



James McDonald

December 26, 1947 - January 25, 2012

James "Jim" "Mac" McDonald, age 64, of Valparaiso, passed away on Thursday, January 26, 2012. He was a graduate of Andean High School, Class of 1965. He received his Bachelor Degree in English from Indiana State University and his Masters Degree in English from Indiana University. He was an English teacher at Wirt High School and Chesterton High School. He was a former varsity high school basketball coach at Wirt High School in Gary (Miller) and Chesterton High School and assistant varsity basketball coach at Valparaiso High School.

Jim is survived by his loving wife of 31 years, Mary Jo (Cooke) McDonald of Valparaiso; son, Scott McDonald of Santa Monica, CA; brother, Michael McDonald of Florida; mother-in-law, Betty Cooke; step-mother, Arlene McDonald of Crown Point; sisters-in-law, Laura Kittle, Alice Persin, Alane Wetzel-Payne (Troy), Terese Bottner (Adam); brothers-in-law: Mark (Robin) Cooke, Joe Bothe (Robin) James Barth; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents: Elaine McDonald and Nicholas McDonald; sisters: Jean McDonald and Jill McDonald; father-in-law, George Cooke and sister-in-law Cathy Cooke Bothe.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, January 31, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. DIRECTLY at St. Paul Catholic Church, 1855 W. Harrison Blvd., Valparaiso, IN. Rev. Joseph Pawlowski officiating. Jim will lie in state at the church on Tuesday from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. (time of service). Friends may visit with the family on Monday, January 30, 2012 from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, IN.

Donations may be made to Andean High School or the American Cancer Society

Tribute Wall



“ I am so sorry to hear of Jim\\\'s passing.
He was a great teacher and coach, all the kids
would gather around at his desk after the class
ended.
He was very popular at our school, William A. Wirt.
He was my english teacher for one year back in 73
or 74, not sure which year.
He was infamous for throwing chalk or an eraser at
students who would talk while he was talking.
It was great to see who would get pinged.
A great guy and great teacher.##imported-begin##Hugo A.
Hernandez##imported-end##

April 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM