



Thomas Spies

June 21, 2012

Spies, Thomas P. age 69 of Bloomington, formerly of St. Paul, passed in peace and comfort on June 18, 2012 at home surrounded by his family after fighting a rare lung disease for a year. Preceded in death by parents, Louis and "Pete". Survived by wife, Mary Lou after 46 years & 364 days of marriage; children, Paul (Karla), Barb (Mario) and Kathy (Brian); 6 grandchildren, Erica, Martin, Giovanni, Isabella, Luke and Ava; brother, Lou (Marion); many other relatives and friends who love him dearly. Tom was a wonderful husband, dad, grandpa, son, nephew, cousin, friend, teacher and public servant. He taught Math for over 34 years to thousands of youth at Jefferson H.S. and Olson Jr. High and was a coach and driver training instructor. Tom served on the Bloomington City Council for 18 years. His spirit and legacy live on in those who knew him and were touched by his love, kindness, service, humor, gifts and generosity. In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred for family's direction. Mass of Christian Burial Saturday, June 23, 11 AM at St. Bonaventure Catholic Church, 901 E. 90th St., Bloomington. Visitation one hour prior to Mass at the church and also Friday, June 22, from 4-8 PM at: www.Washburn-McReavy.com Werness Brothers Chapel 2300 W Old Shakopee Rd 952-884-8145

Tribute Wall

SK

“ *Mr. Spies was hands down the best math teacher I had at Jefferson. His legacy of successful students is a testimony to this mans life work. RIP Mr Spies and may you make that "perfect circle" with our Lord.*

~

Shawn Kellett,

Excelsior, Minnesota

Shawn Kellett - July 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KA

“ Dear Barb and family, I am so sorry to hear about your Dad's passing from another neighbor today. Even tho I didn't know your Dad, I could tell that he loved his grandchildren immensely by seeing his involvement with them daily in the neighborhood. I'm so sorry for your loss. You have a wonderful guardian angel in heaven now looking over you and your family.

~

Karen Adelman,

Bloomington, Minnesota

Karen Adelman - July 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ *Barb, My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time. It sounds like your dad was a true treasure to students, community members, and family.*

~

Tom Holton,

Coon Rapids, Minnesota

Tom Holton - July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ *My thoughts and prayers go to the entire family. Mr. Spies was one of my favorite teachers while at Olson, and later, I was honored to have him write a letter of nomination for me to the United States Air Force Academy. I will always remember his gentle spirit, particularly when Barb and I would get the giggles so hard it would drive everyone around us silly!! God bless the family and know that our prayers are with you all.*

~

Kristen Wege,

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Kristen Wege - June 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mr Spies was hands-down one of my favorite teachers ever. I am deeply saddened to hear of his premature death. His motivating sense of humor and high expectations inspired us to learn. I will never forget his yardstick 'golf club', his jokes/stories and his commitment to us kids. He was a great man.* Dawn (Larson) Lunde, Class of 1987

Lakeville, Minnesota

June 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Barb and Kathy, I'm so sorry to hear about the loss of your Dad.* Dan Klocek

June 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NJ

“ I too had Mr. Spies has a very beloved math teacher. After he caught me cheating (because I was so bad at math) he took me under his wing and mentored me. I ended up with A's and B's because of him. He was so sweet and so kind and has always been in my fond memories "cabinet". I am so sorry for your loss, he was such a very wonderful man.

~

Nancy J,

Bloomington, Minnesota

Nancy J - June 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

VG

“ Paul, as I read about the man your father was, I know why I have such respect for you. While I am indeed sorry to hear of your loss, I know you will carry on his legacy, he will be proud and not forgotten, and we all will continue to be enriched by his spirit. Much love to you and your family. Your friend and colleague, Valerie

~

Valerie Geaither,

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Valerie Geaither - June 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MN

“ I fondly remember Mr. Spies as an inspiring, patient, and entertaining math teacher. I can still hear his jokes when I try to remember math concepts. Prayers to his family and friends as you grieve his loss. *Melissa (Bate) Newby* Jefferson Class of 1992

~

Melissa (Bate) Newby,

Richmond, Virginia

Melissa (Bate) Newby - June 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *Mr. Spies was by far my favorite teacher in high school. As a youth pastor, I still tell his corny jokes and as an Air Guard pilot, the math skills he taught me get used on a daily basis. He was a great teacher and an amazing man. May God bless and comfort his family and friends as they mourn his death and celebrate his life. "Class of 92"*

~

Jeff Smith,

Woodbury, Minnesota

Jeff Smith - June 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mr. Spies was a wonderful teacher, a nice man and could produce a beautiful circle in chalk. I was a student and my beloved uncle Lee Birklid was the only one to match Mr. Spies mathematical and artistic talents. I am so sorry for your loss, it is great.* Anne Paulson Pawlowski, class of 1992

~

Anne Pawlowski

June 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ Spies family, What a Thanksgiving/ memorial service! From the casket to the Mass, simple elegance. Tom is so proud of ya all. Some of us will never see a star without thinking of Tom. Thank you for including us.

~

Andrew & Pat Conteh,

Moorhead, Minnesota

Andrew & Pat Conteh - June 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ Dear Mary Lou, I am so sorry about Tom's passing. You have my deepest sympathy. Also I need to keep my promise to you and help you fill those photo albums. Love, Johnnie

~

Johnnie Penrod,

Bloomington, Minnesota

Johnnie Penrod - June 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

M(

“ *What an amazing man! I was fortunate to have him as a math teacher for both my freshman and senior year. He was a favorite for many students & myself. He was an exceptional person and a great teacher. My deepest sympathies to his family. The world has lost another great person, way too early.*

~

Mary Williams (Havlicek),

Bloomington, Minnesota

Contact Me

Mary Williams (Havlicek) - June 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JA

“*Mary Lou, sorry to hear of your loss. I worked with you as a long-time volunteer on the Clock Tower Project. I often think of you when I pass “that corner”. Never met Tom but after reading some of the Guest Book entries, I wish I would have. I lost my special person 3½ years ago so have an understanding of what you are feeling now. Contact me. Am sure we could share smiles about our time “at the bank”. Be Well.*

~

Joann Albright,

Bloomington, Minnesota

Joann Albright - June 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KO

“ So very sad to hear of Mr. Spies passing, too early. But what an impact he had on us, his students, and the community. He was my favorite homeroom and math teacher, ever. He connected with us, he made us laugh, he cared, he made a difference -- what every teacher yearns to do in a lifetime.

~

Kris Olson,

Portland, Oregon

Kris Olson - June 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ *Mary Lou We lived one block away from each other in the mid 40's!
Going back 67 years --- I recall that Tommy was a good friend --- a
very mellow guy --- someone you could be with --- a really nice
guy He was very successful --- I knew he would be I'm very sad for
your loss*

~

Chuck Kundschiefer,

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Chuck Kundschiefer - June 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ This is a message from me to Tom, because I know you can still see us, hear us, love us. It seems not so long ago, that we played together as kids, that we had family dinners at your mom and dad's upstairs apartment on Thomas street across from St Agnes School. Your mom always thought that we didn't eat enough if we had less than multiple plates full of her delicious food, plus 2-3 helpings of dessert. It seems not so long ago that we went on our annual summer vacations "up north" with all of the cousins, went swimming in the lake, went for boat rides, went fishing, played Canasta into the late evening, then woke up in the morning and did the same things all over again. It seems not so long ago that we both played football together at West Minnehaha on the "peewee" and "midget" football teams. I was the center, flicking the ball back to our best running back playing from a single wing formation. That running back was a fast and deceptive runner by the name of Tom! We even won the St Paul city championship one year, I think it was in the early 1950's. It seems like not so long ago that we graduated from high school just one year apart, then went to different colleges, got married to two sweet and loving ladies, and moved on with our lives, not seeing quite so much of each other anymore. What happened to all of those years? Why did they have to go by so fast? And now you're gone, but not forgotten. You're gone, but not forever. We'll see each other again sometime. Meanwhile, please say "Hi" to your mom and dad for me, and to my mom and dad too. And give them all a big hug for me. Tell them that I miss them, and I'll see all of you again when God calls me home. And finally Tom, please pray for all of us left here on this earth. Because we are still struggling with the hard part of our lives. But the struggle is worth it isn't it? This struggle leads us to the reward that God has prepared for us. You know that now don't you. Until later, your cousin, Bob

~

Bob Spies,

Woodbury, Minnesota

Bob Spies - June 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ *Mary Lou, So sorry to hear of Tom's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. David Fong, Jr. & Family*

~

David Fong, Jr.,

Bloomington, Minnesota

David Fong, Jr. - June 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ *The Frantti family spent time with Tom and his family many times throughout my childhood. I will remember Tom for being a great role model and dad for his kids. The Spies oldest son Paul is a lot like his Dad; my brother and I really looked up to Paul. During my early childhood we learned a great deal from Paul and Tom, like how to play poker and soccer! Tom was a very passionate guy who will be missed. My thoughts are with the Spies family during this difficult time.*

~

Rian Frantti,

Lincoln, California

Contact Me

Rian Frantti - June 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mr. Spies was one of those teachers that left a lasting impression on you long after leaving the classroom. He wasn't just a math teacher-he had that extra something special that was needed to teach at the high school level and his students loved him for it. As a teacher myself, I can only hope that my students remember me one day the way Mr. Spies' students remember him. I am very sorry for your loss. Nichole (Schneider) Hansen Class of 1994*

June 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ Mrs. Spies (Mary Lou), Paul, Karla, Erika, Martin, Barb, Mario, Giovanni, Isabella:Mr. Spies was a special man. Paul and Barb, you are lucky to have him as your father. I lost my father when I was in 10th grade, and I know as to how you feel right now. Time is a great healer. And, you have tons of precious memories to carry you forward. We were blessed to have known him as well. He touched many lives. He (and Mary Lou) raised you well...Tom is now in a better place. And here on earth, he lives through you now.We will be back in town on July 30. Looking forward to seeing you soon. Our love is with you and all...kaiser, Shelly, Kaiza, and Kaizan

~

Kaiser Haque,

Lino Lakes, Minnesota

Kaiser Haque - June 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Dear barb....Am sorry for your lossMy prayers and Thoughts with you and your familyGod may rest his soul

~

Mona Hamad,

Doha Qatar

Mona Hamad - June 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Spies family: Mr. Spies was my homeroom and math teacher many, many years ago at Olson Junior High. If it wasn't for Mr. Spies, I would still be in math trouble. He was a nice guy and a great teacher. My sympathies.*

~

Katie H.

June 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ *I was in Mr. Spies algebra class many years ago. Absolutely my favorite teacher and a wonderful man. He will be missed by many.*

~

Dawn Juntilla,

Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota

Dawn Juntilla - June 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ *Mr. Spies was my math teacher many years ago and he was a fantastic teacher and very nice man. Very sorry for your loss. Hopefully knowing the positive impact he had on so many lives gives you peace.*

~

Kim Serra,

Eden Praire, Minnesota

Kim Serra - June 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Dear Paul and Family, We are so sorry for your loss. His friendly personality, positive attitude and wisdom were evident the first time we met Mr. Spies. The world is a better place because of him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

~

Stan and Lina Mraz,

Fridley, Minnesota

Contact Me

Stan and Lina Mraz - June 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ *Tom Spies, or Mr. Spies, was the most passionate teacher I ever had. He was also one of my favorites...and I hated math. I wish him the best in his new place and send his family my condolences.*

~

Bryan Bertsch,

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Contact Me

Bryan Bertsch - June 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ *First met Tom when he taught math in summer school. My thought and prayers are with his family in this most difficult time. May God's healing presence be with you all.*

~

Sean Pritchard,

Sidney, Nebraska

Sean Pritchard - June 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ *His life has touched so many, he will be missed.*

~

Jeri Rosenberg,

Bloomington, Minnesota

Jeri Rosenberg - June 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ Dear Paul and Family, I am so sorry to hear of your loss, I know the feeling of losing someone so close. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. Sincerely, Lavina

~

Lavina Wagner,

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Lavina Wagner - June 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ Praying you all will find strength in his love of service to others.
Keep the Faith.

~

M. Lynn Daniels,

St. Paul, Minnesota

M. Lynn Daniels - June 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Mary Lou,Paul,Barb, and Kathy. My thoughts and Prayers of course.
The Daniel Peterson family. Tom will be missed Dearly.

June 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ The "young Turks," as the Jefferson staff members were sometimes called, are becoming a part of history, leaving behind a teaching style that will be missed. Here in California, college students recognize good teachers--no matter what the subject area--as those from the mid-west. My condolences to Tom's wife and family. At 73, I think 69 is too young to die. Angela Drometer Callister, from the JHS English dept., now in La Quinta, CA

[Contact Me](#)

June 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Paul and family, Sorry for the loss of your father. May he always look over you and may you never forget him. Take care ,Kevin Hove

June 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SN

“ *One of my favorite High School teachers. What a loss. He was a great guy.*

~

Shawn Narlock,

Medford, Oregon

Shawn Narlock - June 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Dear Mary Lou and family, Rod and I are so sorry to learn of Tom's passing. He was such an upbeat and positive person. He was always about the solution, not the problem. Even though I was on the same staff with him, because we were in different departments, I knew him more from politics than teaching. What a great gift he made to his community by his service on the Bloomington city council. He was a teacher by example. I can't imagine how much you and your family will miss him. Sincerely, Carol Sheffer

~

Carol Sheffer,

Deerwood, Minnesota

Carol Sheffer - June 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

VC

“ Dear Paul, Karla, Erica and Martin, My thoughts are with you at this time. It has been an immense pleasure to have your family in my life for the past several years...and to be able to work with your Dad/Gran'dad for a year was wonderful. I have to echo others' comments that Tom Spies was pleasant and jovial at all times that I saw him. He will be missed for sure. My sincere condolences.

~

Victor Cole,

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Victor Cole - June 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ ~

Culver Family,

Bloomington, Minnesota

Culver Family - June 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mr Spies was a gift to math teachers. He cared about his students and his subject. He had a great way of communicating to students so that they understood the concepts. His energy was contagious. 20 years later I can say he was one of my favorite teachers and will be missed. My condolences to the family. Kimberly (Bailey) Giles Jefferson Class of 1991*

June 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

VC

“ Dear Kathleen and Family ~Our positive thoughts and fervent prayers are with you and your family during this time.Love and Sympathy,

~

Visual & Performing Arts at Birmingham-Southern College,

Birmingham, Alabama

Visual & Performing Arts at Birmingham-Southern College - June 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AJ

“ Dear Spies Family and Friends, My condolences to all of you. Mr. Spies was one of my favorite teachers. He and Dr. Cohen were the best math teachers in the Bloomington schools making sure girls learned the subject as well as the boys ... not common thinking in the 1970s! I remember Mr. Spies having students get him a cup of coffee from the break room. He told us to NEVER look at the coffee cup as we walked and the liquid would never spill. I still do this today! Mr. Spies died much too young. I'm thankful to have learned so many lessons from him when I was his student.

~

Anne (Rockwell) Jacobson,

Bloomington, Minnesota

Anne (Rockwell) Jacobson - June 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Tom and I taught together at Jefferson. He was always so friendly and positive. I recently saw him at Cub. He was still friendly and positive, despite the fact that I could see that he was struggling. What a terrific person. He will be missed! Jan Parks

June 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ *Barb, Mario, Gio and Issie - Our deepest sympathy for your loss. We wish you all comfort, peace, and a forever presence in each day you travel of your father and grandfather. Let's plan on DQ Dilly Bars soon in honor of your loving father, friend and grandfather! The Lawrences*

~

Jill Lawrence,

Mpls

Jill Lawrence - June 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ To MaryLou & Family - our deepest sympathy and prayers. I have so many fond memories of teaching & coaching with Tom at Olson. Our children all had Tom as a teacher and thought so much of him. He will be missed by many. As you gather together with your family & friends may the wonderful memories you all have of him sustain you in these sad days. God Bless, Jack & Jean Dryer

~

Jack Dryer,

Baxter, Minnesota

Jack Dryer - June 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mr. Spies was one of my all time favorite teachers at Jefferson. He also taught me how to drive! One of the things I remember that he taught us was the importance of our signature and that we should always sign our name using including our middle initial -- which I still do to this day!My thoughts and prayers are extended to his family.Amy Haberman AbercrombieJHS Class of 1991*

Chanhassen, Minnesota

June 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ *Mr. Spies was the best math teacher I had. He made math both interesting and fun. As a sophomore at Jefferson I remember his humor and his stylish attire. He was compassionate and caring when my mother passed away during that fall trimester. I will remember him always in my heart. My deepest sympathies to his wife, kids, grandkids, friends and former students.*

~

Sarah (Halsrud) Wheeler,

Apple Valley, Minnesota

Sarah (Halsrud) Wheeler - June 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ *He had a smile for every student even when you weren't in his class any longer. He was one of the best we Bloomington kids ever had!*

~

Melissa Hettlinger- Moore,

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Melissa Hettlinger- Moore - June 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

ME

“ ~

Mark Ehlers,

Delano, Minnesota

Mark Ehlers - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

M'

“ I'm very sorry to hear about the passing of Mr Spies. Being in his class at JHS certainly contributed to me persuing a career in math and science. My thoughts are with his family.

~

Meg Palmsten JHS '94,

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

Meg Palmsten JHS '94 - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ I count Algebra 2 with Mr. Spies as one of my favorite classes of all time. He was a great teacher and a kind man. Thanks to the Spies family for sharing him with countless students in the Bloomington schools. He is still an inspiration to so many of us.

~

Laurie Dahlgren Bohn,

Eden Prairie, Minnesota

Laurie Dahlgren Bohn - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ MaryLou and Family I am so very sorry for your loss. I was teaching at Pond, MaryLou, when your children were there. I remember your family well and fondly. May the love you all share for Tom, a lifetime of memories, and God's grace see you through. Blessings, Sandi Mertz

June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *God Bless Tom Spies, and all his family. He was a man of energy and character. There were many special people on the Olson staff. He was one of the pillars.*

~

Mark Bergemann

June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Dear Spies Family, Please accept my sympathies on your loss. Tom made such a huge impact in our community and my life. I am so happy to have know him.

~

Rachelle Stanko,

Seattle, Washington

Rachelle Stanko - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

OB

“ ~

OLD BLOOMINGTON,

Minnesota

OLD BLOOMINGTON - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DD

“*Mr. Spiess was one of my favorite teachers at Jefferson High School. I saw Mr. Spies every morning for 2 years in his homeroom as well as a 10th grade algebra class. He always had a smile on his face and truly made you feel good to be in class. He made math fun, interesting, and Jefferson a better place for me and his students. Every once in a while I was asked in homeroom to retrieve a grapefruit he had left in his car. It was nice to do something for Mr. Spies :) I am just one of the thousands of kids who will always remember Mr. Spies.*

~

David Daniels,

Lake Elmo, Minnesota

David Daniels - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ Was so sadden to hear that Mr. Spies, my favorite teacher in school, passed away. He made junior high and math fun, and always had a smile which helped a shy seventh grader. Was so happy when he moved to JHS while I was there. I was blessed to see him again a couple of years ago as his granddaughter was in my daughter's preschool class. Mr. Spies came a few times with her when Barb was on crutches and he still had the same humor, smile and remembered who I was after all of these years. I am glad I had the opportunity to tell him at that time that he was my favorite teacher, and to tell Barb all about how great he was as a teacher. God Bless you Mr. Spies, you will be missed by so many. Barb, Mario, Isabella, Geovanni, the Pierskalla's hearts and prayers are with you and the rest of your family right now. We are so glad to call you friends! Anyone who had Mr. Spies remembers: "AB, CDEDBD Ducks? MR Not Ducks... OSAR; CDEDBD Wings? YIB! MR Ducks!" and the infamous "Tut, Tut"

~

Kris (Juergens) Pierskalla,

Bloomington, Minnesota

Kris (Juergens) Pierskalla - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

HC

“ To the Spies Family ~ I am very sorry to hear about Tom's passing. I will never forget how he stepped in & took me (along with his niece Terri and her father) to our high school Father/Daughter dance many years ago since my own father had passed away. What a wonderful man! Rest in Peace ~

~

Helaine Collova,

Minnesota

Helaine Collova - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ very sorry to here about Tom. Everyone who had children at Olson or Jefferson had fond memories of him.

June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ Dear Spies Family, We are so sorry for the loss of such a beautiful person and huge influence on so many. He modeled social responsibility with style, grace and a keen sense of humor. I remember him encouraging us to appreciate each other and the magnificence of the world around us. Rest easy Tom.

~

Andrew Conteh,

Turlock, California

Andrew Conteh - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ It is with deepest sympathy, sorry and gratitude that we remember Tom. Tom and Mary Lou and their family were the first to welcome us into their home, after we moved to the United States. This family truly believes and lives in the global village. They have no concept of differences among people. Tom saw and treated all children as his children. Watching Tom with his children, grandchildren and other children, one got to see the man he was. He was gentle, soft spoken and firm when he needed to. Our family was blessed to have known Tom and his family. We learned a lot from Tom and Mary Lou about raising children and looked up to them. We grew to admire Tom's parenting style. He was pleasingly frank and utterly lacking in pretense or artificiality. He had a mind like a steel trap; his insight into problems that will confuse or mystify people of less keenness or disconcertment was amazing. Tom was witty, clever, generous and funny. To know Tom is to know the perfect father and grandfather not just to his own but all that crossed his path. Tom touched our family in many ways. He welcomed us, he befriended our family and we got to love his cooking especially his spaghetti sauce. We can only imagine the sense of loss felt by Mary Lou, Paul & Karla, Barb & Mario, Kathy & Brian and his grandchildren. We lost a friend and someone we regarded as family. You all lost much more. His spirit lives on in all of you and his wonderful grandchildren. His memory lives on in the many lives he touched. A Successful Man By Unknown Author That man is a success -who has lived well, laughed often and loved much; who has gained the respect of intelligent men and the love of children; who has filled his niche and accomplished his task; who leaves the world better than he found it; who has never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty or failed to express it; who looked for the best in others and gave the best he had. Thank you Tom for who you were and all you taught us. Rest in peace. The Contehs.

~

Andrew & Pat Conteh,

Moorhead, Minnesota

Andrew & Pat Conteh - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ To the Spies family, a great man is being put to rest, he inspired all who he taught, he made it so you would look forward to math. I have many fond memories of his class, how he gave algebra a "personality instead of a boring class, he always had funny comments. I was blessed to have to have to run into him at Cub foods last year, I guess I felt it was a gift to have one last conversation with a teacher who did the little things and everyone learned from him because he took the time. The lives he touched are countless, One of my favorite teachers EVER! His smile is embrazened in my mind forever with the positive approach he taught with. Thank you for teaching me Algebra Mr. Spies. The world became smaller without you here. God bless the Spies family in grieving your loss. A great guy-Mike Thompson Class of 87 Jefferson High School

~

Mike Thompson,

Bloomington, Minnesota

Mike Thompson - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I am so sorry for Tom's family. Having to say good bye so early in his life. I always enjoyed visiting with him. He was a kind and sincere man with a heart of gold. May his soul rest in peace. Denny Havlicek OJH

June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ It's very sad to hear about Mr Spies's passing! :(Reading the entries before mine definitely confirms what I knew and always have & will feel. . . What a fantastic man he was! I had the pleasure of being in his math class at Olson Jr High in the mid 70's. LOVED his class! He was among a small handful of favorite teachers we loved. Leaving Jr high was made more difficult because I knew I wouldn't get to see him each school day anymore. Then years later, (1994 or 1995) when our oldest child was ready to start driving, I was SO thrilled (but not surprised Mr Spies was still teaching driver's ed) to see him pull up our driveway as Jason's instructor with ESSE! It was meant to be that Jason got so lucky to get Mr Spies as his behind the wheel instructor. :) Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this extremely difficult time. Rest well Mr Spies! Xo

~

Mike and Tami { Bergin } McMahan,

Bloomington

Mike and Tami { Bergin } McMahan - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

VB

“ *I'm so Sorry for your Family All the Love..... You will receive from Bloomington Students will be overwhelming . He was everyone's Favorite Math Teacher Thank Mr Spies....*

~

Victoria Baker,

Bloomington, Minnesota

Victoria Baker - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

K(

“ Dear Spies Family - I was blessed to have Mr. Spies for math in both 7th & 8th grade at Olson. He made learning math fun and easy. I also remember him riding his bike to school wearing his yellow campaign t-shirts. Over the past 10 years, I have run into him numerous times with his grandkids at Moir or DQ, or bowling league nights at AMF - and he always remembered me with a smile and kind words. He was a great teacher and mentor. Thank you for sharing him with so many!

~

Kim Neuenfeldt (Poythress),

Bloomington

Kim Neuenfeldt (Poythress) - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ *Barb, I am so sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. My thoughts are with you and your family at this time. Shannon Peterson Wanshura*

~

Shannon Wanshura,

Rogers, Minnesota

Shannon Wanshura - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ Dear Spies Family -Tom, or "Mr. Spies" as I knew him, was my junior high math teacher almost 30 years ago. His charisma, character and competence in the classroom and the hallways left an indelible impression on me and so many others that were blessed by his mentorship. My family's thoughts and prayers are with you all. May God guard, guide and comfort your family in this life and rest assured of a joyful reunion in the next.

~

Diego Wendt,

Tacoma, Washington

Diego Wendt - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Mary Lou and family---Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Tom was a wonderful man and I will forever miss that twinkle in his eye when he smiled!! Blessings--
Mary Jo and Mark Kirschbaum

June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KE

“ *Mr Spies was my favorite teacher in high school. I remember he would go off on a tangent and we could have him talking all class. He told jokes and created a great learning experience. I am so sorry for your loss, he will deeply be missed:(*

~

Kelly,

Hopkins, Minnesota

Kelly - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JH

“*MaryLou and Family, Jean and I were so very sorry to hear of Tom's passing. It's been a lot of years since we've seen you, but I still remember what a great guy and teammate Tom was at St. John's. He was a joy to be around. Our prayers and sympathy are with you and your family. God bless.*

~

Joe Hartle,

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Joe Hartle - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KJ

“ I was saddened to learn of Tom's passing. There are so many good memories of all the great times that I spent with Tom whether it was on the sidelines watching our kids play sports, music concerts, or working together professionally. He was a class act and a genuine caring person. My heart goes out to you Mary Lou and your family at this time and in the days ahead. Ken Johnson

~

Ken Johnson,

Crosby, Minnesota

Ken Johnson - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Our sympathies to Tom's family on his passing, way too soon. I have many fond memories of coaching and teaching with Tom at Olson. We helped coach the 9th grade football team at Olson and spent many happy hours working together. Tom was always a positive influence on everyone he touched. His contribution to Bloomington will last a long time. Jim and Jan Hanson

June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ Dear Spies Family--I was a student of Mr. Spies for a couple of different math classes and member of his Jefferson Young Democrats. I absolutely adored him. My friends and I still talk about him very fondly. I was so sorry to hear about his passing. His warm, funny, charming, witty, and bright personality will surely be missed. We'll even miss his bad jokes! My deepest sympathies, Amanda M. Rudolph Class of 1996.

~

Amanda Rudolph,

St. Paul, Minnesota

Amanda Rudolph - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ Oh Tom. With Mary Lou, welcoming my family with endless laughs and smiles...and promising not to tell my parents when I carelessly broke something in their house as a child :) Taking my brothers and I to our first Twins game. Clearly we aren't the only ones to have such fond memories of such a great man. My thoughts and prayers to the family during this difficult time. Hugs and Love.

~

Elizabeth Conteh,

San Francisco, California

Elizabeth Conteh - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Spies Family, Tom was a leader in every respect. He impacted his students, his community, his friends and his family. So sad to learn of his passing. My prayers are with your family.*

~

John monson,

cannon falls, Minnesota

John monson - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ To Tom's family, A friend forwarded Tom's obituary to me this evening, and I am in complete shock. I have known and admired Tom for many years, and he was always one of my favorite councilmen! He had honor and integrity as he helped shape our City. He always looked out for the City's employees. I'm sure he was a fabulous teacher too. He will be missed by many. My sincere sympathies to all of you.

~

Lynn Larson,

Bloomington, Minnesota

Contact Me

Lynn Larson - June 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ *Dear Spies Family, My thoughts are with all of you during this difficult time. I have so many great memories of our family time together when we were kids: Valley Fair, Bray Lake and of course Disney World for Christmas! I am grateful to have gotten to spend time with Tom in my adulthood and see him as a Grandpa. He was a funny, kind and loving person who will be dearly missed! Love, Sara Frantti Weinberger*

~

Sara Weinberger,

Shakopee, Minnesota

Sara Weinberger - June 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ *I will always remember his wit and wisdom - he was a wonderful teacher. I was blessed to know him and he is missed.*

~

Kris Koser Holsen,

South St. Paul, Minnesota

Kris Koser Holsen - June 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ *Tom Spies was a fantastic teacher, he was a positive role model for all of us that attended Olson Jr. High. Definitely one of the great ones!*

~

Laura Jarmon-Weiers,

Le Center, Minnesota

Laura Jarmon-Weiers - June 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *MaryLou, Our love to you on this day - your 47th wedding anniversary. We are with you in your sorrow as you grieve the loss of Tom on this your special day. May God bless you and keep you in the palm of His hand as you walk on this part of your journey. Love from your sister and matron of honor. Betty Ann*

[Contact Me](#)

June 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Tom, Was an inspiration to me since we were little. I remember birthday parties at Aunt Pete and Uncle Louie. And the high School days. He is with the Lord and in a better place. Cousin Roger*

June 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PV

“ Tom was a terrific teacher and coach. He truly was someone we could model our behavior after. A funny, kind and energetic man who treated all the kids at Olson Jr. High exactly the same. Tom was good to everybody and the kids loved him. He taught us all to just relax and let the game come to you. Rest well Mr. Spies you were a great influence on thousands of kids. God Bless you.

~

Peter Voldness,

Bloomington, Minnesota

Peter Voldness - June 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I am so so sorry for your tragic loss. My Dad loved your Dad, and spoke so highly of him. I'm imagining them both being together in the spirit world for Potato Lake this weekend. I'm holding your family close in my heart and sending you blessings. With my deepest sympathies, Tamara (John Layman's Daughter)

June 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ *MaryLou & Family--Our prayers & sympathy are with you in these sad times. Tom was a great guy who I really enjoyed working & coaching with. He will be missed by many.*

~

Jack & Jean Dryer,

Baxter, Minnesota

Jack & Jean Dryer - June 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Dear Spies Family, Mr. Spies was a teacher icon and an inspiration to me. I had the joy of being in his math classes for 9th and 10th grade (back in the late 80s). I am reminded of particular phrases he would use: "pick a corner of your brain," "show your chicken scratching," "when you can't figure something out, go eat some ice cream." He was one of my influences for becoming a teacher. He created many positive ripple effects from his classroom. I am privileged to have been a part of that experience and honored to have known him. May God give you the peace that passes all understanding.

~

Jodi Carufel,

Eagan, Minnesota

Jodi Carufel - June 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM