



Wayne Everett Shaffer

May 2, 1928 - December 18, 2023

Philippians 4:8 "Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

Wayne Everett Shaffer, aged 95, died December 18, 2023, at Oak Leaf Manor in Roswell, Georgia.

One of four boys, Wayne was born May 2, 1928, in Fisher, Illinois to George and Bernice (nee Radley) Shaffer and spent his youth on the family farm in Ludlow, Illinois.

He is a graduate of Blackburn College, class of 1948, the University of Illinois, class of 1950 and in 1962 earned a master's degree from Michigan State University. He served in the United States Army during the Korean War, rising from Private to Master Sergeant during his service, and was awarded a Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He was a math teacher and school principal in Bellevue Michigan, Rantoul Illinois, and Mascoutah Illinois before retiring in 1983.

Retirement didn't slow Wayne down. He enjoyed both domestic and international travel and took a solo road trip on the Alcan Highway. He frequently visited his children, scattered about the country and subsequently, his grandchildren, leaving them all with happy memories, rarely missing a birthday, special event, graduation, or school pick up. He continued to serve his neighbors, family and friends, and took great pride in driving until the age

of 92.

Mr. Shaffer is probably best known for the love and commitment he showed to the wife and family he leaves behind: Esther, his wife of more than 72 years, whom he married on May 19, 1951, two sons, George Shaffer of Mesquite Nevada; and Ron (Julie) Shaffer of Mesquite Nevada; daughter, Heidi (Steve) Howard of Roswell Georgia; and daughter-in-law, Cris Shaffer of Erie Colorado. Wayne is also survived by four grandchildren: Chelsea (Charlie) Winnick, namesake Wayne Shaffer, Deric Shaffer, and Luke Howard. Wayne, along with Esther, was a lifelong and faithful member of the United Methodist Church. He belonged to United Methodist churches in Michigan, Illinois, Missouri, Arizona, and Georgia, serving in many different capacities and on various committees, as well as lending his tenor voice to many a church choir.

Mr. Shaffer was preceded in death by his parents, George and Bernice Shaffer, brothers Paul and Lee; and son Eric (2022). Wayne's youngest brother, Reverend John Shaffer is retired and lives in Auburn, Washington. There will be a family service at a later time.

Tribute Wall



“ Prayers from Northbrook United Methodist. Please reach out to us if you need anything.

Northbrook UMC - January 09, 2024 at 10:26 AM

KN

“ I cannot even express how much having Mr. Shaffer as my 8th grade teacher at St. Mary’s changed my life. I was very self conscious with low self esteem, and thought I was dumb when I didn’t catch on in math class. Mr. Shaffer worked with me after school and little by little, after mastering new concepts, my confidence grew. We celebrated my improving math grades together. It was evident that the success of his students, academically and emotionally, was his first priority. I also enjoyed his stories about his childhood horse named Dick, and his time in Korea. One of my favorites was how he caught a thief at Mascoutah high by putting some kind of invisible dye on some money that would only show up when wet, and then having the whole school wash their hands only to have the thief’s hands marked with ink. He was so proud of his children. I think there was a story of one of them taking apart, and putting back together something electronic? A radio maybe? And another story of one of them trying to retrieve someone’s keys from a lake. I was not an adolescent that enjoyed school, so I looked forward to his stories, as well as when he would read Sherlock Holmes out loud as we followed along in our own books. I also loved when he would give up peppermints. He made our 8th grade banquet very special by gifting each of us something of his he saw fitting for each of us. I got a framed pair of gold praying hands because I reminded him daily about saying our class prayer at the end of the day. After graduating we kept in touch for years by mail. I loved getting letters from him, espionage his annual Christmas letter. Some of us would meet up with him if he was passing through town. Even at 52 years old, these positive memories have stuck with me, and shaped my whole adulthood. He surely is enjoying his well earned heavenly reward. I will keep you all in my prayers. I know his legacy will live on in you, and in all of us who were lucky enough to have him teach us math, and so much more. ❤️

Kristi Nowels
Belleville, IL

Kristi Nowels - December 27, 2023 at 03:58 PM

HH

Oh Kristi, how your memories mean so much to me. Thank you for sharing! Heidi.

Heidi Howard - December 31, 2023 at 05:33 PM

CL

“ *I was one of his students at St. Mary's school in Belleville, IL. What I remember most was his sense of humor and his kindness. Carol (Crump) Long.*

Carol Long - December 26, 2023 at 02:49 PM

JS

Wayne enjoyed his time at St. Mary's school. He told the story that he insisted on the students praying the prayers in a manner that he could understand what they were praying. No speed prayers.

John J. Shaffer - December 27, 2023 at 01:48 PM

SH

“ *Mr. Shaffer was my 8th grade teacher at St. Mary's in Belleville, Illinois. He was a very nice gentleman.*

Sheila (Turner) Hock

Sheila Hock - December 26, 2023 at 02:15 PM