



## David L. Theisen

July 9, 1943 - July 27, 2013

David L. Theisen of Kent, Washington passed away on Saturday, July 27, 2013. He was 70 years old.

David was born on July 9, 1943 to Nicholas and Theresa Theisen. He was raised in Aurora, Illinois before moving to Spokane, Washington in 1965 to attend Gonzaga University. David graduated from Marmion Military Academy in 1961. He served in the U.S. Army from 1962-1965. David graduated from Gonzaga with a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in English and minoring in History. He received a Masters of Education degree with an emphasis on educational administration in 1989 from Central Washington University in Ellensburg, WA.

David had a passion for learning and he could always be found reading a book or two. It was because of that passion that he taught elementary school for a total of 34 years in the Kent (WA) School District. Thirty of those years were spent at one school, Soos Creek Elementary. He also taught at Covington Elementary in the Kent School District.

For most of his professional career and beyond, David was active in his professional association at all levels. He served as Kent Education Association President and was the recipient of the Award of Excellence and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the KEA. He served on the Board of Directors for the Washington Education Association for several years and was elected to the Board of the National Education Association three times, for a total of six years. David was the chairman of the WEA's Documents and

Resolutions Committee for 23 years from 1990 to his death in 2013.

David is survived by his two sisters, Jean Sheldon (Dennis) and Marilyn Theisen; nieces Theresa Linkletter (David) and their children Andrew, Matthew and Lauren; Mindy Melvin (Kris) and their children Derik, Abigail and Rebecca; Jennie Tennis (Jay) and their children Nicholas and Jackson. He was also survived by the brother he never had, Gordon Fisher (Laurie) and very special friends Tim Clark (Jo), Bob Sandstrom (Lisa), Jim Scheeland (Bonnie), Bruce Stendal (Pam Morris-Stendal), David Talkington, Scott Floyd, Laura Renz and many more. David had two families – one in Aurora and one in Kent, Washington

In addition to his parents, David was preceded in death by his two sisters, Mary Patricia Mallette and Helen Abbott, and a niece, Sherrie Lloyd.

The family will be receiving guests on Thursday, August 8, 2013 from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the funeral mass at 10:30 a.m. at Annunciation Church. Internment will follow at Assumption Cemetery, Wheaton, Illinois.

Memorials in David's name can be sent to: The Washington Education Children's Fund, PO Box 9100, Federal Way, WA 98063-9100 or to the Kent School District for the purpose of purchasing library books for Soos Creek and/or Covington elementary schools. The Kent School District address is 12033 SE 256th Street, Kent, WA 98030-6503.

# Cemetery Details

## Assumption Cemetery

1 S. 510 Winfield Road  
Wheaton, IL 60189

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

AUG 8. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Annunciation Church  
1820 Church Road  
Aurora, IL 60505

## Memorial Mass

AUG 8. 10:30 AM (CT)

Annunciation Church  
1820 Church Road  
Aurora, IL 60505

# Tribute Wall

SM

“ I had Mr. Theisen way back in the late 1970s. I remember he'd sometimes take students for happy meals at McDonald's if you passed your timed math tests. These outings were legendary because students who attended would always talk about how much Mr. Theisen would order to eat! We were really impressionable at that age and we were always excited to get a happy meal.

He told my mother that I would be able to do anything I wanted to when I grew up. Im not sure I believed that then, but I ended up going to an Ivy, I live in NYC now, and am still pretty good at math. Not bad for an immigrant kid.

Nice to hear he was always interested in learning. It rubbed off on me. Thanks for believing in me, Mr. Theisen.

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S. M. - March 21, 2022 at 12:58 AM

SN

“ I was one of Mr. Theisen's last students before he retired, all the way back in the early 2000s at Covington Elementary. Recently, I got curious to see what happened to him, and discovered he had passed away.

*Of all the teachers I had at Covington, he left the biggest impact on me. I was a weird and awkward kid. Not a lot of my classmates liked me, and I was teased a lot. But I remember in the 6th grade, when I decided to try and run for class president anyway, we had to record video speeches that were broadcast in the classroom. I had wild hair back then, and everyone laughed when I showed up on screen. I was so upset, but then at the end of my speech, Mr. Theisen clapped really loudly. I was the only student he clapped for like that. I was shy, and I don't remember talking to him much. I don't know if he ever knew how much that moment in my life mattered to me. Even after all these years, thinking about it chokes me up.*

*I don't know if this message will still be read after all this time, but if it does, I hope it makes his family happy to know that after all these years, the impact he left on his students is still there.*

*Thank you, Mr. Theisen.*

*Sarah N*

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**Sarah N** - July 20, 2021 at 09:44 PM

BG

“ *Barbara Galler lit a candle in memory of David L. Theisen*



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**Barbara Galler** - August 09, 2013 at 12:29 AM