



Robert "Jerry" Wartella

March 4, 1947 - June 13, 2015

Robert "Jerry" Wartella, age 68, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan went to be with his Savior Jesus on Saturday, June 13, 2015 from the Ball Hospice House. He was born on March 3rd, 1947 in Sault Ste. Marie to Robert and Verena Wartella. Jerry grew up in Moran and graduated from Rudyard High School in 1965. He was active in baseball, basketball, and football. He attended meat cutting school in Ohio and then moved to California to marry his wife: Dee Portis. He was drafted into the Army at Ft. Old, California. He was kept from going to Vietnam by teaching meat cutting to the cooks on base. Jerry came back to Michigan after the service to attend college and earned his degree in teaching. In addition to teaching he also coached basketball, football, track, and little league. He taught for the Sault area Schools for 30 years. He had been laid off for a period of time and learned how to do construction from Floyd Hansen. He built many homes, garages, decks, and roofs and remodeled many homes during the summer months and after the long school days. He was involved in bowling league for many years, played softball, and loved to play golf. He enjoyed going to hunting camp and playing cards. He loved sports of all kinds and he was a huge Detroit Tigers fan, but his true love was Jesus, his wife and family. Jerry is survived by his wife: Dee; his children: Joe (Marcie) Wartella and Jennifer (Ray) Ross; grandchildren: Mike Arbic, Elishia LeBlance, Zeke, Abigail and Gabbey Wartella, Lauren (Dorren) Williams, and Tyler Ross; and great grandchildren: Owen and Viola Arbic, Cortana Snow and James Williams. Jerry is also survived by his brothers: Ron Wartella, Mick

(Merk) Wartella and Chuck(Mary) Wartella; sisters: Delphine (Chuck) Frazier, Fayda (Ken) Mills; and his father-in-law: Joe Portis. Jerry was preceded in death by his parents: Robert and Verena; mother-in-law: Dolores Portis; brothers: Ray and Clifford Wartella; and sister: Sandra Johnston; daughter: Dena Wartella and great grandson: Hunter Ross. A memorial service will be held at 5:00 PM on Saturday, June 20th at Living Word Church North. Friends may gather from 3:00 until 5:00 PM. Dress will be casual with many wearing Detroit Tiger shirts. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to Hospice of the EUP.

Tribute Wall

JG

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Jerry was my 8th grade math teacher. He helped me learn that I loved math and the sciences that used math. He encouraged me to be a better student and apply myself to obtain goals. Because of teachers like him I am who I am today.

Jennifer Gregg-Daniels - June 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ Mr. Wartella was such an amazing teacher, and he made sure I received credit for my accomplishments in school. I am so sorry to hear of his passing. May God bless you and all of your family, but be glad that he is with his Saviour now.

Tanya (Rowell) Stamford - June 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NB

“ I had the pleasure of having Mr. Wartella as a teacher twice during middle school, and was able to catch up with him in recent years- he was a wonderful man who always wanted nothing but blessings and the best for those around him- it was fun talking Tigers baseball with him. Prayers for him and his family, he was truly a great man.

Nikki Brown - June 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ I am so sorry to hear about Jerry's passing. He was such a great person, always laughing! He will be missed.

Cheryl Sundstrom - June 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ *I'm Sorry I Couldn't Be There Today, Please Know You're All I My Heart!*

Tina Wurster - June 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ *Jerry was a special man of God, only knew him from hospice house when I helped him for a few days & instead of me being a blessing to him he was such a blessing to me.. God bless all his family..*

Joanne LaPonsie - June 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ *You were the one that taught me the primary ways of computer programming in 1985. You were a patient man. I miss Dena. She was a beautiful person, and now you can have a life long happiness with her. Enjoy your journey. Love, C*

Christa - June 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *You were an awesome teacher and I always enjoyed going to class because you made learning fun. You will be dearly missed.*

Jeanna Foster - June 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KK

“ *What a great middle school teacher. Compassionate and caring. Too young to leave this life. He's back to teaching in heaven.*

Karen (Kokko) Kinsey - June 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Thoughts and Prayers to Mr Wartell's family. He was a positive influence in the life of so many.

Jonna (Whyte) Hudson - June 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ RIP Mr. Wartella. You were a great teacher! My thoughts and prayers go out to your family.

Carla Fuller - June 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

WT

“ My thoughts and prayers to his family. He was one of my favorite teachers at McKinley.

Wendy (Hirschenberger) Trute - June 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ My sincere condolences to the family. Jerry was football coach of mine, and also my Leader during my Youth Conservation Corp. (YCC) days. We had valuable talks, and even 30 years later, I think of him often. R.I.P. sir.

Danny Wagner - June 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MI

“ I am not a hugger, but I always looked forward to sunday hugs from Jerry! Thoughts and prayers to his family. And a huge hug to Dee.

michelle - June 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

K(

“ he was a great teacher and inspiration! I enjoyed having him as a teacher and I remember he loved reces peanut butter cups ! I hope he has an infinite amount in heaven !!

Kristin Tynon (oklat) - June 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ For me, and many of my classmates, playing Freshman Football (Which started 3 weeks before the school year) began my high school years. Before I had any classes or any teachers Mr. Wartella was my coach. He got us off to a great start and he made football fun.

Mike Smith - June 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Wartella. He was my homeroom teacher in 8th grade and I always enjoyed his class. He was always very kind to all the students. My thoughts and prayers are with the Wartellas.

Shanyn Aldridge - June 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ We will miss dear Jerry deeply. He truly blessed our lives with his presence. Thoughts, prayers, hugs, and love to Dee and family.
Rev Chris & Lynn

Rev Chris & Lynn Gillies - June 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ Mick and family - please accept our most sincere sympathy on Jerry's passing. Know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers. May he rest in peace. The Middleton Ford Sales staff - Carl, Ernest, Keith, Pat, Steve, D.J. and Ralph

Steve - June 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ To a very wonderful man who I loved as a teacher in the 8th grade. When computers were basic at the time, he engaged me enough to learn a software programming system that has been in progression ever sense. He had a sense of humor and a way of keeping students interested in a (then) arcane world of computer. Loved him. Loved Dena as well. Hugs to all.

Christa - June 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DN

“ Judy and I send our sympathy to Dee and family and siblings and families of Jerry on his passing. After reading about Jerry's life, he obviously had quite an influence on all lives he touched. I regret that as his cousin I didn't get to know him better. However, I admire the legacy he has left. You are all very blest to have had Jerry as a part of your lives. I'm sorry we will miss Jerry's memorial service.

Del & Judy Nickel - June 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TN

“ We were saddened by Jerry's passing. He is no longer suffering, but will leave a huge void in the hearts of so many family and friends. Our deepest sympathy to Dee and family. Please know we are praying for strength in the days and months ahead.

Terry and Catherine Nayback - June 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ *Sincerest condolences to Jerry's family. He was a good man and a great competitor. He was always a gentleman and a great follower of local teams and people. He will be missed but not forgotten.* ”

Bill Crawford - June 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ *Jerry was a great adult co-worker for a teenager at the Co-op.* ”

Lynn Bartunek - June 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM