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John M. Lelko

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About

Muhlenberg College

Rutgers University

John Lelko Obituary

He came up with a novel approach to education; he'd have the utmost respect for his students and their parents and expect the same from them. To the unknowing his stern appearance may have hidden his great love of children. He had a mind like a steel trap: each day he would complete the Inquirer and Times crossword puzzles in pen. You could watch anything you wanted on his TV as long as it was the News or History Channel. John served on the USS Halsey Powell from 1942 to 1945. the ship was hit by a suicide bomber and thought lost at sea. Fortunately they made it back to land.

After graduating from Muhlenberg College he received a Master's Degree in Administration Education from Rutgers University. He was Administrative Principal of the Atco School District then Westville School District. John was the first Superintendent of Gateway Regional High School when it opened in 1963. He was

especially proud of the Building Trades Program he began which had the students build a house for a lucky resident.

As successful educator as he was he found a career later in life that he enjoyed even more: that as lead babysitter for his great-grandchildren. Later years found him splitting time between Hudson, Fl., and Cape May, NJ.

John was married to the late Sophie, and is survived by his daughter, Carolann Gallo (Dennis), a grandson Keith Gallo (Karen), three great grandchildren: John, Evelyn, and Joseph Gallo.

Come celebrate 87 teaching years Thursday from 8:30 to 10 AM at DALEY LIFE CELEBRATION STUDIO, 1518 Kings Hwy., Swedesboro. Mass of Christian Burial, 11 AM St. Margaret's Church, Woodbury Hts. Burial Eglington Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers donations in memory of John can be made to Pitman High School Marching Band, 225 Linden Ave., Pitman, NJ 08071.

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Memories and Condolences for John Lelko



What is your first memory of John?



Answer a question, share your own memory, or leave condolences

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4 Entries

September 17, 2008



Laura Castellucci

Dear Carolann, Dennis and family,

Even though I didn't know Mr. Lelko very well, the few times I met him, I sensed his warmth, kindness, compassion and appreciation for others. In knowing you and your family, I could see the relation. Like I stated in my email, may all the love and memories live on forever, and never be forgotten.

September 16, 2008



Mal Dawson

Carol,

I had the opportunity to work with John in the early years of my career at Gateway. He gave me my Gateway start. I am ever grateful that he chose me and that enabled me to follow him through the ranks.

Leaders like John are quiet yet forceful and know how to get things done.

I was very glad that he enjoyed so many years in his retirement although not enough with your Mom. Thanks for the memories.....

September 16, 2008



Edward Miguez

I'm so sorry for the passing of your Dad. I always admired and respected him. he was a good man. We spoke many times at the bank when I was in Woodbury, as well as at his home. I will not be able to be there on Thursday due to work. Jen and Staci's husband plan to attend. You have my deepest sympathy, and I will remember you in my prayers. God bless.

September 16, 2008



JENNIFER CURTIS

CAROLANN, DENNY, AND FAMILY--MY SINCERE SYMPATHY IN YOUR LOSS. LIVING DOWN THE STREET FROM YOUR FATHER MOST OF MY LIFE, YOUR DAD WAS ALWAYS CHEERY AND VERY WELCOMING. I HAVE TO SAY THOUGH MY MOST FONDEST MEMORY OF HIM WAS WHEN I STAYED AT HIS HOME IN FLORIDA WITH HIM A FEW YEARS AGO. I LEARNED SO MUCH ABOUT HIM--HE LOVED YOUR MOM WITH ALL HIS HEART AND MENTIONED HER NAME REPEATEDLY, HIS PAINTINGS WERE INCREDIBLE AND KEPT HIM VERY BUSY, AND HE LOVED TO PLAY THE PIANO TOO. EVEN THOUGH HE PROBABLY DID NOT WANT TO LEAVE FLORIDA TO COME BACK TO NJ I'M SURE HE TREASURED BEING WITH HIS FAMILY THESE LAST YEARS. PLEASE KNOW THAT I AM THINKING OF YOU AND I HOPE YOUR MEMORIES OF HIM WILL HELP HEAL THE PAIN. GOD BLESS AND WE LOVE YOU! JENNIFER,KEN,KYLE,DYLAN & CAMERON CURTIS

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