



Neal D. Fichtel

June 25, 1927 - October 11, 2019

Neal David Fichtel, 92, of Aurora, passed away peacefully Friday, October 11, 2019 at his home surrounded by his family. He was born June 25, 1927 in Aurora, IL.

He is survived by his loving wife of 67 years Shirlee Fichtel, children Dave (Lynn) Fichtel, Julie (Joe) Chivari, Kathy (Ray) Rehberg, Tim (Jeannie) Fichtel, Ellen (Greg) Peters, and Amy (Steve) Schwartz. Sisters Marilyn (Bob) Robinson, Pat (Ray) Churchill and Cher (Florent) Vervaet. Grandchildren Melissa Rehberg, Chad (Erin) Rehberg, Jessica (Ryan) Crabbe, Elizabeth (Michael) Hafertepe, Scott Peters, Emilee (Tim) Dennelly, Anne (Brian) Popek, Stacey Fichtel (Stephen Taylor), Rebecca (Matt) Johnson, Sean Fichtel, Mark Peters, Ethan Chivari, Christopher Fichtel, Neal Schwartz, and Will Schwartz. Great-grandchildren Caden and Harrison Rehberg, Finlay and Quinn Hafertepe and Brooklyn Dennelly.

Neal was a 1945 graduate of Marmion Academy, Navy veteran and a graduate of the University of Notre Dame where he played basketball from 1947-1951. In 1952, he returned to Marmion as a teacher and coach. His tenure at Marmion was 48 years of service, the longest tenure of a lay teacher at the academy, which included 33 years as the Athletic Director. In 1998 the football field at Marmion Academy was named Fichtel Field in his honor. After his retirement, Neal and Shirlee spent much of their time as spectators at their

grandkids extra-curricular activities. Family, friends, faith and service were most important to him. Neal was referred to as a “humble man of immense character and integrity.”

Neal was a member of Annunciation parish for over 50 years.

He was preceded in death by son Christopher Scott Fichtel, parents Cornelius and Euphemia Fichtel.

Funeral Mass will be held Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 10:00am at Annunciation Church. Right Reverend Abbot Vincent Bataille, OSB and Fr. Patrick Gillmeyer, OSB will concelebrate the Mass with interment at Marywood Cemetery. Visitation will be Wednesday, October 16, 2019 from 4:00pm until 8:00pm at THE DALEIDEN MORTUARY, 220 N. Lake St., Aurora, 630-631-5500. Please visit our interactive website at www.daleidenmortuary.com where you may leave condolences for Neal’s family.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Marmion Academy Athletic Department or Annunciation School.

Cemetery Details

Marywood

1820 Church Road
Aurora, IL 60505

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **16**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Daleiden Mortuary
220 N. Lake Street
Aurora, IL 60506
(630) 631-5500
daleidenmortuary@gmail.com
<https://www.daleidenmortuary.com>

Funeral Mass

OCT **17**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Annunciation Church
1820 Church Road
Aurora, IL 60505

Tribute Wall



“ Daleiden Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Neal D. Fichtel



Daleiden Mortuary - October 14, 2019 at 01:16 PM

MP

Our sympathy to Shirlee and family. Thoughts and prayers to all. Bill and Marilee (Moeller) Pritchard

Marilee Pritchard - October 16, 2019 at 08:41 PM

JA

My condolences to Shirlee and family. John M Adam

John M Adam - October 16, 2019 at 10:27 PM

LB

“ Coach Fichtel was the head football coach when I attended Marmion. He was very professional and treated all players with respect. He will be missed. God bless Coach Fichtel and his family. Lou Budler, class of 1964.

Lou Budler - October 23, 2019 at 06:14 PM

HS

“ Neal was my Accounting teacher, and he was the Athletic Director when I was a Coach at Marmion. Over the years, I learned a great truth about Coach Fichtel...Neal was a man's man. If you couldn't learn something about growing as an individual under Neal's leadership, you weren't paying attention.

As the years went by, Neal and I talked about the other things in life besides coaching. We both loved to talk about golf, and about business and family and the simple joys that made life worth living. At the end of his last year as Athletic Director, he asked me stop by his office one afternoon. Neal had two large basketball pictures framed and hanging on the wall. One picture was of Timmy's team that won the Super-Sectional and went Downstate. The other picture was of my senior team that won the Regionals. He asked me if I would like to have that picture. I was speechless. Of course I accepted his generous gift. I thanked him and he gave me a big smile as if to say "This makes us friends".

Coach Fichtel, I loved our friendship and I will miss you. We will all miss you. But we will all carry our special memories of you for the rest of our lives. Shirley and family, know that you will be in our prayers.

Helmut Seifert

Helmut Seifert - October 16, 2019 at 11:02 PM

MR

“ My sincere sympathy to Shirlee & family. Neal was a fine man & will be missed by many.

*Sincerely,
Margaret Ryan*

Margaret Ryan - October 16, 2019 at 04:12 PM

BR

“ To the Fichtel family,

Please accept my deepest sympathy for your loss. I was a colleague of Neal's for several decades at Marmion. I always admired his professionalism. He helped guide me when I was a young coach (cross country, track) in the athletic program. I will remember him with fondness.

God bless your family.

Sincerely,

Bob Rebenstorf

Bob Rebenstorf - October 16, 2019 at 07:32 AM



“ To the Fichtel Family,

Deepest sympathies and prayers. Like for so many others, Neal was not simply my Coach and Teacher. He was also a role model of how a man should conduct himself and lead an impactful life. His family is a wonderful testament to a life well lived.

Love,

Tony Chivari Class of 1983

Tony Chivari - October 14, 2019 at 06:16 PM

KS

A lasting impact on Marmion and thousands of grads. An MMA classmate of my father's. My sympathy to Dave and all the family.

Kent Schielke, '71

Kent Schielke - October 15, 2019 at 05:46 PM



“ *Roses For Sympathy was purchased for the family of Neal D. Fichtel.*



October 14, 2019 at 05:09 PM



“ *The Fichtel Family, Neal was my coach, teacher, and mentor. I realized early on the impact the athletic director can have on coaches and student athletes. Neal was a role model as I began my career in athletic administration. He had a huge impact on me and for that I will be forever grateful. Please know that you all are in our thoughts and prayers. God bless you all and comfort you at this time.*

Love and prayers Kathy and Tom Collins.

Tom Collins - October 14, 2019 at 05:02 PM



“ *To the Neal Fichtel Family,
Our condolences & Prayers are with you.
Neal will be deeply missed by those who knew him. He will now be in heaven with Our Lord
He is & was a cornerstone of Marmion sports*

Ray Beach. Class of 1958

Ray Beach - October 14, 2019 at 10:36 AM

FS

To All of the Fichtel Family:

As a proud member of the 1957 varsity football team, the only undefeated team in the history of our school coached by the incomparable Neal Fichtel, I have long cherished my memory of his outstanding skills and his even-tempered approach to what may be only a game, but nevertheless, a great character builder. Mr. Fichtel instilled character in us during the course of that glorious season, now sixty-two years ago! With much joy and pleasure I visited the North Aurora campus about five years ago to view the football stadium that honors his great name.

Neal Fichtel has had a lasting positive effect on all of us who had the privilege to be taught by him.

Frank Silovsky, Class of 1958

Frank Silovsky - October 15, 2019 at 11:34 PM