linda & Mrs. Keating,
It has been a long time, Linda and I were friends in grade school at St. Francis DeSales in Muskegon. I fondly remember staying overnight at the Keating home and going to the MCC football games. What a wonderful family!! I am so sorry. Peace and Love

Diane Strandberg (Debniak)

June 15, 2009

Mrs. Keating and Pat,

I had some of the best times of my adolescence at your house. I always felt a part of your family. I made my first batch of chocolate chip cookies in your kitchen. Who could ever forget Mr. Keating driving Pat and I to Detroit so we could see the Beatles at Olympia Stadium!! What a memory. Then there was the time I called him Waldo at school.....that didn't go over too well.

I pray that God comforts you and holds you close during this difficult time. You're in my thoughts and prayers.

Blessings,

Barbara Wyant

June 15, 2009

Coach Keating was one of my high school football coaches in the late 50's. He was a great coach and a great instructor whom I have never forgotten. My sincerest sympathy to the family.

Mike Monehen

June 15, 2009

Linda and Mrs. Keating,

I'm so sorry to here of your loss. My thoughts and prayers will be with you during this difficult time. Please hold close those campfire memories and all the special times you all shared. They will keep you all close, and let you cherish those times that make your family what it is.

Lori Richardson/Franklin

Lori Franklin

June 14, 2009

The best teacher I ever had at MCC, its been 50 years and I still remember what I learned. So sorry for the loss of such a good man.

Catherine (Platt) Keefe

June 14, 2009

I had the pleasure of having Mr. Keating as my Biology teacher at Muskegon Catholic Central. May it comfort you to think of the hearts that were touched by your loved one's life. With Deepest Sympathy,

Pat Mars

June 14, 2009

Mr Waldo Keating was loved by us all and was deeply cherished by his nieces, nephews and extended family in California. He was known to us all as the most intelligent and wisest of uncles and we shall miss him everyday. We send our love to his family and friends at this difficult time.

Shirley Keating

June 14, 2009

It is with deep sadness to hear of the passing of "Mr. Keating" as he was known to me. Mr. Keating was my sophomore football coach in 1986. He gave me chances to participate that others in years to come would not. He was a very caring person, for this I have and will always remember him for.

God Bless.

Jeffrey Heimforth

June 14, 2009

Peggy & Mrs. Keating,

I am so so sorry to hear about your dad/husband. Please know that we are all feeling your pain at this time. Your dad/husband was/is a very special friend of mine and Traverse City will not be the same without him.

Keep your memory's of him and this will bring you through the hard times...

Love to you all..

Eileen T. Olson [Hubbell class of 78]

June 14, 2009

Waldo was a wonderful kind man, I had the pleasure of working with him for many years in cardiac rehab. My thoughts are with your family.

Danielle Koch, RN

INVITE OTHERS TO ADD MEMORIES

Share to let others add their own memories and condolences



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