



Marty Kathleen Bunnin

April 17, 2009

IRON MOUNTAIN - Martin and Kathleen (Keehan) Bunnin of Iron Mountain died on Friday, April 17, 2009.

Marty was born on Sept. 2, 1940, in Hancock, son of the late Joseph and Ida (Patte) Bunnin. Kathleen was born on Nov. 21, 1944, in Oakland, Calif., daughter of the late Jerome and Bernet (Petri) Keehan.

Marty graduated from Iron Mountain High School in 1958. He served with the United States Army, and then went on to Northern Michigan University to receive his bachelor of arts degree.

Kathleen graduated from DePere High School, and then went on to receive her bachelor of arts degree from the University of Wisconsin- Madison, and then her master's degree from Northern Michigan University.

Marty and Kathleen were married on Aug. 12, 1967, in DePere, Wis. and shared more than 41 years together. They moved not long after they were married to Iron Mountain.

Marty had various jobs throughout his life, including teacher, car salesman and driver. Kathleen taught in the Iron Mountain School system for 31 years, retiring in 2003.

More than anything, Marty and Kathleen loved spending time with family and friends. Marty was known for his love of life and sense of humor. Kathleen was known for her love of teaching and fun loving spirit.

Marty and Kathleen are survived by their children, Donald (Noley) Bunnin and Becky Bunnin, all of Chicago.

Marty is further survived by an aunt, Bess Benson of Cathedral City, Calif.; a sister-in-law, Mary Bunnin of Escanaba; and nieces, Rhonda (Amir Mirbeik) and Lori, and a nephew, Jeffrey.

Kathleen is further survived by two brothers, Terry (Doris) Keehan and Chuck (Margaret) Keehan, both of DePere; sisters, Patricia (Dennis) Johnson of Costa Mesa, Calif., Sue (Pat) Puyleart of Wausau, Wis., and Jean (Steve) Dix of Green Bay, Wis.; nieces and nephews, Chuck, Nick (Kathy), and Tim (Anna) Johnson, Marc (Nichol), Jennifer, and Christopher Puyleart, Shawn (Jessica) and Craig Dix, Ryan and David (Meg) Keehan, and Mike (Amber) and Katie (Terry) Keehan.

Marty was preceded in death by a brother, David Bunnin; a half-brother, Donald Bunnin; and a half-sister, Lilas Jordan.

Kathleen was preceded in death by a brother, Patrick Keehan.

Visitation will be held Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain.

The funeral service will follow at 1:30 p.m. at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Msgr. James Kaczmarek will offer Kathleen's Mass of Christian Burial, and Dr. Michael Zevitz will offer the Jewish Funeral Rites for

Marty.

Burial will be in Cemetery Park in Iron Mountain.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in their honor to "Martin and Kathleen Bunnin Memorial Scholarship at, Superintendent's Office, 217 Izzo-Mariucci Way, Iron Mountain, Mich. 49801.

Condolences to the family of Marty and Kathleen Bunnin can be expressed online at www.MartyandKathleenBunnin.com or www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the funeral arrangements.

Tribute Wall

CG

“ I was so sorry to hear of the tragic loss of your parents. I was out of town so unable to attend the funerals. My deepest and most sincere sympathy to you all.

Cynthia Gordon - April 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ Don and Becky - I did not know Mr. Bunnin, but I was fortunate to be in Mrs. Bunnin's classes for 2 years of high school. She touched the lives of SO many students and the lessons we learned in her classes continue to impact our lives today. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Sincerely - Laura Gagala, Class of 2001

Laura Gagala - April 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ Don, Becky and family, I can't tell you how saddened I was to learn of this tragedy. I went to school with David and Marty and your mom was my daughters (Dayna Carlson) favorite teacher. She lives in Green Bay and when I told her she was devastated. Your Mother & Father touched many lives and be life long or short, its competeness depends on what it was lived for. They will be misses and loved by everyone forever.
Greta Michaud

Greta Michaud - April 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Don and Becky:

I was deeply saddened to learn about the loss of your parents. They were good, kind people. Your Mom's love of education was evident at all times. She taught us to be "students" and accepted everyone. They both will be missed. We will keep you close in thought and prayer. God bless.

Via Con Dios.....

Jeff, Michelle Ambrosia and Family

Jeff Ambrosia and Family - April 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Dear Don and Becky - Words cannot begin to express my heartfelt sympathy for your tragic loss. I never had the opportunity to know your dad but I had your mom as a teacher...she was an amazing person and I learned alot from her while in her class. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Stacy Hendrickson Schinderle - April 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TG

“ Don, Becky and Family ~Although I did not know your father, I did have the privilege of being your mothers student during my years at IMHS. Very few educators are as dedicated and passionate about their work as she was. She instilled in me a love of literature as well as many life lessons and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to know such a remarkable woman. My thoughts, prayers and deepest sympathies go out to you and your family during this difficult time.

Sincerely, Tracy Griggs - Class of 2001

Tracy Griggs - April 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Don, Becky, and family. Kathy and Marty will be lovingly remembered by thousands. Me included. They are woven into so many lives and memories. Their vibrancy affected so many. So much to say about them and, yet, words don't convey the true loss their friends feel. My very deepest sympathy to you, your families, and close friends of Kathy and Marty. May God be with you.

JoAnne Berkseth (formerly Gembolis) - April 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Becky and Don,
I am so sorry for this sudden and tragic loss in your lives. Words can not express my deepest sympathies for you. Your mother was a brilliant woman, whom I have very fond memories of. She has touched many lives throughout this community. You are both in my thoughts and prayers at this very difficult time. Sincerely,
Chrystal(Maloney)Smith

Chrystal (Maloney) Smith - April 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ Don and Becky, My deepest sympathies to you both and your family during this difficult time. May the happy memories you have of them comfort you during this difficult time.

Carrie (Canavera) Backlund - April 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ Dear Bunnin and Keehan Families,
We are sorry for your loss. We have you all in our thoughts and prayers. We wish we were not so far away so we could be there to honor and celebrate the lives of Kathleen and Marty.

Rich and Carol(Keehan)Koski

Carol and Rich Koski - April 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ How do you express condolences when someone has suffered the loss of both parents? I can not even imagine what you are going through right now, but know that you are loved and held in the hearts and prayers of everyone who knows you, or knew your parents. It was an honor to say I was taught by your monther, who had a HUGE influence on me - as a student, and as a woman. She was a strong, articulate, and hilarious example of what we should strive to be. I can not stress enough how deeply she touched the lives of her students - and how grateful I am to have been one of them.

The collection of Lord Byron she gave me when I graduated sits beside me on my desk - the inscription encouraging me to challenge everything, and believe fully in myself. I did, Mrs. Bunnin - and I do. Thank you for everything. We are all in your debt.

Jennifer (Johnson) Michaud - April 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ Don, Becky and Family,
My family is so sorry to hear about the tragic loss of your parents. They were both such wonderful people. I had "Mrs. Bunnin" as an 8th grade teacher and loved her humor and sarchasim and always enjoyed her class. She was a tough one, but a great teacher. I was lucky enough later on to be the parent across the table from her at parent-teacher conferences when my son Travis had her for 11th Gr. English. I'll never forget what she said to me when I walked in "Lori, you can stop calling me Mrs. Bunnin and call me Katherine, you've earned that right." I just loved her sense of humor and the inflection and tone in her voice. Travis also really liked her as a teacher, disliked english but really liked her! She will be missed by so many students who had the pleasure of having her. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

Very Sincerely, Lori (Ganz) Mellon

Lori (Ganz) Mellon - April 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Don and Becky, Your mother was an unbelievably strong, dedicated, intelligent, and inspirational woman and teacher. Although I didn't appreciate her wisdom until after IMHS, I have often thought of her over the years as not only a brilliant American Lit enthusiast but as my first personal encounter with a powerful feminist. She was an inspiration, and will continue to be in the hearts of all that knew her. I grew to be a confident, skilled writer thanks to her...and may I add, WOW, she looks great in those pics!!!! It must be some comfort to know your parents are still together after 41 years. My deepest condolences for your loss.

Michelle (Menza) Sparks - April 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Don, Becky, and family, I was so sorry to hear of your loss. Your parents influenced a lot of people, and they will be greatly missed. One short, encouraging conversation with your mom my freshmen year of high school changed my academic future and the way I looked at school. Also, she took the time to read my first book and comment that she liked it, which meant more to me than any critic's review or writing award ever could because I respected her opinion so much. This was years after I had graduated, which shows that she was the kind of teacher who continued to make an impact on her students' lives well after their days in her classroom. You are in the thoughts and prayers of my family.

Jenifer (Wirth) Brady - April 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ My thoughts and prayers are with your family at this time. I had Mrs. Bunnin as a teacher in high school she was phenomenal at her job. She made an impression on me. She will be missed.

Tiffany Sines - April 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

EL

“ Don, Becky and Family,

*There are no words to express how saddened I am for your loss. I doubt there are words that will offer much comfort right now, but perhaps in the months to come you will find peace in knowing how loved your parents were and always will be. Your mother was an amazing woman; an amazing teacher. She was truly brilliant and inspirational and I will never forget my moments with her. She didn't just teach us about language and literature, she taught us about life and I am will remain forever grateful for that.
God bless...*

Erin Larson-Pease - April 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ *Becky and Don, We were so sad to hear about the loss of your parents. I haven't seen Marty and Kathleen much over the years, but I will always remember when they stayed with our family in California shortly after they were married. Your dad was a funny guy. We will pray for them.*

Dennis, Julie, and Alyssa Keehan - April 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ *I would like to express my deepest sympathy to all of you. Also my son, Tim Danielson and his wife, Lisa (Lindstrom) and my daughter Susan had the highest regards for your Mom as both a person and a teacher. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.
Sharon Danielson*

Marty & Kathleen Bunnin - April 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RV

“ *Becky, Don and Noley -- Sara and I were heartbroken to hear about your mom and dad. The uniquely close bond you shared was undeniable and, having spent some time with them at Don and Noley's wedding, it was clear their two children and new daughter meant the world to them. You are in our thoughts and prayers and have our deepest sympathies. We love you. --Ryan and Sara*

Ryan and Sara Vogt-Lowell - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

EJ

“ *Dear Don, Becky, and Family,*

When I saw your mother and father together, I always saw love.

Edric Johnson - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AP

“ *Becky and Don, I am terribly sorry to hear about the loss of your parents. You are both in my thoughts and prayers at this most difficult time. Your mother was an inspiration to so many at IMHS and I feel honored to have known her. Both of your parents will be greatly missed but never forgotten.*

Angeline (Santi) Pritchard - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ *Don and Becky,*
My thoughts and prayers are with both of you at this extremely difficult time. Your mom was an amazingly inspirational woman and teacher. I have many fond memories of her and being part of her classroom. I hope to inspire in my students a fraction of what she did in hers! Fondly, Lissa Richtig Wall

Lissa Richtig Wall - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ To Becky and Don,

It is almost like starting an American Lit paper...how do I express the sorrow I feel for your loss? My sentiments are echoed by each individual that has come in contact with your parents. I am proud to have had the opportunity to learn from your mother not only in the realm of literature, but also how to be a respected, confident, witty, and charismatic female. I am honored to have been able to speak with your father and experience his kind and humorous ways. I am comforted to know that their spirit will live on in each of the lives that they have touched. I am pleased to know that what made your parents such amazing people are also the qualities that you and your brother possess. With deepest sympathy, Kristine (Knoke) Burmeister

Kristine (Knoke) Burmeister - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ Don and Becky and family,

I cannot express how sorry I am for your tragic loss. Please know that your mother's legacy will never die. Her passion for literature sparked my own, and she was my biggest inspiration to become an English teacher myself. My biggest regret is that I never took the time to tell her how much she motivated. I take heart in knowing that each time one of my own students becomes a "lit wit" that her efforts continue.

You are in my prayers.

Allison (Selmo) Walton - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

NR

“ *Don and Becky,
I can not even begin to comprehend the great sorrow that is yours. I wanted you to know that you are both in my prayers. Your mother was a great teacher....and although I did not personal know your father, I knew you Don...and you where always a good and honest person, so I can imagine your father was the same. I pray that both of you will be comforted by the thousands of people that your parents have positively influenced in their lives.*

Nathan J. Roberts - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ *Becky and Donny,
I can't tell you how saddened I was when I heard the news Friday afternoon. I wanted to send you my condolences in this very difficult time. I hope the two of you, and all of our family have the strength to get through this together. I wish I could be out there with all of you. I am glad I got to share many years and many memories with both your mother and father. They will sorely be missed... Please don't hesitate to call if you need anything.
Chuck Johnson*

Chuck Johnson - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TP

“ *Donny and Becky, I am so very sorry to hear about your parents. Mrs. Bunnin was one of my favorite teachers she will most certainly be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
Take Care, Theresa*

Theresa Peterson - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Don and Becky-

I am extremely sorry to hear about the passing of your parents. As a teacher, your mom was one that truly loved what she did and took pride in bringing the best out of her students. I still have the copies of The Scarlet Letter and The Crucible she gave me more than 20 years ago after I made some off-colored remarks about sex while we finished the books. She had a significant influence on my youth and passion for literature and writing.

I remember your dad as a quick-witted, jovial neighbor, full of laughter and a deep love for his family and friends. Marty and "Mrs. Bunnin" will go down as two of coolest people to ever step foot in Iron Mountain. You are in my thoughts and prayers during this sudden time of sorrow.

Jim Hagerty and family - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Donny and Becky, I am so sorry to hear about the sudden loss of your parents. Both of your parents were wonderful people. Your mother was one of my most influential teachers in high school. May you find peace and strength in the wonderful memories you have together. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. With Sympathy, Jennifer Juul Sauld

Jennifer Sauld - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Becky and Family- I am so terribly sorry for your loss. I know that words may not help, but please know that your Marriott family is thinking of you and keeping you in our hearts and prayers. Take care, Jeanne

Jeanne Sang - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ So sorry for the unexpected loss of your parents. May the happy memories you have of them comfort you during this difficult time. I enjoyed your mother as a teacher very much and still laugh when I think of all of her great stories and sayings. You are in the thoughts and prayers of so many people in the community because of the great people your parents were.

Daniele Rose-Ruble - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ My sincere condolences. I taught at Green bay East in 1966-69. Marty and I were new teachers together in the Fall of 1966 and had a lot of good times. In early 1967, he met Kathyas she did her practice teaching. The last time I saw either of them was at their wedding. From the many notes above, it is obvious that they had a great life together and touched a lot of lives. I remember Marty particularly for his use of UP expressions as he brought history to life for the "folks" in his classes. Again, sympathy to you in your loss.

Jim Van Domelen - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Don and Becky, I am so sorry to hear about your loss.

Janice Bolander - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BN

“ Don and Becky, Words cannot express our sorrow for your tragic loss. Although there is little we can say to take away your grief, please remember, not only will your parents live on in your hearts and memories, but in the hearts and memories of an entire community. We are all deeply blessed to have known them. All our love, thoughts, and prayers, Ben & Kelli (Torretti) Nobert

Ben & Kelli (Torretti) Nobert - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BE

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, Dieter Heigl

Becky: - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Dear Becky and Don, I am not sure what to say, but I want you to know I care. I send you my heartfelt condolences on the loss of your parents. Mrs. Bunnin will always be one of my most revered teachers. I consider myself lucky to have had her as a teacher. Both of you are in my thoughts and prayers. Deepest Sympathies- Susie (Mugford) Fredericksen

Susie (Mugford) Fredericksen - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Don & Becky, I am so very sorry to hear about the loss of your parents. I am not sure on the right words to say as I understand(from losing my brother)nothing anyone says can take away the pain & suffering you are experiencing. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers! From the few times that I spent with your parents (your mom mostly) she had introduced me to gnocci (which is my favorite Italian dish) & I use in my restaurant frequently...I have yet to find a person who has made it better!!!!
Sincerely,
Jill Cornelius Bassett

Jill Cornelius Bassett - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

HB

“ *Becky, Don, and family -
My prayers and thoughts are with you. I hope that family memories and the love that your family shares will give you strength during the difficult times ahead. Every one of your Mom's students is a better person for having the privilege of sitting in her class. The incredible contribution that your family has given to the Iron Mountain community will be forever appreciated.*

Heather Benjamin - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ *My deepest sympathies to you and your family during this difficult time. Your mother was an excellent teacher, a fantastic storyteller and a wonderful woman. It seems like everyone has a Mrs. Bunnin story to share...may those bring you comfort in the tough times ahead. I am so sorry for your great losses!!*

Katie (Rosene) Peabody - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ *Don, Becky, and family, I am so sorry for the sudden loss of your parents. Your mom was a wonderful teacher, and I will always remember seeing your dad at all the basketball and football games. I just recently lost my father unexpectedly and I find peace knowing that he is now watching over my family. I hope that in time your family will be able to make sense of the horrible situation. My thoughts and prayers go out to you during this difficult time.*

Kim (Demboski) Bouchard - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Dear Donnie and Becky, I am so sorry about your loss. Your mother was my favorite teacher in high school. I also knew your father, he was a very nice man. You are in my prayers and God bless you both. Love Stephanie (Lauzon) Schuls and family

Stephanie (Lauzon) Schuls - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GA

“ Donnie amd Becky.... On behalf of our family, we wish to express how sorry we are for your loss. Words of comfort cannot meet the maginitude of your loss. But be assured that for all who have had the honor of knowing Marty and Kathy they will hold close in many caring hearts

Geno and Paula Alessandrini - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ Becky,
Words can never convey how deeply sorry and saddened I am to hear of your great loss. At this time may the Lord comfort you and hold you in His arms. I will lift you up daily in prayer and if I can do anything for you please let me know.
Sincerely,
Dawn

Dawn Kusta - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ Don and Becky, We are very sorry for the loss of you parents. Brian and I both had your Mom in school. And I also remember your parents growing up as I was good friends with Rhonda you cousin. Just not to long ago, your Mom had I had a wonderful chat at the T&T. She is a beautiful woman and brought many laughs to me. They both will be missed, but will live on in you both forever.

Brian and Laura (Chellew) Munn - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Dear Don and Becky,
I am so sorry for the unexpected loss of your parents. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. As I'm sure you have already heard before, your mom was one of my favorite teachers. She was an amazing woman with a gift for teaching and I feel privileged to have had her as my teacher. Your dad was always fun to have as a sub and I can recall times when he would have our class in stitches. You have my deepest sympathies

Stephanie (Lovato) Stevens - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ I am deeply sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayer's. I had your mom for a teacher but, I never knew your father. They will be grealty missed. Sincerely, Magen Pfiester Martin

Magen Pfiester Martin - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Dear Don and Becky,
Your parents will be missed greatly. Your mother was a great teacher and most of all, a wonderful person. My prayers go out to you and your family in this time of sorrow.

Jody (Maskus) Ferrill - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Dear Donny and Becky, Your Dad and Mom were such wonderful, fun loving people that it is with heavy hearts we send our thoughts and prayers to you at this time. Please remember all the good times that you had with your wonderful parents. Good memories are what help us all get through times like this. Cry a little ,laugh a little cry somemore,but always remember the good times. God Bless you both. Sincerely, Dennis and Michele DeMerse

Dennis and Michele DeMerse - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RD

“ Don,
I wanted you to know my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family in this time of sadness. Your mother was always an inspriation to her colleagues and your parents were a joy to spend time with. I hope you and your sister are doing okay. Give yourself time to heal.

Rae and Mollie Drake

Rae Drake Jr and Mollie Drake - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ My sincere condolences for the sudden loss of your parents. I was fortunate enough to have your mother as my teacher both in middle school and again in high school. She was my favorite, just always so full of wit and character! May you feel God's peace as you go through this difficult time, and know that it helps to remember the good times you all spent together.

Robin (Bailey) Rose - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ I have come to believe that a great teacher is a great artist and that there are as few as there are any other great artists. Teaching might even be the greatest of the arts since the medium is the human mind and spirit. -John Steinbeck

I appreciate American Literature because of you Mrs Bunnin. Your family is in my heart and prayers.

Jessica (Laux) Schwieso - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TQ

“ Don & Becky...I am so sorry & saddened by the loss of both your parents in such a horrible tragedy..Your parents were both great people, ive know for many years as friends of the family and also had your mom as my teacher in high school (as most said, she was one teacher you just never forget)! and the memories of your dad stopping over my parents house, he always talked very highly of both of you, never a time he was there and I didnt hear him not talk about both..My dad also lost a very good friend that he will deeply miss..

Take care and you are in our thoughts & prayers

Tom & Kelly (Zambon) Quick

Tom & Kelly Quick - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

B(

“ Don & Becky, Sending my deepest sympathy. My heart just aches for the two of you. I have not seen your parents in years but I know that they loved you both so much and were so proud of both of you. They were wonderful people and will be deeply missed by so many. May God provide you with peace and comfort through this difficult time. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Sending love and hugs, Beth Underhill-VanDenElzen

Beth (Underhill)VanDenElzen - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Don, Noley, and family...

Please know that we were very saddened to hear of the news of the loss of your parents. We wish we could be there with you in person, but please know that our every thought and prayer will be with you...not only this week, but for the months ahead. We know how difficult it is to lose someone you love, but can't even begin to imagine what you must be going through right now. We love you both and know that God will give you the strength you need.

With deepest sympathy,

*J.D., Macey, Deuce, & Livy Lu Waller
Clinton, OK*

J.D., Macey, Deuce, & Livy Lu Waller - April 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TD

“ Dear Becky and Don,
When my brother called me last night and told me the news about your parents, I was very sad and could not help but cry. Words cannot express how sorry I am for your loss. Instead of mourning their loss though, I wanted to share some good things that your mom did for me during my time at IMHS.

I was very intimidated by your mom before that first American Literature class in my junior year (1996-97). She had a reputation as a no-nonsense woman and despite my years of martial arts training, she intimidated me. Little did I know that she would end up being my absolute favorite teacher.

Her classes were difficult, but they ended up giving me a true appreciation of English and more confidence in myself. I learned how to properly write a paper, a skill she taught so well that I ended up completely skipping my first level of English at CMU. She also gave me an appreciation of literature that has followed me through all of my years of college (I am in my Ph.D. program right now) and influenced the classes I have taken. Lastly, she was a role model for me. I saw how strong Ma' Bunnin was, how sure of herself she was, and how she still maintained her grace and dignity, and wanted to be like her (I still do). During our discussions after and between classes, your mom helped me to realize that I was worth so much more than I thought.

Most of my friends are familiar with your mother, her stories about your father, and how much of an impact she made on my life. I wish I could be at her funeral, but I am a broke graduate student in Tennessee. Please know that my prayers and energies are with you in this time of mourning and celebration of life.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Davidson, class of 1998

P.S. I am dedicating my final paper in Feminist Theory to your mother. It is appropriate for such a strong woman.

Tiffany Davidson - April 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ *Don and Becky -- I am deeply sorry for your loss. Although I never knew your father, your mother was one of my favorite teachers and I will miss her greatly*

Shawn Pfister - April 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ *I had Mrs. Bunnin in jr high back in the early 70's. I especially remember when we had to study Greek Mythology----she made it interesting to learn. She will be greatly missed. My prayers to her family.*

Ellen Styberski Coogan - April 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

ED

“ *I'm sorry to say that I am not acquainted with the family of Katherine Bunnin. She will always be Mrs. Bunnin to me. Being in a nearly deadly accident myself in 2006 in DePere I can't help but express my sorrow that the Bunnin's were not as fortunate as I was. I can still remember Mrs. Bunnin and Mrs. Brown talking in the hallway before my 10AM class. I haven't seen Mrs. Bunnin since the 80's but she was a tough but fair educator and her family should be proud of her accomplishments as well as their father's over the years. I was shocked and saddened when I heard the news over the weekend. Thoughts and prayers are with the entire family.*

*Ed DeClark
IMHS Class of '88*

Ed DeClark - April 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ Don & Becky I am so very sorry the loss of your parents. You are in my thoughts and prayers at this very difficult time. They will both be missed by everyone.

Amy (Berdinner) Chant - April 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

M(

“ Donny, Becky and Family,
I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your parents. Mrs. Bunnin was a brilliant teacher who touched many students lives throughout the years at IMHS. She will be missed dearly. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Melissa Erickson (91') - April 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BI

“ Donnie, Becky & Family,

I am speechless, and your Mom would be the first one to tell you that that's an impossibility for me! She was not just a teacher, but a friend, and the best IMHS fan a "cheerleader" could ever have! Your parents were wonderful people, and will be missed! My heart goes out to you all! You have my deepest sympathy!

Bridgette Inglese - April 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ Donnie, Becky & Family,

There are no words that can express how deeply sorry we are for your loss! You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Jon & Kathy Thekan - April 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ Don and Becky, I pray you will find strength in the tribute that people will pay to your parents at the memorial service and in the weeks and months ahead. Many of us were shaped to be who we are today through the 45 minutes each day that your mother invested in us. Few people ever have a chance in life to make the impression your mother did. Your parents will be missed, but never forgotten. God be with you both. Sincerely, Brian Tass

Brian Tass - April 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ Don and Becky,
I cannot even begin to tell you how sorry I am for your loss. Your mom and dad were incredibly fun, caring, inspiring individuals and will be missed.

Your father was a kind man that was there for my mother in a very hard time in her life and provided much comfort. He always had a smile for you when you saw him and he will be remembered fondly.

Your mom touched so many lives. Words cannot even express how important your mom and her spirit have been to me. All of us who got a chance to learn from her both about literature but, also about life...will never forget her.

You are in my heart and in my prayers.

Ruth Bennett - April 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ Don, Becky, and Family~
May God comfort you, give you strength and peace during this time of great sadness. Although I did not know your dad, your mom made a significant impact on my life. She was a brilliant teacher and a magnificent woman! I admire her and I am grateful for what she taught me. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.
With Love~ Karen (Morgan), Greg, and Suvi Byrd

Karen (Morgan) Byrd - April 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Becky and Don... Words cannot convey how deeply sorry and saddened I am to hear about your loss. My heart breaks for you. Your parents were absolutely wonderful people and we will all be reminded of how great they were when we look at you. My family and I send our love, thoughts, and prayers to you. If you need anything at all, please let me know. Sincerely, Jen

Jennifer Ferraraccio - April 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ Becky and family, I am so sorry to hear about your loss. Although I didn't know your father well, your mother was a wonderful teacher who taught me so much during my time at IMHS - Class of 1996. I will never forget her passion while she taught *The Crucible*, and because of her I majored in English in college. She made it so easy to understand. I will never forget her for that. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. God Bless all of you. Lynn (Miller) Johnson

Lynn (Miller) Johnson - April 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PD

“ *Becky & Don,*

I am very sad to hear about the sudden loss of your parents. Your mother was a very good teacher when I was in her class at IMHS. My prayers are with you and your family during your time of this sad loss of 2 great people. May GOD be with the both of you.

Pam (Parsons) Dupuis Class of 1986

Pam (Parsons) Dupuis - April 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SO

“ *Becky, Don and Family,*

I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your parents. They were absolutely wonderful people and touched so many peoples lives! You are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Sarah Oliva

Sarah Oliva - April 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ Becky,

You are in my thoughts and prayers. May you have strength and understanding to accept everyone's sympathies and process how much your parents really impacted the community and world around them.

They will continue to look down on you and smile at their beautiful daughter, who will continue their fervor for traveling and learning about the world around you.

We are here for you when you come back to the office.

Paige - April 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ Becky,

My heart goes out to you and your family. I am so sorry for your loss and words are but little comfort during this time. Please know that my prayers go out to you and yours. Let me know if you need anything. We all love you and are here for you at the office.

Kristen Reeves - April 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

J(

“ *Becky and Don,
My thoughts and prayers are with you. Your mother is the most powerful witty respected woman I have ever meant. She will forever be a legend at IMHS. Anybody that had her as teacher was blessed, she should have taught at a highly prestigious school, what an impact she left in people's lives. We were lucky to have her. I wish there was something I could do take some of your pain. No words I'm sure could help with the pain. They say time is the only thing that helps. My thoughts are with you. Sincerely, Jill (Grondine) Normand*

Jill Normand (Grondine) - April 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GO

“ *Becky and Don,
I am sorry beyond words at the loss of your mother and father. Cari told me today and all I can think about is the two of you. I remember how close you all were and can't imagine the pain you are experiencing. If there is anything you need, please do not hesitate to ask. You have my deepest sympathies. My thoughts and prayers are with you both.
Sincerely, Gail Ossipoff*

Gail Ossipoff - April 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *Dear Donny and Becky.....We are so sorry to hear about your parents. Your mom was a much-loved, born teacher, and your dad was a swell guy with a friendly smile....They are both going to be greatly missed....We hope you both are doing ok. You are in our thoughts and prayers...God Bless.....Bob and Ann Markell*

Bob and Ann Markell - April 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ *Don and Becky,*

Words cannot possibly alone, express the thoughts and prayers that are with you both in this horrific time of loss.

Heaven is blessed with the presence of two of the finest people that God has graced this earth, and our lives, with today.

They leave a void that will not easily be filled.

I send you my love, support and prayers that you find the strength to continue their legacy.

They were loved and will be missed by everyone lucky enough to have known them.

You two were their greatest pride and joy.

They will live on in you and your families.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Wender-Menghini

Cheryl Wender-Menghini - April 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM