



Mario Damiani

January 18, 1931 - November 11, 2017

Mario Damiani, born January 18, 1931 in Ellsworth, Pennsylvania, passed away peacefully November 11, 2017 in Warren, Michigan at the age of 86.

Mario was a Teacher, retired from the Detroit Public School District, where he taught mostly at Pierce Elementary and Law Elementary. He was awarded Teacher of the year in 1981. He volunteered his time and created a safe environment for students where they could play chess and basketball after school hours.

He was an avid sports fan, he enjoyed golfing and bowling and was very proud of making two eagles in one round.

Mario was very proud of his Italian heritage and he is survived by his sisters; Dorothy (Edward) Segowski, Audrey (Earl) Benson, Loving uncle to many nieces & nephews. He was preceded in death by his other siblings; Olga Koballa, Arthur, Premo, Arnold and Albert.

Visitation will be Friday from 2-8 pm at the Wasik Funeral Home, Inc., 11470 Thirteen Mile Road (West of Hoover) Warren. Funeral service will be Saturday at 11am at the funeral home followed by a funeral procession to Resurrection Cemetery for Military Honors and Burial services. Memorial donations may be made to the Paralyzed Veterans of America. Expressions of sympathy may be

shared with the family @ www.wasikfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 17. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home - Warren
11470 Thirteen Mile Road
Warren, MI 48093
(586) 751-3131
warren@wasikfuneralhome.com

Funeral Service

NOV 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

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11470 Thirteen Mile Road
Warren, MI 48093
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Tribute Wall

RP

“ *Mr. Damiani was my 5th grade teacher at Law Elementary School back in 1983-84. After leaving Mr. Damiani I often thought about some of the things he taught me & I will NEVER forget the countless stories he shared with us about his childhood & how we had it easy compared to the kids "Back in his day" as he would say. Mr. Damiani spoke candidly about how important education was & shared stories with us in graphic detail about how he used to walk several miles to & from school with holes in his shoes because missing school and playing around was not a option for him and his siblings due to his strick Italian upbringing.... He was also quick to tell you to "GO HOME" if u didnt want to pay attention and learn. Although Mr. Damiani was very strick he was devoted to his craft & students. He dedicated his life to his students, he would stay countless hours after school teaching us the fundamentals of basketball & Chess! Mr. Damiani was a honorable man and he was strong in spirit & integrity. On behalf of Law Elementary's Class of 1984 I send our deepest most sincere condolences to the Damiani family & the Pierce & Law Staff!!! HEAVEN DEFINITELY GAINED A GOOD MAN! HE WILL BE MISSED BY ALL WHO KNEW HIM!*

RaRu Pettway - July 02, 2019 at 09:21 AM

TW

“ *Mr Damiani was my fifth grade homeroom teacher at Pierce elementary school. He was a tough teacher, but fair. He would certainly let you know if you screwed up. A good man that left a good impression on me later in life.
RIP Mr Damiani.*

Todd Wharton - May 21, 2019 at 10:17 AM

EW

“ My heartfelt condolences to the family of Mr. Damiani. Mr. Damiani was my sixth grade home room teacher at Pierce Elementary in 1966. He taught my brother and sister and years later he taught my son at Law Elementary. He was a dedicated and caring teacher who pushed me to work to my full potential. I don't recall him ever missing a day at school. Every morning when I arrived at school I'd see his Plymouth parked on that little lot off of the playground. One day Mr. Damiani's car pulled up to our house. I thought I was in big trouble. He was bringing results of some test I took and he wanted my parents to know how well I preformed on the test. Mr. Damiani created the "red belts", a group of students who patrolled the playground during lunch recess and the chess club. I remember him actually driving me and other students to a couple of chess tournaments on Saturday's. He was loud, animated and did not bite his tongue. He kept order in his classroom as well as in the hallways. He gave freely of his time and we knew he wanted the best for us. He was hands down the best public school teacher I ever had. I was blessed to have him as my teacher.

Eileen Wiggins

Eileen Wiggins - November 18, 2017 at 09:01 AM

M.

“ I loved Mr.Damiani's class very organized, he taught us to respect each other and how to play chess. He taught 4 out of 6 kids in our family..We need more caring teachers like him. My prayers to his family, friends and all former students.



M.J.Fort - November 18, 2017 at 07:06 AM

LL

“ We've lost a force of nature...Teddy Roosevelt said "to speak softly and carry a big stick"..Mario must have heard it wrong because he spoke loudly, the halls rumbled, but he carried no stick, his voice and his kindness said it all.

My first day of teaching was sept. 1967..I walked up to Pierce elem. with pickets all around and this VERY BIG man said, " we're protesting for better wages for janitors and other school help, are you going in?" ...are you kidding, I wouldn't cross a picket line, and that was my first contact with Mario.

He was everything a good teacher should be, my mentor, my friend, my teaching example. He was at school early, he gave his students awards by having basketball before school, tutoring students and having a chess club after school. He saw no color barrier and PROVED that any child could achieve. I know anyone who knew Mario is feeling the loss today, but my prayer is that we'll continue his good works and maybe, even produce some wonderful new teachers to carry on.....

Linda Logan - November 17, 2017 at 10:31 AM

CH

“ *Mr. Mario Damiani; my fifth grade teacher, graced my life with his passion for teaching and extracurricular activities. In addition to contributing to an education that served me to perform well on a standardized exam enabling me to skip a grade; including tutoring during summer recess, he taught me how to play chess and basketball before and after school. I am now a physician and this lesson of life-balance with work and play resonates as a life-long one.*

He was an elementary teacher for 6 siblings in my family. Coming to know my parents well over the years, he, the school's principle and my science teacher attended my parent's 50th wedding anniversary. We were so thankful and happy to see members of the endearing and dedicated staff of my elementary school!

Thank you, Mr. Damiani, for these memories which warm my heart and provide a strong foundation and sense of community support propelling me forward in the world. Teachers like him are an example of research correlating a person's academic success to the quality of teaching and a person's general success often relating to an interested and supportive adult outside of one's immediate family. There were several, and he is very high on that list!

Christine - November 17, 2017 at 04:48 AM

KN

“ *It was an honor to know Mr. Damiani. He was so wise and caring. His devotion to teaching must have touched so many young lives. He will live on in the memories of us all!*

Khanh Nguyen

Khanh Nguyen - November 15, 2017 at 12:54 PM

NC

“ *Mr Damiani was my sixth grade teacher at Pierce and he taught some of my siblings as well. He was a good man and a great teacher. I never would have played a game of chess if not for him. Speaking to him many years later, he still remembered me. Amazing. My condolences to his family. Nancy (McKnight) Castle*

Nancy McKnight Castle - November 12, 2017 at 05:23 PM

RP

“ *How fortunate I was to (after 50 years) to see a teacher from Pierce Elementary in 2013, 14 , and 2015 and get to talk about old times. Thanks to Dave Pencak for informing me about Mr. Damiani who he bowled with. I've had many conversations about Pierce days and now cherish these memories. What a wonderful teacher he was. My sympathies to his family. May God give Mario eternal rest. It was a pleasure to know him as a teacher and as an adult. Ronald M. Plesz (Pierce Elementary 1959 - 1964.*

Ronald M. Plesz - November 12, 2017 at 05:13 PM

DP

“ *I never had Mr. Damiani as a teacher, unfortunately, However I met him at a bowling alley on a summer league. I wondered why his name sounded familiar and found out he was my brother's teacher at Pierce. What a nice man! I also was at Pierce and missed out on the great teacher he was. We talked about former schoolmates and his love of playing chess. It states he was teacher of the year. As far as I'm concerned I would say he was the greatest teacher of all time. I wish I would have been in his class. My condolences to his family. .*

David S Pencak - November 12, 2017 at 04:35 PM

TF

“ *Condolences to the family. A great teacher my husband loved him taught them to play Chess.*

The Selman Family - November 12, 2017 at 10:20 AM



I just learned yesterday of Mr. Damiani's passing was deeply saddened to hear about it. I had the pleasure of talking to him a few years back and he remembered everything as if it were yesterday.

TLady Vasa - December 06, 2017 at 05:03 PM