



## Michael T Walendziewicz

September 22, 1948 - August 16, 2023

Michael T. Walendziewicz, age 74, of Buford, GA passed away on Wednesday, August 16, 2023. He is survived by his wife of fifty years, Karin Walendziewicz of Buford; children, Heidi and Jimmy Hay of Sugar Hill, GA and Michael Paul “Wally” and Kylene Walendziewicz of Kennesaw, GA; two grandchildren, Michael Daniel Diaz and Jacob Hay; sister, Joan Wimbish of Venice, FL; and nieces and nephews.

Michael graduated from Swissvale High School in 1966 and from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1970 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Science Education. Then he went back and got his Master’s from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA in 1972. Michael continued his education at the University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, PA graduating in 1975. Mike pledged Kappa Delta Rho while attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania and was known for his singing voice.

He began his teaching career in 1976 at St. Thomas High School in Braddock, PA and finished his teaching career in 2011 at Word of God, formerly St. Anselm’s in Swissvale, PA. He was an active member of the parish.

Mike was an athlete all his life, playing basketball, football, and baseball. He received the nickname “Champ” from his friends and community, and that name stayed with him for all his life. He lettered in all three sports in high school and continued playing these sports throughout college.

Mike went on to coach basketball starting at a grade school level and worked his way up to the collegiate ranks. He finished his coaching career in the early

1990's. He received many awards throughout his career. He was the Regional All-Star Coach from 1987 – 1989. Even when his official coaching career ended, he never stopped coaching. Mike would always be willing to help or offer advice to any athlete he saw. To this day, many of his former players and students kept in touch with him. Humble enough to never talk about all his recognition and awards, if you did not know firsthand, you would not hear it from him.

Mike's hobbies included his love for sports, community work, helping others in any way possible, and most of all spending time with his Grandsons, family, and friends. He loved to listen to Motown music and loved to play trivia.

Mike, or better known as Champ, will be deeply missed by everyone who knew and loved him.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, August 26, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. in the Chapel of Flanigan Funeral Home with Dr. Bill Coates officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 12:00 noon until time for the service at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 26.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **26**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Flanigan Funeral Home  
4400 S. Lee St.  
Buford, GA 30518  
(770) 932-1133  
<https://www.flaniganfuneralhome.com/>

## Memorial Service

AUG **26**. 1:00 PM.

Chapel of Flanigan Funeral Home

# Tribute Wall

MC

“ Sorry to hear about Champ. Grew up playing sports with him in Swissvale, PA. He was a dogged competitor. Not surprised that he touched so many people in his life.

Mike Campayno - August 21, 2023 at 07:43 PM

JD

“ I was fortunate enough to meet Wally at IUP and though I knew him there did not know of all of his accomplishments and all that he gave back to his family and his community. Wally was a competitive guy but he never let it get in the way of his friendships. I know you will miss Wally terribly and I am glad I got to see a very small part of his continuing life and contribution to his family and community.

Jim DeMark - August 19, 2023 at 12:42 PM

DN

“ Thoughts and prayers to the entire family. I enjoyed working with Wally at St. A's/Word of God. He always made me laugh and was a great mentor.

Dawn Nicolazzo - August 19, 2023 at 02:51 AM

CC

“ I loved Mr. Wally as my teacher in gradeschool. My condolences to your family.

Christian Catone - August 18, 2023 at 11:11 PM

ER

“ My thoughts are with your whole family. Mike was one of my favorite teachers at St. A's. Learned so much!

Erin Rhodes - August 18, 2023 at 06:37 PM

TE

“ *My thoughts and prayers for the family. Mike was my teacher at St. Anselm then with children*

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**Theresa Escher** - August 18, 2023 at 02:30 PM

CR

“ *It all started over a piece of chocolate..... and a beautiful friendship started from there❤️. My favorite memory would have to be our late night chats when neither one of us could sleep we called each other. No matter the time of night, you could always bring me down from any ledge I was on. You always had the best advice whether I wanted to hear it or not, I needed to! You ALWAYS showed me how much you really cared about any and everything that was happening and going on in my life, even when you didn't feel so great some days. You told me everything about basketball you knew,( never had the heart to tell you I don't watch basketball) but loved hearing your stories and how excited you got when you talked about it. I will miss you buddy!!! I will see you again one day, may still find myself talking to ya at 2:00 am. I know your listening and shaking your head sometimes lol, but I know your there. Fly high sweet angel until we meet again, I love ya and will miss you dearly.*

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**Crystal** - August 18, 2023 at 08:00 AM

