



Gerald O'Flaherty

September 24, 1933 - June 27, 2007

Gerald O'Flaherty -- Bourbonnais Gerald N. O'Flaherty, 73, of Bourbonnais, died on Wednesday, June 27, 2007, at his home with his wife at his side. Visitation will be from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. today at the Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home, west Kankakee, and from 10 a.m. Saturday at Wesley United Methodist Church in Bradley until the 11 a.m. funeral service. Inurnment will be in All Saints Cemetery. Memorials in his name may be made to the Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School Science Department or to the Alzheimer's Association. He was born Sept. 24, 1933, in Bradley, the son of John and Dorothy Toohey O'Flaherty. He married Marilyn A. McFarland on July 24, 1955, at the Bradley Methodist Church. Mr. O'Flaherty retired from teaching after 39 years. His teaching career began in the St. Anne Elementary School in 1958 as a middle school teacher. Later he taught science at West Junior High School in Kankakee. In 1963, he became a teacher at Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School where he worked until retiring in 1997. He served as chairman of the science department for 30 years. During the last few years at BBCHS, he was the Director of Curriculum Management. He also taught at Kankakee Community College as an adjunct instructor. His military career, from 1956 to 1958 in the U.S. Army, took him to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, where he was assigned to the Fifth Army Headquarters. Trained as a medic, he also served as a classification specialist and was twice honored as Soldier of the Month. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Eastern Illinois University in zoology, botany and chemistry where he was

a member of Phi Sigma Epsilon Fraternity. At St. Mary's College in Winona, Minn., he earned a master's degree in biology. From Illinois State University he earned a CAS in school administration, and from Northern Illinois University he was awarded a CAS in microbiology. He completed his studies at Northern for a PhD in microbiology. He was awarded five grants from the National Science Foundation for additional study and research at Iowa State University, Indiana State University and Purdue. He also was a volunteer at the Exploration Station ... a children's museum from 1990 to 1998. He was an avid reader, enjoyed photography, carpentry and watching golf and football on TV. He was a member of the National Science Teachers Association, the National Biology Teachers Association, Bradley Bourbonnais Education Association, Illinois Education Association and the National Education Association. He was inducted into the Sigma Xi Society, an international tissue culture organization. He was selected for inclusion in Who's Who in American Education and Who's Who in Science and Engineering. In addition to his wife, he is also survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Jeffery and Georgia of Keller, Texas, Mark and Jill of Bloomington; one daughter and son-in-law, Heather O'Flaherty and Bill Garver of DeKalb; three grandsons, Sean of Houston, Texas, Seth and Spencer of Bloomington; and one granddaughter, Lauren of Los Angeles, Calif. He is also survived by one sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Janice and Jerry Frechette; three nieces and one nephew and their families. His parents are deceased, as are his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Marcella and Edward McFarland.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Album*



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - December 07, 2010 at 02:05 PM



“ Marilyn, Jeff, Mark, and Heather,

I wanted so badly to make the wake and funeral, but my work schedule wouldn't allow it. Your husband/father was a great man. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Steve Bell##imported-begin##Steve Bell##imported-end##

June 28, 2007 at 02:12 PM



“ Marilyn and Family,

So very sorry for your loss !

I know very well what you have loss.

I loss my mother to the very same way.

We understand and grive with you!

You all are in our Prayers.

Patty&Verl
Overright##imported-begin##Patty&Verl Overright##imported-end##

June 28, 2007 at 02:12 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you upon the loss of your Father and Grandfather. One must pass on all the fond memories you have of Gerald to your children and grandchildren to come so that his legacy will continue and the Heritage of the O’Flaherty family continues. Our condolences to you during this time of needed friendship. Lyonel and Cathy##imported-begin##Cathy and Lyonel Leonard##imported-end##

June 28, 2007 at 02:12 PM



“ Jerry was a great teacher at BBCHS. I enjoyed working with him for many years. You have my prayers.

##imported-begin##NULL##imported-end##

June 28, 2007 at 02:12 PM



“ I was reading the paper tonight and saw Mr. O’Flaherty’s obituary and it made me so sad. He was easily my most favorite teacher in highschool. He was a wonderful man. To his family, I am sorry for you’re loss.

Toby Moore##imported-begin##Toby Moore##imported-end##

June 28, 2007 at 02:12 PM



“ I am sorry that I was not able to make the wake today due to personal matters but I wanted you to know how much my children who had Jerry as a teacher respected him. i ½He served BBCHS so well over the years and was looked up to. i ½Both Marilyn and Jerry had many difficult past years but Marilyn you should be happy that you made him comfortable at home with you even though it was some sacrifice on your part. i ½May he rest in peace.##imported-begin##Lois Minerick##imported-end##

June 28, 2007 at 02:12 PM



“ Marilyn:

Blake just sent the obituary this morning. i ½

You have been such a wonderful caregiver. i ½Not many people would be able to take care of their loved one the way you did.

I have a lot of fond memories of when we were in school, epecially when we would travel back and forth to Eastern. i ½Lots of water under the bridge since those days.

Gerry was an outstanding teacher and a man to be admired.

Our love and prayers are with you.

Carolyn##imported-begin##Carolyn Travis##imported-end##

June 28, 2007 at 02:12 PM



“ I remember Mr. O'Flaherty as a very kind man. He was passionate about his subject and tried his best to instill that passion in his students. i ½I will always remember his quiet soft spoken manner. He will be sorely missed.##imported-begin##Sharon Perkins##imported-end##

June 28, 2007 at 02:12 PM



“ Marilyn, Heather, Mark and Jeff
We had gotten back from a trip and read the news on the internet K3 daily news.
We thought so much of Gerry and the family.
Didn't know he was ill but sounds like he was able to be at home with Marilyn's care.
Marilyn, you have quite a family of grandchildren. They are a treasure.
Our thoughts are with you and the family.
Would love to hear from you.
Mature (old) friends,
Marilyn and Curt
Curtis & Marilyn Clouse

June 28, 2007 at 02:12 PM



“ Gerald O'Flaherty seemed like a wonderful man when I would see him in the puew he never failed to smile at me! He was a very kind indivual! My prayers go out to his family! Wesley United Methodist Church will keep your family in their prayers tonight and night to follow!
Tori Conroy

June 28, 2007 at 02:12 PM



“ Please accept my heartfelt sadness at the loss of your soul mate.
I just read Thursday's paper tonight and it was too late to express my feeligs in person.
Hope to see you soon Marilyn.
Patricia Flowers

June 28, 2007 at 02:12 PM



“ I was just at my parents' house for the fourth of July and my mother told me that Mr. O'Flaherty passed away. I am so sorry. While I never had him as a teacher at BBCHS, I will always remember him as such a peaceful and wise man from the time I spent at your house.

-Val###imported-begin##Valerie Foltz##imported-end##

June 28, 2007 at 02:12 PM



“ Dearest Marilyn and Heather

Am so sorry to hear of Gerald's passing. I know how much he meant to both of you. I'm out of town(on vacation) and just happened to check the Journal today.

You have my deepest and sincerest sympathy.

With love

Nancy

##imported-begin##Nancy Brown##imported-end##

June 28, 2007 at 02:12 PM