



Thaddeus Mathew Kranz

October 27, 1933 - September 13, 2020

Kranz, Thad 86, of Anoka died , September 13, 2020 after a long illness. He was born in 1933, to Nicholas Francis and Frances Clare (Mackey) Kranz

He is preceded in death by his parents; Nicholas Francis Kranz and Frances Clare (Mackey) Kranz; brothers, Vern, Gene, Al, Francis (Bud), Bob, Jerome, sisters, Bernice Dupont and Margaret Byer. He is survived by brothers Paul, Jerry and sister, Mary Byer.

His immediate family survivors include his wife of 63 years, Susan; daughters; Thadina Kranz of Rochester Minnesota, Sally Anderson (Dan) of San Antonio Texas, Connie Schwecke (Russ) of Ostego, Minnesota; grandchildren; Sara (Anderson) Ukuoma, Maria (Anderson) Garza, Therese Anderson, Anna (Anderson) Sonck, Joshua, Angela and Andrew Schwecke; great grandchildren; Chetanna, Naranna and Kelenna Ukwuoma, Brett and Dylan Garza, Joseph, Gabriella, Charles, Nathaniel, and Jean Luc Sonck.

Thad grew up in the Kranzburg/Watertown Area, South Dakota area. He served in the Military in the "Big Red One". One of his tours was in Europe, where he taught communications and was assigned to German/Russian border guard duty.

He graduated from Huron College, Huron, South Dakota. He did graduate work at Michigan State University, with a M.S. Degree from St. Cloud State University.

The passage of "Public Law 94-142 Education of Handicapped Bill" guaranteed a free appropriate public education to each child with a disability. This Bill was passed and became law when Thad started his teaching career. Because he spent his first two years teaching in Michigan, he was able to take a series of continuing education classes under one of the national leaders, who had worked in the passage of the Bill, Dr. T. Timothy Crowner at Michigan State University.

Thad moved to Minnesota and was hired by Minneapolis Public Schools where he was involved in some of the early implementation of programs for these handicapped

students. He was a teacher, supervisory teacher, a grant writer and program coordinator. Later, he became involved in developing model community based work programs for this population that were funded by the grant he had written.

One of his most exciting programs was an early and successful integration of handicapped students into the Minneapolis Public Schools Educational Summer-Camp known as Camp Tamarac. It was located in the game refuge at Detroit Lakes MN. Students from regular and special education had access to all camp related activities while taking "for credit" education classes. This program continued for several summers. Because it was a unique and successful integration of handicapped students, it was a site visited by educators and administrators from all over the midwest.

He was employed by Minneapolis Public Schools for 30 years. Thad was also an avid golfer.

Our family would like to recognize and give a most sincere "thank you" to the entire staff at the Guardian Angels Care Center, 300 Wing in Elk River, MN. The care of Thad was outstanding and the support of the family, exceptional.

He will live on in the memories of those who loved him.

A private, family Mass and burial has been held.

Comments



“ Grandpa you will always be a light in our family. Your faith I am so blessed to have had it passed on to me. The family trips to be with you were always special and the highlight of every year. Like my sister said our poker games are a great memory. As well as your laugh and smile. You have 3 special daughters and I am so blessed to be one of your granddaughters. You will never be forgotten. I love you grandpa!

Anna Anderson - September 23, 2020 at 06:29 PM



“ I miss you grandpa. I am grateful for all the beautiful and fun memories you gave me but most of all for your legacy as a man of principle and faith. Your life will be treasured by our family forever.

I will never forget the family poker games and how we always had to keep an eye on you because you would sneak an extra ace into the deck.



Maria Garza - September 23, 2020 at 03:34 PM



“ Dad;

The cabin holds memories of your presence in every room. Your fishing hat stays in the corner of your room.

I miss you every day.

I Love You Forever !

Sally

Sally Kranz Anderson - September 23, 2020 at 02:18 PM



“ Uncle Thad inspired me. He stood as my Godfather and indeed left a mark on my spirituality. I did not get much time with him while growing up because we lived in separate states but my early memories of him were of pure excitement and joy when i did get to see him at family events. I remember his vibrancy and perpetual smile, a spring in his step. A true family leader and loving Godfather and Uncle. As God would see fit, we were brought closer together later in life when I relocated to Minnesota and started my family. He and Aunt Susan hosted myself and my sons often for lunch or snacks and even pulled school Pickup duty for my youngest and Andrew during their preSchool stint in Anoka. I am blessed to have such a wonderful man like Uncle Thad in my life and I will hold him close to my heart. Forever. Aunt Susan and family , I am so sorry for your loss and want to share this with you as it helped me through my personal losses as well. “Those whom we love and lose are not where they were before . They are wherever we are” -St John Chrysostom
Much Love,
Monica

Monica Paulson - September 16, 2020 at 10:48 PM