DS

“ *My condolences*  
*Dave Slivka*

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**David Slivka** - August 18, 2023 at 07:49 AM

CW

“ I would like to say the world lost a great person. Coach Wally was one of the best coaches I seen while growing up. My twin brother Craig was on Coach Wally’s team at CCAC. He would come home after practice and tell stories about coach Wally. He always had a positive spin on life situations and was always there for his players. RIP Coach you will be missed. Condolences/prayers to the family.  
Carey White

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**Carey white** - August 17, 2023 at 10:56 PM

CH

“ Growing up Michael was like a brother to me. He was always at our house. My brother Tommy and him would tease me until I would cry. Later on in years Karin and I were pregnant at the same time a month apart. Mike would pick me up to go to his MIL to play board games at least 3 nights a week.  
I always felt lucky to say that WALLY was my cousin.  
The girls all loved him. Who would have ever thought we would end up working together at St A’s Wally a teacher and I the cafeteria manager we would catch smokes in the broiler room lol. He was my kids teacher, oh my kids loved that haha I knew everything Christopher did. Ill miss you Mike I hope nanny makes you that Mac n cheese. Say hi to Tommy.

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**Coleen Humberson** - August 17, 2023 at 09:35 PM

AM

“ My memories of Wally as I always called him from our days at working at the M & m lounge together, are many including the time and effort put into Michael Daniel at the gym at word of God, the time Michael Paul wrecked the car at Arby's, when I and Michael stood up for Karin and Michael for their 35th anniversary as they renewed their wedding vows at Word of God, of Heidi and her many adventures. First and foremost are the many gallons of chocolate covered almonds that he would bring us from Costco on his weekly shopping trip there. At times we had 3 gallons of almonds along with bacon, steaks and tomatoes. He always brought us something from there, I think the almonds were his favorite thing to get us, there were times when I didn't think I could ever eat another one but then that chocolate craving would kick in and we would eat more than we should have. I will never forget the time he was in Atlanta and asked me to cash in the quarters he had accumulated, I rolled them and had to have Nathalie carry them into the bank because it was so heavy, she said the look the teller gave her would have killed as she placed \$575.00 worth of quarters on the counter. He also had an accumulation of dimes but Karin and I took them to coinstar. So many memories of living right smack up against each other, 35 years of being neighbors, 35 years of friendship, it all happened so fast. So I look on this days one of great sorrow and one of so much joy looking back at the memories of our 35 years on Manor Avenue.

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Anne and Michael - August 17, 2023 at 09:11 PM

MA

“ Memories of Uncle Michael.

*There are not many Swissvale parades I do not remember bumping into him. In our small town, family was everywhere. It was easy to bump into family at any given day. He would bring Michael Daniel down to the parades. I would hold Michael Daniel in my shoulders, while my dad and Uncle Michael talked about all the latest news. Uncle Michael always called me Mandy Rose. He would give me a huge hug and always seemed to be chewing gum. Just like you see coaches in the movies chewing gum. I like to think he started that. He would always talk about sports and loved to hear the stories of how I was doing. He would share stories of how you all were, how Michael Paul was doing in sports, or all the accomplishments his grandchildren made. Holiday dinners with the family was a time you could see the laughter. The true stories, the jabs (all in good fun), and their generations stories of the way it was. When I was younger, I would see him. He would say hi and give hugs. We always took time to catch up and at the end, he would hug me and give me a couple bucks to get some candy. He could tell a story. He either laughed or had the best serious face throughout the story. He was never afraid to say when someone stunk, but he would never give up on them either. I don't know if anyone noticed, but he and pap had a similar chuckle and held out their hands the same. Rest peacefully Uncle Michael until we meet again and have a big family dinner. Then the stories will pick up and catching up will never end.*

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**Mandy Alfredo** - August 17, 2023 at 09:10 PM

DB

“ I loved the CCAC Boyce practices at St. A's that he and Coach Kaufman conducted. I learned so much from him and he always spent time with me. I also found myself many a nights stumbling into the M&M Lounge and he and Jody would welcome me with open arms. Thank you Mr. Walenziewicz for the memories. 🙏

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**David Bingham** - August 17, 2023 at 08:58 PM

RK

“ So sorry for your lost, Coach Wally was a great human being and took me under his wing in 1990 at CCAC Boyce, a lot of great memories, this was last time I was with coach at his party back 2019, he will truly be missed. Robert Knecht or he as he called me Big Bob



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**Robert Knecht** - August 17, 2023 at 05:23 PM