



Wallace Swanson

August 24, 1924 - March 16, 2006

Wally Swanson

IRON MOUNTAIN - Wallace A. "Wally" Swanson

81, of 1020 Kimberly Ave. Iron Mountain. Died, Thursday March 16, 2006 at his home. He was born on August 24, 1924 in Iron Mountain, the son of the late August and Anne (Aimone) Swanson. Wally graduated from Iron Mountain High School in 1942 and then from Northwestern University with a degree in music education. He was the band and choral director at Iron Mountain schools for 37 years. On June 9, 1952 he married Lois Johnson of Iron Mountain. He was a veteran of WWII, having served in the U.S. Army Signal Corp. in China, India and Burma for two years.

Wally was a member of First Lutheran Church where he was a former choir director and church council member. He was also a member of Pine Grove Country Club where he served on the board of directors.

He is survived by his wife Lois.

Three sons, Craig (Diane) Swanson of Pleasant Prairie, WI Gary (Catherine) Swanson of Lexington, MA and Mark (Anne) Swanson of Manitowoc, WI. Six grandchildren, Amy, Jon, Eric, Melissa, Joshua and Matthew. A brother in law, Gus (Joann) Johnson and sister in laws, Faye (Bruce) Johnson and Genevieve (Otis) Vradenberg. Also by several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Wally was preceded in death by a brother Alton and brothers in law Bruce and Jim Johnson.

He was blessed to be a blessing.

Visitation will be Saturday from 10:00-1:00 at the Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home. Funeral services will be Saturday at 1:30pm at the First Lutheran Church of Iron Mountain. Rev. Gene Wickman will officiate.

Burial will be in Cemetery Park.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Wallace A. Swanson online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home with the funeral arrangements.

Tribute Wall

AC

“ I was just thinking about this wonderful teacher. Mr Swanson. I remember when i needed a saxophone to play that year in 1984 and Mr. Swanson offered his own instrument for me to use that year. He was a very kind and dedicated man.

Anthony Caruso

Anthony Caruso - May 07, 2017 at 07:59 AM

SB

“ My mother (Clara Mae Freeman Wheeler) and I send our prayers to you all. My mom went to school with Wally and I played in the band 1960-65. He was a great teacher and person. Hold onto the wonderful memories!!!

Sally Jo Wheeler Bailey - April 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Dear Lois & Family, I am so sorry to hear of "Mr. Swanson's" passing. He was a father figure to all of us in Mountaineer Magic. He allowed a person who could not sing a lick into the fold. I remember the day he brought me into one of the small rooms in the music department, 1976 I think. He played a tune on the piano & asked me to sing it.....well I know his ears were hurting for a few years after that tryout. To this day, whenever I hear a marching band play I will remember "Mr. Swanson" directing & keeping time with the one finger. My thoughts & prayers are with you all. May the Lord with you all.

Jim "Willie" Williams - March 28, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ Gary, I am so sorry to hear about your father. You were so lucky to have him in your life as long as you did. Having a father to look up to is one of our special things in life. My father left me to go to heaven when I was in 7th grade and it has been a heartbreak for so long. I graduated with you in 1973. May God watch over you and your whole family. Maureen (Julian) Pasten Minnesota

Maureen (Julian) Pasten - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ My condolences and prayers to the family of Wallace (Wally) who had been my band teacher and mentor in the IM Band from 1957- 1960. I express my deepest sympathy. He was a good man and an excellent teacher.

Respectfully

Jim Corsi

Graduate IM

Class of 1960

James Corsi - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

PT

“ Dear Lois, Craig, Gary and Mark, and families,

I am terribly saddened to hear of Wally's passing. He was one of the best men that I have had the good fortune to know and one of the best teachers, as well. I always looked forward to first period band and then chorus at noon. He always treated us with respect--and received it in return. I will always remember the band alumni coming together for the 100th year reunion--alumni from many years came together again because of him and to honor him.

Peter

Peter Trembath - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

WW

“ I came upon this news today and I cried in thanks to God for the wonderful memories Mr Swanson blessed me with. Far to many to go into here...but you can bank that he taught me lessons of life, music, esteem, caring. I remember most the day he prayed with me before class began. He caused me to know God is real. For THAT memory alone, He blessed my entire life and I hope that in some small way over the years I returned that blessing. Mr. Swanson was a wonderful man and will be a perfect angel forever.

Wendy Welty - March 21, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ Dear Swanson Family: I'm so very sorry to learn about Wally's passing. There are so many wonderful memories and meaningful things to say about him, but his goodness to and respect for all people are the qualities that touched me most. I still have the first set of drums I ever played which came from his music store many years ago. He gave me the gift of music. He was a great guy. I'm sure we'll meet again.

