



Wayne Henry Segneri

June 11, 1947 - September 27, 2022

Wayne Henry Segneri, 75, of Phoenix, Ariz., peacefully passed away Tuesday (Sept. 27, 2022), surrounded by loved ones, after a long and difficult battle with cancer.

Wayne was born June 11, 1947, the son of Henry and Josephine Segneri, in Chicago Heights.

After graduating from Bloom Township High School in 1965, Wayne pursued a degree in speech therapy at Indiana University and received his master's in learning disabilities at National Louis University.

Wayne opened Children's Corner preschool in Bradley, in 1976. "Mr. Wayne," as he was lovingly called by his students, was passionate about teaching and touched the lives of many local children over the years. It will be hard to see a harpsichord or a decorated brown shopping bag without fondly thinking of "Mr. Wayne."

In his spare time, Wayne was an active member of Kankakee Valley Theatre Association. Many area theater-goers have enjoyed his performances as Daddy Warbucks in "Annie," the cowardly lion in "The Wizard of Oz," Pseudolus, the scheming slave, in "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" and many more. Wayne also shared his beautiful voice with the community as a cantor and choir member at Maternity B.V.M Catholic Church. After retiring from Children's Corner, Wayne moved to Arizona and continued his love for teaching and performing. He became a teacher's aide at Desert Shadows Elementary, where he also founded and directed spring musicals.

The name "Mr. Wayne" followed him to Arizona, and he quickly gained the love and admiration from fellow staff, students and their families. Wayne especially loved his time at Desert Shadows because it allowed him to be close to his three oldest grandchildren, who all attended there. Wayne officially retired in 2019, after 50 incredible years in education.

Upon arriving in Arizona, he became a member of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Scottsdale, where he had been in the choir and was a cantor for many years prior to becoming ill.

Wayne is survived by the love of his life, Cheryl Segneri, who he met in 1961 at the age of 14 at a teen club dance (although Wayne always insisted it was at a not-so-romantic bus stop). He is also survived by his and Cheryl's three children, Jason (Christine) Segneri, Susie Segneri and Rachel (Scott) Regnier; sisters, Joyce Wallace and Pam Segneri (Garry Kadzielawski); grandchildren, Connor (Lindsay) Segneri, Emma Segneri, Sara Segneri, Zoey Regnier and Sadie Regnier; as well as a great-granddaughter on the way. Preceding him in death were his parents, Henry and Josephine Segneri; in-laws, William and Isabel Klinger; brother-in-law, John Wallace; and brother-in-law, Bill Klinger.

Services will be held in November at Blessed Sacrament Church in Arizona. Memorials may be made to Arizona Hospice of the Valley.

Tribute Wall

PW

“ *My glowing memories of Wayne are so numerous they would fill this page as they fill my heart. Fraternity brother, roommate, band-mate and friend for sixty years. To Cheryl and the family..in behalf of Alla and myself, please accept our most sincere condolences at your loss. Death leaves a heartache that no one can heal, love leaves a memory that no one can steal.*

Peter Weisz - October 14, 2022 at 05:05 PM

KP

“ *Both of my children went to Mr. Wayne's they are in their late 20s. Now. Lots of fond memories he was truly loved by the kids and their families. My condolences to his family,*



Kristie Panozzo - October 07, 2022 at 11:25 AM

PD

“ *Polly Davis lit a candle in memory of Wayne Henry Segneri*



Polly Davis - October 06, 2022 at 06:27 PM

PC

“ Mr. Wayne was such a kind & caring individual. My family & I were so blessed to know Mr. Wayne & his wonderful family. My son was given an opportunity to go to Mr. Wayne's school when he was very young and that is where his schooling began. Thank you, Wayne for giving him that opportunity. We have so many wonderful memories of you and your family. You are truly one of a kind!! RIP Wayne! Thoughts & prayers to all the family at this difficult time.

Polly Davis & Chad - October 06, 2022 at 06:26 PM

JD

“ Mr. Wayne was an amazing inspiration to everyone who had the pleasure to know him! My daughter Jenn went there and was given a wonderful beginning to her education. I was also blessed to work with his wonderful wife Cheryl for many years. They are a kind, loving and caring family. I am blessed to know them all. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Jodi Daub - October 05, 2022 at 01:48 PM

JA

“ Thank you, Mr. Wayne, for making our Cami's first school experience such a warm and wonderful one. My favorite memory was when we ran into you many years later, at Target, and not only did you remember Cami, you called her by her name. She was thrilled and I was so touched. You were a special angel to the children of this community. Rest well.

Jody Andriano - October 04, 2022 at 06:04 PM

SK

“ Mr. Wayne was one of my favorite people of all time! I know he was one of my moms too! She always loved dressing him for a show or making memories and laughing backstage. I have so many great memories of Mr. Wayne but my favorite would be watching him in awe play Daddy Warbucks. Thoughts and prayers to his family. He was one of the best!

Sarah (Grise) Kimberlin

Sarah Kimberlin - October 03, 2022 at 08:07 PM

GC

“ One of my favorite childhood memories is attending church at MBVM and Mr Wayne singing the Our Father❤️ The highlight of mass for me 😊 I very often sing his beautiful version at night with my prayers. May God wrap his arms around your beautiful family at this difficult time

My deepest condolences

Gina Stevenson Cordes

My grandparents were Richard & Dorothy Schnell

Gina Cordes - October 03, 2022 at 08:03 PM

GF

“ Mr. Wayne was one-of-a-kind. So sorry for your loss. He will be missed!

Gina Fiore - October 03, 2022 at 03:28 PM