

Richard "Rick" Ascroft

July 10, 1943 - February 25, 2014

Richard "Rick" M. Ascroft, 70, of Bourbonnais, passed away Tuesday (Feb. 25, 2014) at his home. Cremation rites will be accorded. There will be no public services. Memorials may be made to Hospice of Kankakee Valley, the Iroquois County Animal Rescue (iroquoiscountyanimalrescue.vpweb.com), or to River Valley Animal Rescue (rivervalleyanimalrescue.org). Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, Bourbonnais, is in charge of arrangements.

He was born July 10, 1943, in Evergreen Park, the son of Richard and Elizabeth Marsh Ascroft. He was a graduate of Evergreen Park High School. He received his bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University and his master's degree from Governors State University.

He was a local radio personality in the 1970s. He taught 35 years at Peotone High School, 20 years at Kankakee Community College and 20 years at Joliet Junior College. He ran the high school radio station. He taught speech and communications, and led the speech team for many years. He was a huge animal lover, vice president of the Humane Society for four terms and rescued hundreds of dogs and cats. Music was his passion.

Surviving are his longtime partner, Dalia Vakselis, of Bourbonnais; one son and daughter-in-law, Richard C. and Norma Ascroft, of Ascot, United Kingdom; two grandchildren, Ava Ascroft and Ricky Ascroft, both of Ascot;

and his father, of Franklin, Ind.

He was preceded in death by his mother.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Kankakee Valley (www.hkvcares.org), Iroquois County Animal Rescue (www.iroquoiscountyanimalrescue.vpweb.com), or River Valley Animal Rescue (www.rivervalleyanimalrescue.org).

Cremation rites will be accorded. There will be no public services.

Tribute Wall

AN

“ This teacher will always have a place in my heart. He once took a class period and explained to other students how he got caught up in the teachers lounge talks about me. He also told me he was sorry. We got into a difference the day before and I was not in the wrong. I was not very well liked by some students. That really didn't bother me as much as the teachers who hated me and went out of their way to start problems with me. The prejudices that some of these teachers had for me. He mentioned everything and it was all true. I'm not surprised he was still a teacher after that because he spoke the truth. Don't get me wrong. I was no angel myself. Thank You Mr Ascroft for making me feel like a human being and a person. Love you for that. Rest In Peace
Anthony ??????

Anthony - December 20, 2014 at 03:25 PM

PR

“ Mr. Ascroft forever changed the way I listened to and understood music. He was a one of a kind teacher that taught lessons and values that have lasted a life time. RIP Mr. Ascroft. The world is a better place because of you.

Proud class of "81"

Proud - March 03, 2014 at 09:24 PM

CC

“ *Mr. Ashcroft and I were best friends of over 44 years. I know some humorous stuff that he did and we did together. Most former students know of his love for all animals. He onced asked me to make a mousetrap that catches mice alive. I made a miniature figure 4 mouse trap based on the design of a figure four rabbit. Within 2 days he caught 2 mice in the trap at the same time. I guess we built a better mousetrap!!! Yes as many former students have called him a super teacher. I have been calling Mr. Ashcroft every week for somtime now. As sick as he was he always had time to talk to me. I guess I will have a load of fond memories also. He truly cared about his students and there success. He was an amazing friend. We both loved country music and played guitars together in the early 70's. Ther are closed to 200 country song penned by him on the back of study hall sign-out sheets. RICK may you live forever in the minds and hearts of all of your former students. I will always keep you in my memory and prayers. MR. CYR, your friend!!*

Charles E. Cyr - March 01, 2014 at 08:15 PM

MO

Wonderful words Mr.Cyr. I didn't know you 2 were such good friends. He was such a wonderful man and I hope he knows what an impact he had on so many lives.

margo oconnor - March 02, 2014 at 08:46 PM

CC

“ My husband and I knew Rick many years ago. Rick worked at the Kankakee radio station when we became friends and he got my husband working part time at the radio station which my husband loved and my husband was a teacher and I like to think my husband was the one who got Rick interested in becoming a teacher. I am sure he was a wonderful teacher with his sense of humour. His love of animals was astounding. He would have taken in every cat and/or dog that did not have a home if he was able to. He was the type of person who if you were lucky enough to have met him your life was much better for it. We lost touch many years ago and I wish we hadn't. I wish his family my deepest sympathy. He will truly be missed by everyone who knew him.

Dennis and Connie Clodi

Connie Clodi - March 01, 2014 at 06:41 PM

CB

“ *Simply.....The Best ever!! Rest in Peace Mr. A.*

Corey Baker - March 01, 2014 at 11:39 AM

DS

“ *After looking at all the tributes, it's amazing that a man who spent his entire career teaching in one small high school could truly touch the lives of every student who entered his classroom. Mr. Ascroft - I bet you never imagined that you would have influenced multiple generations of "Peotone-ites!" You were what teaching is all about. May you rest in peace.*

Diane (Kuhn) Steinberg

Diane Steinberg - March 01, 2014 at 10:58 AM



“ *Mr. A was a great teacher! I always had a blast in his class. One of the only classes I looked forward to going to. He will be missed. RIP my friend!*

Mary Bickel Class of "82"

Mary Bickel - March 01, 2014 at 10:57 AM

CM

“ *He made such an impact on my life that I couldn't begin to share all that I learned while in his company. What I learned from him, and his sense of humor, will always remain as a gift he gave to me. So sorry for his passing and want to give my deepest sympathy to his family.*

Curtis Mort - March 01, 2014 at 08:25 AM

CT

“ *Cheryl Roberson Tvrz lit a candle in memory of Richard "Rick" Ascroft*



Cheryl Roberson Tvrz - March 01, 2014 at 05:41 AM

RA

“ On behalf of the Ascroft family and my father's long-time partner, Dalia Vakselis, I would like to thank everyone for the comments and memories, they are such a comfort at this time. I suspect many of you would have wanted the chance to say goodbye at a memorial service, but my father was very clear on this point and did not want to be remembered in that way. These tributes are a much more fitting and I can't express how proud we are as we read them. As many of you will know, my father was a devout animal lover. I am pleased to share that we expect to be able to place all of the animals in his care within the next few days. If you can, please do support the charities we have posted. They have each been a comfort to my father and his family in their own ways. All my best,
Rick Ascroft

Rick Ascroft - February 28, 2014 at 09:42 PM

JB

God bless you - he was an incredible teacher - but more importantly a kindhearted, caring human being.

Jon Bach - March 03, 2014 at 11:14 AM

C1

“ I'd like to think that if 1960's useless facts trivia were an Olympic sport, that all of Mr Ascroft's former students could bring home a gold. He was by far my favorite teacher.

Corey Senholtz Class of 1994 - February 28, 2014 at 12:30 PM

AO

“ I was saddened to hear of Mr. A's passing. I just read through all the comments and I don't think I could add any more than what already has been said. I can say that 43 years later his influence he had on me is still evident. He loved his job and his students and I will always remember him and his passion. May God Bless you and keep your family in his arms giving them comfort and peace!
Alan Osborne (Augie Dog) Class of 1971

Alan Osborne - February 28, 2014 at 11:29 AM

DF

“ Sorry to hear of Mr. Ascroft passing. I remember him like yesterday, enjoyed his class. God Bless..



debbie fritz forsythe - February 27, 2014 at 11:47 PM

GC

“ He was of those that inspired many; whether in teaching, speech, communications, dog lover or a comic. I had the pleasure of working with him and Brew during a summer cleaning job at the schools. I got to really see the underside of his pranks and passion. Even today I share those stories with peers that had no idea of his depth. I suppose this is one of those statements that holds water regarding his life- celebrating his memories.
Glenn Clarke great class 1980

glenn clarke - February 27, 2014 at 11:24 PM



“ *Class with Mr. Ascroft was always fun. He made everything interesting and the period always flew by when he was teaching. He was one of many PHS faculty that helped make me into the person that I am today. He will be missed!*

Martin Szudarski - February 27, 2014 at 10:57 PM



“ *Jenny Ashline-Graham lit a candle in memory of Richard "Rick" Ascroft*



Jenny Ashline-Graham - February 27, 2014 at 10:48 PM



I hope all these comments comfort Mr. A's family

Jenny Ashline-Graham - February 27, 2014 at 10:48 PM



“ *I don't think I would be the teacher I am today if it weren't for his speech class.*

I will never forget his communications course. It was the first time I enjoyed a history lesson.

Thank you for inspiring learning.

Natalie Dybala - February 27, 2014 at 10:09 PM



“ *Mr. Ashcroft was my favorite teacher at Peotone High School. He loved his students and we lived him. Ron Morrison - Class of 1981.*

Ron Morrison - February 27, 2014 at 09:57 PM

BA

“ Thanks for making me feel like what I thought and believed truly counted and was important. I'll never forget you. 36 yrs ago seems like yesterday...Bob Austell "80"

Bob Austell - February 27, 2014 at 09:26 PM

DY

“ I may have forgotten how to find the integral of a function or write in the proper MLA format, but I know all about the JFK assassination and other iconic events of the latter half of the 20th century thanks to this man. His Communications class truly was one of a kind. He also showed me and thousands of others what it means to be an effective public speaker and command a room. He even taught my dad! I always sat in awe of his stories and marveled at what kind of life he must have led. Mr. Ascroft will always be a PHS legend. Rest in peace, good sir.

Dave Younker, Class of '01

Dave Younker - February 27, 2014 at 08:18 PM



I second all of what Dave just wrote. Well put. Rest in peace Mr. Ascroft. You will be missed, but always remembered.

Nikki Maltese Waldenmeyer - February 27, 2014 at 11:21 PM

JC

“ Mr. Ashcroft was a teacher that always found away to bring out the best in his students. In 1980 with his guidance our class started The PHS Radio Station that provided music during lunch hour. The lessons I learned in his classroom I still use in my life today. Teacher, Mentor, and Friend may you rest in peace!
Chip Cameron Class of "81"

Jim Cameron - February 27, 2014 at 07:59 PM

RM

Very nice Chip. Ron Morrison

Ron Morrison - February 27, 2014 at 10:14 PM

DO

“ *Mr Ascroft was one if my favorite teachers of all time! From speech comm class, to helping us start a radio show during the lunch hour to being an awesome speech team coach, he helped shape my future and taught me I could find success outside my comfort zone! His "ripple effect " in this world is huge!!!*

Donna Otten - February 27, 2014 at 07:41 PM

BA

“ *Rick Ascroft was a guy that you wouldn't want to mess with and he didn't mess with you as a kid. He respected them, he taught them, he loved them and he shared his life honestly. Thank you Mr. A , you were to so many the person that helped us grow up*
Bill Austell

Bill Austell - February 27, 2014 at 07:05 PM



“ I have posted earlier, but I just remembered something after scrolling through all of these wonderful comments.

One day, R.A. (that's what we called him at the time...Chip Cameron started it) and I were talking and he mentioned that he had a job offer to teach at a community college (KCC). We talked about it a little bit, he said it would be a good move and more money and I said it would be a loss to us at Peotone if he left. It was speech team season and I was going to compete at regionals in the near future. He kind of shrugged (the way he always did)...sprayed some nose spray in one nostril (the way he always did) and said "Nope. I'm staying. I'd rather see if we can get you to State."

Such a selfless man for his students. How I wish I had made contact with him sometime before this.

Now broadcasting from somewhere beyond....we'll listen for you every day and remember what we learned from you.

Chris Thompson - February 27, 2014 at 06:14 PM



“ Mr. Ascroft was a wonderful teacher - inspiring, funny, interesting and kind-hearted. I had the pleasure of bumping into him a few times after high school. The last time I did was years ago, but I am so glad I had the chance, as an adult, to tell him how much I had loved his classes and what an impact his Communications class had on me. I learned more about America and its culture in that class than any other I have ever taken. Thanks for everything, Mr. Ascroft. I know I am but one of many, many students who appreciated the special kind of educator that you were. Peace.
Melora Bales

Melora Bales - February 27, 2014 at 04:41 PM

BJ

“ *Brad Jerkatis lit a candle in memory of Richard "Rick" Ascroft*



Brad Jerkatis - February 27, 2014 at 04:39 PM

MA

“ *Mr. Ascroft was my favorite teacher. He helped me understand a lot of things that were so hard for a teenager to understand. Rest in Peace Mr. Ascroft, I've never forgotten you and I never will.*

*Mary Dietz
Class of 1975*

mary - February 27, 2014 at 03:57 PM

TI

“ *I was fortunate enough to know Mr. Ascroft during my years at Peotone High School from 67-71. He was vibrant, exciting, funny, conniving and understanding. We worked hard to out think or out talk him to no avail. He was a friend to all that needed one. He had an ear that actually listened. He had a art to sooth away Fear. His ability to instill confidence in students was unmatched in my time at school. I see it extended well beyond in his career. He has been a part of my life and career too. I could not have progressed in work without the confidence he instilled in me. I often think of him and the thoughts are always good one. He was able to control students in his class with words and stories to learn by. I am truly sorry to hear of his passing but I know a man like this that has touched thousands of young minds will have a place in Heaven. God Bless you Mr. Ascroft.*

Tom Ivanoff (TI)

Tom Ivanoff - February 27, 2014 at 03:35 PM

RE

“Wow... This man, if he only knew how many lives he touched over the years and the positive impact he had on his students... He left us too soon, but is no longer in pain. I will never forget Mr. Ascroft and how he was by far my favorite teacher at PHS. May you RIP and shine down on all of us in whose lives you have touched over the years.

Rachel Cantone Eglar
Class of '96

rachel eglar - February 27, 2014 at 03:00 PM

 Megan Warthen

“You were an AMAZING teacher! Im am very glad to say that I was in not only one of your classes, but 2! You will be missed!

~Megan Warthen (Harmon) class of 2002

Megan Warthen - February 27, 2014 at 01:42 PM

DH

“I can not say enough about this man and how he touched my life. He picked a shy kid to stand up and perform "Monster Mash" in front of the whole student body which made me feel like part of the school. He let me bring my natural comedy to the surface and give me confidence to be me. Best Speech coach, teacher and person. I remember him being a DJ and producing songs that he recorded. So much more to say. Rest in Peace my friend. "Class of 76"

Dave Huntsman - February 27, 2014 at 01:13 PM

A1

“ Mr. Ascroft was without question the best teacher I ever had, a true hall of famer at the profession if there ever was one. Not only was he a kind, thoughtful, funny, and an extremely likable human being, but it can't be said enough how damn good he was at teaching. From cultural knowledge to the ability to effectively communicate with others and speak in public, so many of these things in my life had their foundation in his classroom. He was of that rare breed of teachers that even had the “bad kids” listening and learning in his class, just by virtue of his engaging disposition. And he had an unmatched ability to get the more shy and introverted kids to come out of their shells. I hope he knew how much of a positive influence he had on the lives of so many. At the end of the day, that's what it's all about. He lived a life that was incredibly valuable and significant. Mission accomplished.

I salute you, Mr. Ascroft. May you rest in peace knowing that your light still burns bright in so many of us that were lucky enough to be your students. I am forever grateful. Thank you.

Andrew Cline / Class of 1994 - February 27, 2014 at 12:46 PM

AD

VERY well said.

April (Elliott) Duda - February 27, 2014 at 02:26 PM

DD

Couldn't agree more.

Denise (Welsh) Denny - February 27, 2014 at 02:34 PM

SH

Could not agree more.

Sheila - February 27, 2014 at 04:46 PM



Jennifer Rodgers

Well said..

Jennifer Rodgers - February 27, 2014 at 08:12 PM

NK

“ *I absolutely loved Mr. Ascroft. Such a great great teacher. It was apparent that he truly enjoyed teaching us. I had the privilege of having him as a teacher 3 times, communications (the best class ever), public speaking, and college level public speaking. He will be so missed.*

Nicole Kelly - February 27, 2014 at 12:19 PM

TG

“ *"We'll just have to use the fickle finger of fate!" One of my favorite quotes from Mr. Ascroft. One of the most knowledgable men I have ever met. I not only had him as my teacher but I was also blessed with being able to work side-by-side with him in his classroom. I still have a 3 inch binder full of notes from his Communications class. You could sit in on several lectures on the same topic but it would be different. Mr. A. didn't need notes or lesson plans. When that bell rang he was ready to teach and we were ready to learn. Mr. A. you will greatly be missed but you will forever be legend in many memories and stories of PHS. Rest in peace, Mr. A.*

Class of 1996-Tabatha (Fowler) Gordon

Tabatha (Fowler) Gordon - February 27, 2014 at 12:01 PM

AC

The fickle finger of fate!!! That memory brought a huge smile to my face. Thank you for reminding me!

Andrew Cline - February 27, 2014 at 02:24 PM

AD

Same here! I had forgotten about that :)

April (Elliott) Duda - February 27, 2014 at 02:28 PM

AG

“ I graduated from Peotone High School almost 16 years ago, yet the news of his passing made me cry today. Mr. Ascroft was, hands down, my favorite teacher in my four years there. When I told my husband my favorite high school teacher passed today, he knew who I was talking about without me even describing him.

Communications class with Mr. A was life changing. For the first time ever, history was interesting. I remember how we went decade by decade, going through major events in recent American history through the eyes of the media, with old magazines like Life as our guide. We spent days on the JFK assassination and the theories and conspiracies. I remember him talking about the 60's and the LSD stuff. Cracking jokes about dancing at discos in the 70's. I furiously took notes from the start of class to the end, not wanting to miss anything. I wish I still had that notebook.

And public speaking? Let's just say I was terrified of that class. TERRIFIED. But he almost made it enjoyable somehow (almost ;)) and I had SO MUCH more confidence by the end of that semester. I give him a lot of credit for helping pull me out of my shell as a teenager and further sparking my interest in history and the social sciences.

My dad had him as a teacher in the late 70's as well, and told me how he used to sport bellbottoms to work, which always made me laugh. And, if I'm remembering right, recognizing my dad as the young smart ass that he was, once assigned him "how to pick your nose" as an impromptu speech assignment. I always did love Mr. Ascroft's sense of humor :)

Amanda (Layton) Greep - February 27, 2014 at 11:53 AM

HP

“ Mr. Ascroft used to stop at Manteno foods on his way home when I worked there my Senior year (1998). He would buy tons of cat food because he was feeding all of the strays on his property/area, and wanted to make sure they ate GOOD! as he would say: "Heather, I eat like crap, but the cats, the cats, THEY EAT GOOD!" It became a running joke. Mr. Ascroft was a teacher that made me excited to learn, and look forward to going to school for. I had two classes with him, he was my favorite teacher.

Heather (Santori) Pasewald - February 27, 2014 at 11:48 AM

JS

“ I feel so lucky I got to have Mr. Ascroft as my teacher three times in Peotone. Once for HS Public Speaking, Communications, and again for a JJC satellite Public Speaking class held at the old junior high. Just listening to him speak was learning public speaking. He could command and control a room just by opening his mouth. He also taught us to question our preconceived notions and to think outside the box. Most of all, he did all of this with an endless joy. Every class was a party. We would laugh, be exposed to new music, learn crazy unique facts from history and pop culture, and not only become better friends with Mr. Ascroft, but with each other. I was on vacation just last weekend with old friends, and at one point, Mr. Ascroft actually came up in conversation. I'm class of 2001, so thinking back to high school starts to happen less and less, and get a little more fuzzy ever year. However, everyone immediately had a fond memory that was mentioned.

This one man affected thousands of students in Illinois, and made all of them better people. Those people will now affect thousands of others. Mr. Ascroft's legacy and influence will continue to spread for all of our lives.

Thank you, Mr. Ascroft, and may you rest in peace.

Jon Solita - February 27, 2014 at 11:44 AM

BD

Well said jon. I actually saw him a year ago and told him the same thing. What great memories; I was in that same public speaking class and I'm now a teacher. He was the best type:) I'll never forget him.
Brittany Stahl Domzal

Brittany domzal - February 27, 2014 at 02:09 PM



“ *What a GREAT TEACHER! He has no idea how he affected my life. Mr A. was so encouraging; he was always there to help. I did enjoy when he would bring his kidney stones in for show and tell. Mr A. is the only teacher I wanted to see after graduation, I regret not doing that.*

Enjoy that big teacher's lounge in the sky Mr A!

Jenny Ashline-Graham - February 27, 2014 at 10:49 AM

RH

“ *Mr Ascroft was the guy when it came to my learning about and loving mass communications. I have had brief but enjoyable moments in my career of being on both television and radio. Mr Ascroft inspired my love for the art and craft of it. A truly great educator who represents what all effective teachers should be. Many fond memories of being in his classes from the early and mid 80s.*

Ray Hudson - February 27, 2014 at 09:54 AM

 Katie
Lynn

“ *He was one of the best teachers I had! My heart goes out to his family. I am 33 now and still talk about his classes and teachings. He is definitely missed!*

Katie Lynn - February 27, 2014 at 09:42 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Chris Thompson - February 27, 2014 at 09:21 AM



I also had Mr. Ascroft as a teacher in high school. I remember seeing his tiny light blue Pinto parked in the back of the high school every morning when I got to school. He drove every day from Onarga to Peotone which is a considerable commute! The students all loved him. He was funny, intelligent, a wonderful storyteller, a brilliant teacher and he taught us things we could relate to. He was a tremendously talented musician, radio personality and he was a wonderful friend. He and I walked miles and miles of high school corridors at speech competitions while waiting for me to compete. I also remember his passion for animals and how he would go to no end to save a dog or cat and make sure that they had a home and were well fed. I had hoped to talk to him again and tried to find him via internet with not much luck. I had heard that he was teaching in Kankakee and I thought "What lucky, lucky students." Peace and light to you, Rick...you were one of a kind...the best kind.

Chris Thompson - February 27, 2014 at 09:32 AM

JB

“Everybody has 'that teacher' that they think about when they get older. Mr Ascroft was mine. I sent him an email through the PHS portal, but he retired and never received it I assumed.

"Mr Ascroft gave a shy, introverted teenager the confidence and self esteem to unveil inner awesomeness" ...that would be mebut I think many other Peotone High School students felt this way too.

He made school NOT seem like 'work' - he made learning engaging and fun.

Rest in peach Mr. Ascroft - and God bless your family.



Jon Bach - February 27, 2014 at 08:45 AM

LY

“Mr. Ascroft was an amazing teacher! He did his best to make every student feel comfortable in his class. It's especially impressive that he succeeded as well as he did considering many high school students (me included) found public speaking intimidating. I'll always remember the (yummy) demonstration speeches, the memorials, and how much he cared.

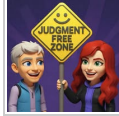
Lisa Yaeger, class of 1997

Lisa Yaeger - February 27, 2014 at 08:26 AM



“Welp, he passes me with a D--- because I tried so hard n he cared !

Chris N Dolly - February 27, 2014 at 08:25 AM



He was an Awesome person & teacher

Chris N Dolly - February 27, 2014 at 08:28 AM

BH

“ *He was an incredible teacher who made learning fun. Such an inspirational man and I was blessed to be one of his students. I looked forward to his class every day. RIP. You were an amazing person.* ”

Becky H - February 27, 2014 at 08:14 AM



Jacqueline
Austell
Bottoms

“ *I can close my eyes and remember being in Mr. Ascroft's class. I remember funny stories, I remember the fun facts he taught us but most of all, I remember the way he made me feel. Mr. Ascroft treated us as important individuals. He had a way of making learning fun. Your stories will be passed on for years to come I am sure :) What a great man!* ”

Jacqueline Austell Bottoms - February 27, 2014 at 08:11 AM

HS

“ *Mr. A has always my example to tell kids of what a teacher and a class could be. His passion for what he did was infectious. His communications class was the BEST!* ”

heather s. - February 27, 2014 at 08:01 AM

JU

“ *Great teacher- loved the kids and loved what he did!* ”

julie - February 27, 2014 at 07:39 AM

CY

“ I was sharing stories about Mr. ascroft's English class with friends the other day! He truly inspired me to pursue teaching, not as a career, but as a passion. His spirit will continue on in so many of us, his student, whom he touched so deeply!

Cyndi (Masterson) Grobmeier
Class of '88

cyngrob@comcast.net - February 27, 2014 at 07:26 AM

CG

“ Mr. Ascroft taught Speech at PHS. I am pretty sure it was his first teaching job and I was in his first Speech class. He made it fun and interesting all the while teaching us about speaking. He is fondly remembered and I am saddened to hear of his passing.

Sincerely,
Carol Pozdoll Gribac, class of 1971



carol gribac - February 27, 2014 at 07:09 AM

AD

“ While getting my teaching degree, Mr. Ascroft was always the teacher I wrote about for the many "Teacher who made an impact" papers assigned to me. He was so genuine and truly cared about his students. He had the respect of each one of us, and was truly a man to be admired. I loved his communications class and still refer to it often, 10 years later. I also took his Public Speaking class and somehow he made me not so terrified and taught me that I had something valuable to say. I was lucky enough to take it again at KCC during my undergraduate studies where he helped me even more. I remember one day, he had a scratch on the top of his head and told us about the animals he rescued, one of whom scratched him that morning. Just made me love him even more. I'm sure he did, but I hope he knew how loved and respected he was. He will truly be missed.

April (Elliott) Duda - February 27, 2014 at 07:09 AM

LA

“ I have so many memories of his speech classes and speech club. And of course, an occasional tune on his guitar. One of my very favorite teachers.

*Linda (Kneisler) Allen
Class of '73*

linda allen - February 27, 2014 at 07:08 AM

CC

“ One of the Best teachers I ever had.PHS and all students there were very lucky to have had you there.You had so much faith in each and every student who crossed your path. You had that pep in your step and wanted all to have the same, so happy go lucky. RIP until we meet again. Thank You for the pleasure of knowing you.

Colleen Caher Couch - February 27, 2014 at 07:08 AM

CH

“ *Mr. A was one of my favorites! I loved our Communications class, going through every Genre, from the 20's to the 80's! Rest in Peace, Mr. A ~ you are one of the Best! <3*

~ Cindy (Cyr) Harvey, Class of '88

Cindy Harvey - February 27, 2014 at 06:53 AM

KD

“ *Mr. Ascroft once shared to our communications class why he choose to stay in teaching after years of being a disc jockey. He said that about 5 years into teaching he ran into a student that told him how much his class made an impact on his life. Mr. Ascroft said from that moment he knew his paycheck meant more than dollars in his bank account; he was changing lives.*

Many people know I share this mantra about the career world I want to take on. It all started at PHS with the gentle wisdom of this incredible teacher.

Mr. Ascroft you changed my life. You will be forever missed. Rest in Peace.

Kimberly Donahue - February 27, 2014 at 06:31 AM

MH

“ *So sorry for your loss. Mr. Ashcroft was a great teacher and his communications class was my favorite class in high school.*

michelle hansen - February 27, 2014 at 06:15 AM

DH

“ I can not say enough about this man and how he touched my life. He picked a shy kid to stand up and perform "Monster Mash" in front of the whole student body which made me feel like part of the school. He let me bring my natural comedy to the surface and give me convinced to be me. Best Speech coach, teacher and person. I remember him being a DJ and producing songs that he recorded. So much more to say. Rest in Peace my friend.

Dave Huntsman - February 27, 2014 at 06:13 AM

GW

“ Mr. Ascroft had a definite way of making learning fun. He was one of my favorite teachers at PHS.

Glenn Wolter - February 27, 2014 at 05:10 AM

EB

“ I waited until Senior year to have public speaking. I was such a shy person in high school and was petrified in front of an audience. Mr. Ascroft made you feel comfortable and gave great encouragement. I honestly took away more from his classes than I did my entire 4 years. He was truly an inspiring, compassionate person that I still talk about to this day and will no doubt tell my children about him. He will be forever loved and missed. He made such an impact on hundreds of lives. More important, on the young lives that didnt really know what they were looking for in life yet. He made you want to get out there and make a difference. I am so blessed and honored to have been able to experience his passion. God bless his family.

Erin Burns - February 27, 2014 at 03:34 AM

AS

“ *Best teacher ever! Your inspiration will live on in your students! Rest in peace, Mr. Ascroft!* ”

Abi Swidergal - February 26, 2014 at 09:40 PM