Bill Kauper - March 21, 2006 at 12:00 AM

EE

“ Dear Lois and Family: I was so sorry to hear of Wally's passing. Mr. Swanson touched so many lives and helped so many to grow. It doesn't seem like that long ago that I was a shy yet cocky freshman trying to fake my way through a Mountaineer Magic audition on the bass (it was 1975). I had to play by ear since I had no clue what to do with the tuba charts Wally handed me. I made the cut, even though he eventually discovered I was playing by ear and could not read music. His solution was to create avenues for me to learn, usually on his own time, at a time then there were no structured classes at IMHS for a guitarist. He helped me learn lessons that extended beyond music a true mentor that helped me develop as a musician and a person. Truly, he was my Mr. Holland (from the movie Mr. Holland's Opus). Wally will be missed, but I hope you are comforted in the knowledge that he will live in the memories of all the students he touched.

Eric Erickson - March 21, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ Dear Mark and Family.. I was saddened to see your Fathers death listed in the paper.. He was wonderful man and I have SO MANY memories of Band and Chorus..He had such a kind and caring way and a wonderful smile. He touched MANY lives.. My sympathy and prayers are with you all in your loss.. Love Candy

Candy (Stuart) Lauk - March 21, 2006 at 12:00 AM

PO

“ I am so sorry to hear about Mr.Swansons' death. Yes, Mr.Swanson was my choir teacher. He made choir so much fun. I truely admired him and he made such an impression in my life. I was sadden to hear that he had passed. I read this in the Kenosha News. I have been living in Pleasant Prairie now for 30+ years so surprised to see it in the paper. Didn't realize his son lived here also. Didn't put the two together. My best to Mrs.Swanson and the family.

Priscilla (Johnson) Ollanketo - March 20, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ Dear Swanson Family,
I was so sorry to see the passing of Wally. He was my band teacher from 1974 to 1978. I will always have very fond memories of my band days at IMHS.

Wally taught more than just how to play music, he as a very dear man.

Sincerely,
Bruce Aho

Bruce Aho - March 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BJ

“ Dear Lois and family;

Our deepest sympathy. Wally was such a enjoyable and engaging person to be around - he will be missed deeply. I will always remember our last visit together. His peace was a wonderful testimony to the strong bond of faith you shared together!

Sincerely
Bob and Patti Forgette

Bob Forgette Jr. - March 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

HW

“ Dear Craig, Diane, Jon, Amy and Eric: I'm so sorry for the loss of your father, father-in-law and dear grandfather. He must have been very proud of all of you, and he certainly knows you loved him. Our thoughts are with you during this sad time.

Heidi Otto and Paul Williams - March 18, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ Dear Lois and family... it is with sadness that we send this note of sympathy to you... we are about ready to return to Michigan but Bruce has been in for a little surgery here at the Mayo Hospital and will be released tomorrow... so we will have to see the doctor in 3 weeks and will then be on our way home.... Wish we could be there to do this in person.... but know that our thoughts and prayers are with you... Sincerely....Lois Ring

Bruce and Lois Ring - March 18, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ Swanson Family,
My sincere condolences on the loss of Wally. As I grew up on the West Side of Iron Mountain, I always enjoyed visiting Wally and Lois. Wally was an inspiration to me studying music in college and I will never forget his passion and dedication to music and the arts. God bless you during this time of sorrow. Chuck Erickson, formerly of West F Street, now in Grinnell, Iowa.

Chuck Erickson Jr - March 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ *Mr. and Mrs. Msrk Swanson,
We were so sorry to hear about the death of your father. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.*

*Mrs. Cisler's CD Class
Jackson School*

Sue Cisler - March 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ *Dear Swanson Family, May you find peace in this time of sorrow. Some of my earliest memories as a kid are you folks as neighbors when I lived on Cook St. Wally was a great teacher and had such an impact on my life. He helped me develop my love for music and singing. Wally chose me to sing my first public solo for our graduation ceremony in 1969. I've not been shy since. May God Bless and take care of you. Lar*

Larry Gardepy - March 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *Dear Mark , Anne and Family,
We hope and pray that these next few days can be filled with many memories of joyful and happy times that you had with your father and grandpa. Please know that our wish of peace and love are sent to you all.*

Jackson Staff - March 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

LZ

“ Dear Lois and Family

I was so sorry to hear about the death of Wally. If any teacher truly made a difference in my life, it was him. He will be truly missed by all of the people he deeply touched along the way. Please know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

With my deepest sympathy

Linda (Supa) Zittergruen

Linda Zittergruen(Supa) - March 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

TA

“ Dear Mark,

I am so sorry to hear about your dad. Please accept my deepest condolences. I never was very good at the saxophone, but Mr. Swanson made me believe that I could be. That made all the difference. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. God bless you my friend.

Terry Awrey - March 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM