



William Joseph Vetter

JUL 28, 1960 - JUL 3, 2014



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William Joseph Vetter

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William Joseph Vetter, 53, of Ft. Myers born on July 28, 1960 died on July 3, 2014 at Hope Hospice after a long and courageous battle with prostate cancer. He is the son of the late Frank and Frances Vetter. His memory will be cherished by his loving wife of 27 years, Marie Vetter, and sons Hendrik Kouwenhoven and Gerard Kouwenhoven. He is survived by his sister Dorothy Berry, brothers Charles (Laura), Nick (Don), Tony (Kathy), Frank Jr. (Linda), and Richard (Kimberly) and many nephews, nieces and friends. He was preceded in death by his sister Susan Krusniak. Joe's legacy is about the lives he touched as teacher and school principal. He served the School District of Lee County for 31 years at all three levels; elementary, middle and high school. He was a product of Lee County schools and was the founding principal of Ida S. Baker High School where he coined the motto, "Success is the Only Option". Joe loved being an educator and left his mark by spreading joy in the lives of children and teachers. Joe retired in April from Treeline Elementary School. A celebration of "joy" honoring Joe's life will take place at Pelican Preserve in the Osprey Room at the Golf Club on Saturday, July 19 at 11am. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Joe Vetter Memorial Fund by visiting www.plumfund.com/pf/JoeVetterMemorial Those who wish to offer condolences to the family at this difficult time are urged to visit Mr. Vetter's memorial webpage at www.fortmyersmemorial.com and sign the guestbook.



Tribute Wall

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PJ

Prince Junior posted:

I miss u. U were my best principal at treeline I wish I was with u and helping fight for prostate cancer.
– Jeffrey Estimond

January 31 at 8:15 AM

YM

Yaminah Millares posted:

Such a great principal, so sad to see him go..His. legacy will love on forever

November 24 at 8:03 AM

VP

Valerie Paganini posted:

Mr. Vetter was my 4th-5th grade gifted teacher at Villas Elementary many years ago. He was a great influence in my life and always encouraged better choices, caring, and educational & personal goals. I had the privilege to talk with him a few years ago at Treeline and tell him how much he meant to me, as I've only had 3 educators in my life that made a difference, and he was one of them. I will be thinking of him as I complete my education degree so I may become an influential educator as he was. My condolences to his family and loved ones...You will be missed Mr. Vetter. -Valerie (Hoover) Paganini

November 8 at 11:24 AM

CG

Christina Antonio Gabriela posted:

Lord heaven he was a good man not only a good pricipal ..at treeline elementary school .. this will affect all his students im shocked my self he would always make my little ones laugh I miss him and my treeliners will to awwww.... rest in peace. I cant believe this...

August 7 at 12:50 PM

JM

Jandy Mccoy posted:

Marie and Family,You have been in my thoughts and prayers. I was in NJ with my mother who died on the same day that Joe passed. My heart goes out to you. Joe was a great man. I will miss him but know that he is at peace. May God bless you all at this sorrowful time. Psalm 34:18 "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted...". Love, Jandy

August 3 at 4:10 AM



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DG

Dr. Nancy J. Graham posted:

My favorite "Joe memory" goes WAY back to facilitative training at the nature center (I told you it goes back...). We met, hit it off bantering back and forth and laughed our way through several days in a small room learning how to lead a meeting and write an agenda! At the end of the training, our instructor (Harriett Bohannon) suggested we might want to consider NEVEF sitting together again! We told that story for many years anytime we found ourselves in the same training.?? Today's service was a lovely tribute to Joe...a great combination of laughter, tears, and as Joe would have it--JOY! Blessings to the Vetter family. Others care that you hurt. ngraham

July 19 at 3:52 PM

MB

Michelle Brown posted:

Joe Vetter was my principal. He was the perfect combination of strength and kindness. He lead by example, and I will always remember how he supported me personally and professionally. Children and adults alike genuinely respected Joe, and he had a special gift of soothing even the most difficult 'kids.' Lee County has lost a wonderful leader and man. My sincerest condolences to Marie and to her family. Michelle Brown

July 19 at 3:39 PM

JG

Joann Goldman posted:

I am the parent of three children that had Mr Vetter as a principal at Trafalger Middle and Ida Baker High. As a parent I knew my children were safe and cared for. Mr Vetter was a true leader. He loved the kids and allowed them to grow and develop at their own pace. He was firm when he needed to be but also knew how to have fun. He made high school a place that my kids wanted to go to. He is part of their memories and mine. My sincere condolences to the family. May he rest in peace. May you find comfort knowing he touched so many lives.

July 19 at 2:44 PM

KM

Kim McGlohon posted:

Just attended the memorial for Joe. What a wonderful celebration of his life. My prayer is that God will give his peace to you Marie and your awesome sons. As I had written to you earlier, Heaven is for Real! (If you haven't read this book, I encourage you to do so.) We will all be hanging out with Joe and Jesus in the future. In the meantime, we press on and love and help our families, students and staff be the best they can be. This is the legacy Joe has left me. I am honored to have worked with him. May God bless everyone who is reading this. Kim McGlohon, Assistant Principal, Cape High

July 19 at 9:20 AM



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AS

Ashley Simpson posted:

Mr. Vetter was a wonderful man and first principal of my alumni Ida S. Baker High School. We first met when Ida Baker was just a few trailers in a parking lot in N. Cape Coral. Being an apprehensive senior switching schools, Mr. Vetter's warm personality and enthusiasm towards opening Ida Baker alleviated my fears and made me excited to start a new school year. It was the best decision I ever made. His pride and passion for leading faculty and students was evident in all that he accomplished. Although I was deeply saddened to hear of his passing, I know that he has left behind a legacy, one of admiration, respect, and courage, something that all educators should aspire to. My sincere thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends. Ashley Simpson

July 19 at 5:58 AM

BW

Betsy West posted:

Joe and I began our careers in education 31years ago. He was a wonderful teacher and loved his job. He was very positive and had a contagious smile. He made everyone feel special and touched many lives. Betsy West

July 19 at 4:12 AM

TK

Trish Krause posted:

Lit a candle in memory of William Joseph Vetter

July 18 at 12:26 PM

KS

Kristine Sobkowiak posted:

Our deepest sympathy! Saddened by this news. We met Mr. Vetter when our son was in middle school. May the God of all comfort be with you at this time.

July 18 at 5:45 AM

AC

Alda Cincinnati posted:

Dearest Marie and children, how do I begin to tell you how terribly sorry, I am, for your tremendous loss. I can, still, see your beautiful smiling faces on the day of your wedding. Praying for you, Marie. Love you and remember the great memories we share. If you, ever, need anything, please get in touch. Yes...I'm STILL at Caloosa till they kick me out. ?? Take care of yourself. My love and thoughts, Alda Cincinnati

July 18 at 4:17 AM



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BT

Bonnie Tompkins posted:

My deepest sympathy goes out to you.

July 16 at 3:44 PM

KN

Kim Nicholson posted:

The Nicholson Family – We were very sad to hear about Mr. Vetter. My daughter Kailey went to Treeline for the past 5 years and loved Mr. Vetter. We would see him in the mornings and he was always so happy and always giving the kids hugs and high fives. He always took the time to say good morning when I would drop her off. He will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

July 16 at 4:37 AM

RC

Robbi Cary posted:

We're so sorry to hear about Joe's passing. May God give you peace and strength and blessed memories. Keith and Robbi Cary

July 15 at 2:53 PM

JE

Juanita Edenfield posted:

Joe and I graduated from USF the same year. I recall attending many classes and even working on assignments/projects together. He was a great friend and colleague. My prayers go out for Marie and the rest of his family. Juanita Edenfield

July 15 at 7:58 AM

AJ

Addy Jackson posted:

Thank you for all you did at Ida Baker. Those first seniors loved you so much! I am sure they all have wonderful memories. You were loved and respected. Addy Jackson

July 15 at 6:26 AM



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RR

Ruth Rigby posted:

Blessings to Marie and Joe's family. I know the silence of the passage from life to death... from breath to no breath. I know the feeling of heartbreak. So my word of consolation is to heal in your own way. Whether its by waiting in silence, or surrounding yourself by the love of those closest to you. Remain hopeful. Anticipate joy. Your heart will mend. Your spirit will one day soar above your grief. I am truly sorry for your loss. Ruth

July 14 at 10:36 AM

JB

Janet M. Borchers posted:

I first met Joe Vetter at Spring Creek Elementary. He was a warm, easy going man that one could talk to with an open heart. He cared deeply for our students, for all students, but he cared just as deeply for the people who cared for the students every day. He knew their names, their families, their happiness and their disappointments. Joe worked tirelessly for the Lee County School District and he made committee work a little less tiresome with that wonderful smile across the table. To Joe's family- I know that you will miss him and it will be very sad at times to have to go on without him. But think of that smile of his and remember- he wants you to enjoy the life he worked so hard to have. Bless you and your family at this difficult time. I know that you will be surrounded by the family that loved Joe and may they help lift you as well. Love and light. Janet M. Borchers

July 13 at 6:25 AM

JS

Jackie Sawyer posted:

Joe Vetter had a heart of an angel and the patience of a saint. I will always treasure the years that he was at Treeline. He brought life and joy back into our school. I will forever be thankful for him for making hundreds of children and their lives better, and encouraging my co-workers and myself to strive for excellence. I will truly miss you Joe.

July 12 at 2:35 PM

MK

Matthew Krupick posted:

Are hearts and prayers go out to the family, Mr. Vetter was a great person and made my two boys, students at treeline feel like nothing could stop them from achieving thier goals. Love and prayers the Krupick family

July 12 at 7:02 AM



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HF

Hood Family posted:

I am so grateful my son's first 4 years of schooling were guided by such a selfless, kind hearted, positive man. My son never wanted to miss a day of school because of the amazing influence Mr. Vetter had on his students. A man like Mr. Vetter is never forgotten, he is always cherished and he lives on in the minds of those who admired him. I know he will live on in my son's mind as well as ours. Hayden Hood and Family, Treeline Elementary student

July 11 at 4:10 PM

PH

Patti Van Der Have posted:

One of my favorite memories of Joe was in New York City. Marie, Mary, Joe and I had just come out of the Radio City Christmas Spectacular and we were walking in to the subway station when it started to snow. This was the first time Joe had been in falling snow! What fun we had running around like kids, sticking out our tongues to catch snowflakes!! What JOY! Joe was a wonderful friend and a tremendous educator whom I will miss greatly.

July 10 at 3:40 PM

DB

Dawn Bronson posted:

Joe gave me my first teaching job. I remember how Joe so lovingly cared for my special needs kiddos. Having him come in and sit Disney on the floor to help a student out of a funk giving them a hug and encouragement or Madeline running around campus. He would just wave and tell her to slow down. Even when she went on to middle school on really rough days the principal at the middle school would let Madeline call Joe. That would always calm her down. Joe I will miss your laugh zed your hugs. Be at peace love, Dawn Bronson

July 10 at 12:20 PM

EW

Emily Wells posted:

Mr Vetter was a wonderful person and I am so glad that I had the opportunity to work with him. He always wanted the best for children, teachers and his school. He was such a positive and kind role model for everyone around him. He will be missed by all who knew him. Our condolences go out to Mrs. Vetter and her family. You are in our thoughts and prayers.Emily Wells and Family

July 10 at 10:53 AM



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GN

Gary & Jane Neubauer posted:

Dear Marie, Jane & I were so saddened to learn of Joe's passing. He was an academic leader and truly "a kind-kind spirit." A RARE spirit. His smile, honesty & integrity were truly infectious. We will miss him...as we know you will too. Please know that our thoughts are truly with you and Joe. Gary & Jane Neubauer

July 10 at 10:45 AM

JH

Jewelene Harris posted:

Prayers and condolences to the Vetter Family. We are deeply saddened by this news. We met Mr. Vetter when trying to decide on a school for our son for Kindergarten 5 yrs ago. After meeting with him, we looked no further and have been very happy with Treeline Elementary. He worked and communicated with parents in a genuine manner. He will truly be missed. Sincerely, The Harris Family

July 10 at 6:29 AM

GN

Gary & Jane Neubauer posted:

Marie, Jane & I are so saddened to learn of Joe's passing. Joe made VAST differences in the lives of so many children in Lee County and was an academic leader in his positions, including Ida Baker, Trafalgar & Treeline schools. He was very special, very caring, and we will miss his cheerful demeanor and infectious smile. ...and the quality of even a brief chat. Our thoughts are with you and Joe. Gary & Jane Neubauer

July 10 at 4:09 AM

MP

Melissa Phipps posted:

Mrs. Vetter, I am so sorry for the loss of your husband. My prayers and thoughts are with you and your family at this difficult time. Melissa Phipps

July 9 at 6:25 PM

AM

Allison M. Moulton posted:

Dear Mrs. Vetter, I am truly sorry to hear about the loss of your husband. Anyone who had the opportunity to know him will attest to his love for children in our school district. I pray that God gives you peace and joy in knowing he will not be suffering anymore. Best Wishes! Allison Moulton

July 9 at 11:36 AM



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MS

Mary D. Santini posted:

Joe Vetter was one of the kindest and most caring men I have ever known. His life was inspirational and his death was heartbreaking. I will always remember my friend and former colleague. Rest in peace my dearest Joe. Mary D. Santini

July 9 at 10:56 AM

ND

Nanci Doherty posted:

I am so saddened to hear the news about Joe. I had the privilege of seeing him in action when both my children attended Trafalgar Middle on the Nautilus team. What a joyous environment he cultivated! I was further honored when he recruited me to join his staff as a teacher (specifically, as he told me, because he wanted people who truly cared about the kids and to whom they would relate), and I jumped at the opportunity to work with him. He was a total delight, always smiling! Although the school's culture remained his legacy, it was never quite the same when he moved on to Baker. I can tell you though that, almost exclusively because of him, most of my 8th graders chose his high school as their first choice in moving on from middle school. It spoke volumes about him. He was truly my favorite secondary school administrator I've met, and he will be missed by the thousands who "experienced" his joy of life. – Nanci Doherty

July 9 at 8:10 AM

SJ

Sue Jensen posted:

Marie, I have so many memories of Joe throughout the years; but what I loved most about Joe was his infectious laugh and his love of life. I'll never forget when you told me he had cancer and he called it "the old man's cancer". My prayers are with you and I know that Joe is finally at peace. Sue Jensen

July 9 at 5:26 AM



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VB

Vonnie Bryan posted:

Dear Marie and Family, Marie, I will forever miss Joe and I am saddened for his loss – although we know that he is in the place of peace and at the right hand of our Father. The love that Joe shared with everyone will always be a part of who we are, and a memory forever held in our hearts about Joe! His laugh always made me laugh out loud because he had that deep belly laugh that only come from him when he thought something was too funny for words. I respected him for standing up for what he believed in – no matter or who was in the room. He laughed hard and loved hard. I loved listening to his stories about "his" kids and his staff family – he had an unwavering love for humanity and he expressed it with such grace and dignity. You, Marie will always be his Queen! I admired the way Joe spoke about you and the look of pride in his eyes when you went for your dreams it made his eyes twinkle with JOY! Joe was the type of man that possessed such an amazingly kind, thoughtful, and tender heart that he was LOVED by all who knew him. He was an exceptional educator who made a profound and positive difference to all who had the pleasure of knowing him as a person and an educator. Marie, God is with you and I look forward to the Celebration of Joe's remarkable life. Love, Vonnie and Family

July 8 at 8:04 PM

DH

Donnie Hopper posted:

Marie, I was so sad to hear the news of Joe's passing. He was such a positive force in my life – when I taught for him and when I was one of his assistant principals at Trafalgar Middle. He led by example and was such a great mentor to me. I learned so much from Joe over the years and had the utmost respect for him. I will never forget Joe Vetter – rest in peace good friend! Praying for you and your family Marie! Donnie Hopper

July 8 at 6:36 PM

TV

Tiffany Vitiello posted:

Tiffany V. I worked with Mr. Vetter at Treeline. He was a great person and will be missed so much. I am sorry that I will not be able to attend. Joy will always be in my heart.

July 8 at 5:38 PM



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AE

Adrienne Everhart posted:

Dear Marie. I have only met you in passing a few times when you and Joe used to walk the neighborhood but I did work as a volunteer at Treeline and that is where I had the honor of getting to know Joe. He was a very special person, which was obvious the moment I met him and experienced his kind personality. Also obvious was his love for his profession. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time of deep sadness. Adrienne & Carl Everhart

July 8 at 5:09 PM

LL

Lisa Lombardo posted:

I have so many wonderful memories of Mr. Vetter. I'm blessed to have worked with him for five years at Treeline. Whenever he talked about Marie and the boys, he just lit up! He so obviously loved his family. He so clearly also loved his job as principal at our school. I've never had a kinder, more fair boss than Joe Vetter. He was an amazing man and inspirational leader. I will miss his guidance, hearing his laugh, and watching how he interacted with students. - Lisa Lombardo

July 8 at 5:02 PM

JF

Jean Fulbrook posted:

Dear Marie and Family, My warmest sympathy to you at this time. TLP- Tender Loving Prayers are being sent your way. ...Joe was a kind, highly respected, positive and compassionate PrinciPAL and friend. I will miss him dearly. I have a pin that Joe gave me close to 20 years ago when I was a fairly new teacher. It says, "Children First". Joe loved everyone, especially the children. Over the years, this pin has been a great reminder as to why I became a teacher. Also, as a new principal years ago, Joe came to the hospital and sat up most of the night with me when I was dealing with a family emergency. This meant so much to me! He touched so many lives! I will miss his contagious, loud and funny laugh, his positive outlook, and his kind encouragement. I am honored to have known him. Sincerely, Jean Fulbrook

July 8 at 3:12 PM

YS

Yvonne Steward posted:

Marie and Family, My sincerest sympathy for you at this time of loss. Prayers and gentle hugs being sent your way. Yvonne Steward

July 8 at 7:48 AM



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DG

Donna Di Grazia posted:

I had the good fortune to work with Joe as, a supervisor for FGCU interns for the past 7 years. He was an inspirational leader and good friend. We will miss him, but those of us who were blessed to have known Joe will never forget. We will be forever grateful! Donna E di Grazia

July 8 at 6:26 AM

JB

Julie Boyden posted:

I had the pleasure of being Mr. Vetter's secretary at Trafalgar Middle shortly before he went to Baker HS. I never met anyone who cared for children the way he did. He welcomed me and my entire family to TMS. I have so many wonderful memories that just make me smile and I will hold on to those memories in my heart forever. He fought long and hard and now he can rest. My prayers go out to Marie and the rest of his family. RIP Mr. Vetter... Julie Boyden and family

July 8 at 6:01 AM

TI

Ticara posted:

I still can't believe Mr. Vetter's gone. I'm extremely sorry to hear this news and i'm definitely praying for you guys. I've know Mr. Vetter since middle school (trafalgar) and my four years of High school. He is the only principal I remember because the the only principal I've ever had a relationship with. He was soo fun!!! one thing I'll (and many others that attended Ida. S Baker high) continue to take through out life that I've learned from Mr. Vetter is that "Success is the only option". I'll never forget Mr. vetter, he always put up with a lot of our mess, but never looked at us differently. I'll continue to live by that motto therefore i'll never for get him. Rest easy Mr. Vetter. "09 -Ticara Jackson

July 7 at 7:45 PM

SC

Susan Carswell posted:

Dear Mrs. Vetter. I knew Joe from when he worked at Caloosa Middle. Whenever I had a problem he was on the phone to see what he could do for me. Two and a half years ago my husband also died from cancer at 62. Joe would have known Randy from meetings he may have attened at Dunbar High. My husband was the building Supervisor. You and your family are in my prayers. Please remember he will be with you whenever you need him. Susan Carswell

July 7 at 7:30 PM



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ST

Susan Theisen posted:

I'm so sorry for the loss of Joe my prayers and love go to his family Joe was my principal at Trafalgar Middle School .Everyday he would come into the cafeteria while we were working and tell us funny jokes He had a wonderful sense of humor I really will miss him

July 7 at 4:50 PM

MS

Meghan Campbell Sullivan posted:

He was my principal for many years and my parent's lead in their schools. He impacted our lives for the better and will be greatly missed

July 7 at 3:52 PM

SW

Swihnyk posted:

Marie, I was so saddened to hear of Joe's passing. I didn't know Joe but saw the Love in your eyes when you spoke of him. Take comfort in knowing you were a very loving,devoted wife. May you find strength in the wonderful memories you shared together. RIP...Love, Sue Wihnyk

July 7 at 3:23 PM

BF

Becky Waldron Frazee posted:

Joe was one of the most kind and gentle souls I have ever known. He was always ready with a joke or a laugh when you needed it. Having known Joe since FMHS, I was thrilled to discover he was the principal at Ida Baker when my youngest attended there. My thoughts and prayers are with the entire family, may your many happy memories bring you comfort and peace now and in the days to come.

July 7 at 12:37 PM

MM

Marty And Karen Mesch posted:

We were sad to hear of Joe's passing. He left such a positive mark on everyone he touched from administrators, teachers, parents, friends and children....especially children. He had a gift of joy and laughter that he shared with all he came in contact with. We knew Joe as a friend first, and then as an administrator. He left his mark on a number of schools and he will not be forgotten by the lives he touched. Joe always found the time to speak to a student, parent, or teacher. He has made a positive difference in our life and we are better for knowing him.Marty and Karen Mesch

July 7 at 9:04 AM



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MC

Martha Crotty posted:

Marie, I am so sorry to hear of Joe's passing. He is at peace and with no pain. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your entire family. I'm sorry I won't be able to attend Joe's Celebration since we are out of town for the summer. Please know that a part of him will remain here on earth in the hearts of so many. He was a true gentleman. Take care Marie. Martha (Marty) Crotty

July 7 at 6:22 AM

LD

Lynette Decker posted:

I am so sorry for your loss. May happier times pull you and your family through this difficult time. Lynette Leiter Decker

July 7 at 6:22 AM

GJ

Glynis Jackson posted:

Mr. Vetter was a true blessing to my twin sons, of whom one was special needs. He was always available when needed. Although my sons are age 28, I would often call Mr. Vetter just to talk and thank him for taking such good care of my boys in Elem. and Middle School. He will be missed, may God bless his family and comfort the family.

July 7 at 5:03 AM

YA

Yaminah posted:

This is such heartbreaking news to hear..he impacted so many lives without noticing..he was the best principal I ever had..such a great role model..success was the only option for him..and even when I had my moments in high school he would always have the right thing to say to keep us going...RIP MR. VETTER YOU WILL ALWAYS WILL BE THE BEST PRINCIPAL I EVER HAD!

July 7 at 4:34 AM

CS

Carol Schmidt posted:

My deepest condolences to Joe's family. I knew Joe way back when, when we worked together at Sears and of course over the years at the School District. He was always such a kind and thoughtful person. He was more concerned with the welfare of those around him, then himself. A true leader! I am shocked by this news! Godspeed Joe !!

July 7 at 4:24 AM



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KR

Kathy Rose posted:

Prayers and blessings to Mrs. Vetter and family. It was a pleasure to have worked with Mr. Vetter in the schools.

July 7 at 4:17 AM

DC

Don Campbell posted:

My prayers to Marie and Joe's family. He was a great colleague and friend. He was one of the best principals in Lee County. He will be sorely missed.

July 6 at 6:01 PM

LL

Laura Link posted:

Condolences to Marie and your family. Joe took a chance on me and gave me my first teaching job. He will be missed.

July 6 at 5:54 PM

KA

Keli Ackroyd posted:

Our friendship started at the Arcade Theatre. Joe was the Cowardly Lion, and I was the Wicked Witch of the West, and he would become a beloved friend for life. From working together at the National Shirt Shop, to dancing at Harry's, to singing at your wedding...so many memories that I will always cherish. My heart goes out to Marie, and to all of us who won't get to see Joe until we meet again over the rainbow. I love you my friend...

July 6 at 4:56 PM

JA

Jan posted:

We have such fond memories of working with Joe. He will be missed by all the lives he touched. Fondly, Jed and Jan Klein

July 6 at 3:42 PM



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TD

Toni Dimarzo posted:

Mr. Vetter was taken away from us all too soon. I had the pleasure to work outside his door at Trafalgar Middle School for many years. I can still hear the laughter echoing down the hallway. He loved all the kids like they were his own. All I can think of to try and make sense out of this, is that God must really have something planned for him. I will cherish all of the memories I have of him and always keep him close to my heart. Marie and the whole Vetter family, my deepest condolences to all of you....Toni DiMarzo

July 6 at 3:38 PM

JD

Jim & Cindy Donmoyer posted:

I was fortunate to have worked with Joe briefly while at The Villas. What a great teacher and he became an even greater principal! I always credit Joe with helping to broaden my horizons with regard to arts in the schools. He wrote a mini grant to start after school drama club and his initial performance of "Steamboatin'" served as the impetus for a long run of musicals and dinner theaters at several of my schools. Cindy & I are out of town and will miss Joe's memorial service but want to extend our love and condolences to Marie and the entire Vetter family.

July 6 at 3:36 PM

PF

Palacios Family posted:

My sincere condolences to The Vetter family. I am a parent of three grown children. Their first and last school Principal since kgd~12 grade was Mr. Joe Vetter. I had lots of conversations and good memories of him during that period in time. He made a great impact in my children's lives! THANKS MR. VETTER! R.I.P. Martha Palacios

July 6 at 2:41 PM

TC

Thomas Campbell posted:

Our prayers go out to the Vetter family. Mr. Vetter was principal to our oldest daughter from Littleton through Trafalgar and our youngest daughter through Littleton. I had the privilege of working with him at Trafalgar. He was a very kind and wonderful person. He will be missed. Tom Campbell and family

July 6 at 2:22 PM



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PM

Pat & Vickie Maharrey posted:

Tonyâ? We are so sorry to hear about the passing of your brother. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

July 6 at 1:59 PM

JJ

Jenny Jones posted:

I worked with Joe as a fellow teacher and one summer when he was the principal. He was a wonderful educator in any capacity. The most wonderful thing about Joe was he was just a great person. My heart goes out to his family during this time of grief.

July 6 at 1:54 PM

SP

Stephanie Palacios posted:

Mr. Vetter was a great, compassionate contributor to the education system and to the planet. I was fortunate to have met him in the first grade and will never forget him. His legacy will live on. Without a doubt, no child that had him as an educator will forget him, especially the ones from over twenty years ago, because I have not.

July 6 at 1:46 PM

JS

John Stephens posted:

It was an honor to have known and worked with Joe for many years. He was a true professional in every sense of the word. He loved what he did and had a special talent for dealing with his students and staffs. He would celebrate their success and bring out the best in everyone. Joe was also dedicated to his family. Whenever he talked about Marie, their sons, or his nieces and nephews, he would break into a huge grin showing his love and pride. Joe, you were taken from us way to soon, but we were fortunate to have had you touch our lives in so many special ways. John & Teresa Stephens

July 6 at 12:28 PM



Tribute Wall

William Joseph Vetter

JUL 28, 1960 - JUL 3, 2014

BG

Beth Godwin posted:

My thoughts and prayers to the Vetter family. Joe was a wonderful man who I had the opportunity to work with in many situations in the education world. He truly loved what he did and the people around him. God needed another angel and he got on in Joe! Cherish the happy times and memories!Beth Godwin

July 6 at 12:12 PM

EC

Elizabeth Cooper posted:

The one thing I will never forget is Joe's wonderful "LAUGH". No matter how serious, difficult or terrible your day may have been, just listening to his laugh made it all better.I will miss that. We, that knew him, were the lucky ones and better for it."Thanks for the memories"

July 6 at 11:58 AM

KP

Karen Postolowski posted:

My thought and prayers go out to the Vetter family. Mr. Vetter was a truly remarkable man and my children are fortunate to experienced his love and kindness at Littleton Elementary. Rest in peace.

July 6 at 11:41 AM

KT

Kathy Taylor posted:

Condolences to the Vetter family. As a parent of two students who went to Baker during his time as principal, I would like to say that he was a warm, caring man who was looked up to by students and parents alike.

July 6 at 9:19 AM

RD

Roselaure Dest posted:

"I like how you have made this classroom your own. You have a nice teacher voice". His words to me after the first time he visited my classroom. I am grateful for the chance he gave me.

July 6 at 8:43 AM



Tribute Wall

William Joseph Vetter

JUL 28, 1960 - JUL 3, 2014

SB

Sally Beth Brownell posted:

In the encyclopedia next to an entry about " true selfless caring for others" is written, Joe Vetter. It was an honor to serve the children of Lee County with him.

July 6 at 8:14 AM

KI

Kim posted:

Mr. Vetter believed in me when no one else did. He always saw the best in people. He will be missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to his many friends and loved ones.Kim

July 6 at 7:54 AM

SW

Sharon Warnecke posted:

Thoughts and prayers to Marie and family. Joe was a wonderful man, kind and giving and an inspiration to all who had the pleasure of working with him. We will all miss him!Sincerely, Sharon Warnecke

July 6 at 7:48 AM

GC

Greta Campbell posted:

I worked with Joe for many years and found him to be compassionate, kind, caring and an awesome educator. My prayers for the family and may God continue to comfort you. "Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal."

July 6 at 7:10 AM

ED

Elaine McClatchey Darroch posted:

I knew Joe Vetter in high school and I remember his thoughtfulness and kindness. I hope your wonderful memories give you comfort. I work with young people now and I know what an amazing impact teachers and principals have. Condolences to your family.

July 6 at 6:01 AM



Tribute Wall

William Joseph Vetter

JUL 28, 1960 - JUL 3, 2014

MC

Mary Cobb posted:

Marie— I am so sorry to hear about Joe's illness and passing. He was such a wonderful person, a dedicated educator, caring and fun to be around. I remember both of you from your early days at Villas Elementary. I am sorry I will be away for the next 6 weeks and won't be in town for his Service. My thoughts and prayers are with with and your sons.Sincerely, Mary Fred Cobb

July 6 at 5:33 AM

MJ

Maribeth Johnston posted:

Joe you will be misses! You can truly say "I did it all and I did it my way ". Thinking of the family at this time Maribeth Johnston and Alison McMillen

July 6 at 5:09 AM

MM

Morgan Mills posted:

Hugs and prayers to the Vetter family during this difficult time. As a Littleton graduate (in 1997) and Trafalgar graduate (in 2000) I had the great pleasure of having Dr. Vetter as a principal for quite some time, and I'm better for it! He was fair, higest, approachable, and encouraging, among other things, and will be greatly missed.

July 6 at 5:08 AM

CC

Cheryl Chastain posted:

Joe made a huge impact on the course of my life by asking me one question, "Why aren't you a teacher?" I was volunteering in his fifth grade classroom at the Villas in the late '80s. I was searching for a new direction in my life at the at of thirty-eight and he challenged me to do more than I had imagined that I could achieve. After returning to college and graduating, I spent the next twenty-five years in the classroom teaching Lee County students. THANK YOU, Joe Vetter! I am just one of the many that you impacted in your life! RIP Cheryl Chastain

July 5 at 5:31 PM

JP

Janet Powers posted:

Heartfelt sympathy to Marie and Joe's entire family. He will be missed by all whose lives he touched. Sincerely, The Powers Family

July 5 at 2:26 PM



Tribute Wall

William Joseph Vetter

JUL 28, 1960 - JUL 3, 2014



Vanessa posted:

Mr. Vetter was one of the best principals around. I'm so sad for his family to endure this. My prayers and condolences to all.

July 5 at 1:30 PM



Kimberly Barajas posted:

Sincere condolences to the entire Vetter Family, especially Marie. We've lost a wonderful man in Joe, never heard a warmer or more contagious laugh than his. A good man and a wonderful example of fairness and equality as a leader. We feel blessed to have had him as an influence in our children's lives for so many years. The Barajas Family

July 5 at 9:37 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring William by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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