



Daniel William McAvoy

December 20, 1948 - October 29, 2013

Dedicated and Much Loved Husband, Father, Teacher and Friend

Daniel William McAvoy, 64, of Roscoe graduated to heaven on October 29, 2013 at 11:23 a.m., after a 13 year illness. Born on December 20, 1948 in Skokie, son of William and Laura (Gerken) McAvoy. Dan was recruited to play football at Iowa State, where he graduated with a Master of Science in 1973, majoring in education. United in Marriage to Marnie Pierson on November 14, 1981 at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Roscoe. Dan was a loving and devoted husband and father, and will be missed greatly by his family. He was their funny guy, making them laugh with his clever comments and dry sense of humor. His first teaching job, in 1973-1974 was at Adlai Stevenson High School, where he coached football. Most recently, he was a teacher at Hononegah High School. If someone asked Dan what he taught, he would say, "Kids." Teaching was his true passion. He worked hard to make a difference in the lives of the children that he taught, in school, Sunday school and the sports that he coached. Dan was artistic and good with his hands. He enjoyed teaching the prerequisite program for Building Trades and IOC. He coached football his first year at the school, and started the soccer program in 1983. Dan built the goal posts, nets, tended to the field and worked to inspire his players. He oversaw the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the American Field Service Programs at various points in his career. Dan was also a wrestling coach for many years. After 25 years of teaching at Hononegah, he took an early retirement in 2005, due to his illness. Member of the Winnebago

County retired Teachers. Former member of People's Church in Beloit. Member of Hope Evangelical Free Church, where he loved teaching Sunday school, and participating in mission trips to Bolivia and Mexico. Survived by his wife, Marnie; daughters, Brook (Mike) Rosenberger, Debbie (Chad) Grieves, Becca (Dan) Ivancich, Amy (Karl) Preheim; sons, Chris (Mimi) Pierson, Eric (Missie) Pierson; grandchildren, Brandon and Meghan Grieves, Christopher, Rachel, and Andrea Pierson, Joshua, Jordan and Breanna Pierson, Marko and Alek Ivancich, Stone, Nathan and Seth Preheim, Riley and Taylor Rosenberger. Preceded in death by his parents, and sisters Patty Gallagher and Nancy Bond. The McAvoy family is grateful to the staff of VNA Hospice for their loving and compassionate care, especially Molly and Beverly as well as caregivers, Chrisie and Nancy. A Funeral Service will be Saturday, November 2, 2013 at 4 p.m. at Hope Evangelical Free Church, 5656 Elevator Road, Roscoe. Rev. Kevin Dick will officiate. Visitation on Friday, November 1, 2013 from 5-8 p.m. at the church. Additional visitation from 3 p.m. to 3:45 p.m., on Saturday, November 2, 2103 at the church. Private interment at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Stateline Youth for Christ, 316 Wood Road, Rockford 61107. Grace Funeral & Cremation Services is assisting the family with arrangements. To share a memory or condolence, please visit www.graceFH.com

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 1. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Hope Evangelical Free Church
5656 Elevator Road
Roscoe, IL 61073

Visitation

NOV 2. 3:00 PM - 3:45 PM (CT)

Hope Evangelical Free Church
5656 Elevator Road
Roscoe, IL 61073

Service

NOV 2. 4:00 PM (CT)

Hope Evangelical Free Church
5656 Elevator Road
Roscoe, IL 61073

Tribute Wall

MR

“ Coach will always hold a special place in my heart. Dan epitomized integrity and faith. I am thankful that he coached the first years of the program at Hononegah because he laid a foundation in the program and in our hearts. In that first year during a rough patch of the season, Dan shared these verses with us every game before we took the field:

Isa 40: 30 - 31

"Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted: but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

Coach - Thank you so very much for your integrity and faith in God. You showed us so much!

- Michael Rozsa

Michael Rozsa - November 06, 2013 at 08:22 AM

MM

Thank you Mike, Dan thought of you with kind admirable regard.

M. Mcavoy - November 09, 2013 at 01:44 PM

JW

“ Marnie and Family,

I was sorry to read of the loss of Dan. Praying that Jesus comfort will keep you during this time.

Julie (Rollette) Willmer

Julia Willmer - November 05, 2013 at 06:45 PM

JW

“ Dear McAvoy Family,

Very sorry to hear about Dan. Your family was, is and will always be a great family icon. I hope your memories and love and caring help you all through the loss of this man you all loved.

*Warm wishes,
Jan Wasson*

Jan Wasson - November 05, 2013 at 04:38 PM

CB

“ *Marnie and family, we will always remember Dan. What a great teacher. He will be missed. Our sympathy.*

Julie & Carl Bufalo

Carl & Julie Bufalo - November 03, 2013 at 08:34 PM

JH

“ *Becca, Marnie (and the rest of the gang),
I am so sorry to hear of Dan's passing...I read his obituary about being such a nice guy, and from what I remember, he sure was. Lori C. and I seemed to spend virtually every weekend at the Pierson/McAvoy homestead (I sure as quiet as church mice) and yet, Dan and Marnie never seemed to care. So many memories to cherish. Anyhow, my thoughts and prayers are with all of you.*

~Jody L. Hanaman

jody hanaman - November 02, 2013 at 01:35 PM

PL

“ *Marnie and family,*

You are in our thoughts and prayers during this time of loss and healing.

Dan will be missed at our Tuesday morning Men's "ROMEO" breakfasts.

*Paul and Ruth Leisure
Port Orange, Florida*

Paul Leisure - November 02, 2013 at 07:21 AM

AS

“ *Alan Schuetz lit a candle in memory of Daniel William McAvoy*



Alan Schuetz - November 01, 2013 at 10:53 PM

PE

“ *Paula Niedermeier Edwards lit a candle in memory of Daniel William McAvoy*



Paula Niedermeier Edwards - November 01, 2013 at 06:06 PM

RU

“ *What fond memories I have of Dan from my early years at Stevenson High School. Dan was a classy guy in the greatest sense---full of integrity, passion for life, and always a wry sense of humor. We shared many conversations at Stevenson with the Art Dept. being so close to the Science Dept. in those early years of SHS. My deepest sympathy goes out to his family. Ron Urick 2004 Stevenson retiree (SHS--1971 to 2004)*

Ron Urick - November 01, 2013 at 04:09 PM

JO

“ *Jared Olson lit a candle in memory of Daniel William McAvoy*



Jared Olson - November 01, 2013 at 01:18 PM

SP

“ *Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Coach McAvoy. He was truly a great person and teacher. He is resting now and will be forever watching over you.*

Shannon Peterson and family

Shannon Peterson - November 01, 2013 at 01:07 PM

JL

“ *Mr. McAvoy was my high school football coach at Stevenson High School in the late 1970's. He was a great coach and a great person. I am sorry for his loss.*

Jack Lange - November 01, 2013 at 10:35 AM

 Jim
Harding

“ Dan was such a big influence on my life back in the 80s at Hononegah. I still have the Bible he gave me when we started up the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. I have told many people about how my life was changed from that time together with him as our leader. I will forever hold him in high esteem for the example he set for me and so many others with his Christian faith, and as a father and teacher. He will be greatly missed. So grateful that God has restored him.

Philippians 3:20-21 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Jim Harding - November 01, 2013 at 09:03 AM

SR

“ Shawn Russell lit a candle in memory of Daniel William McAvoy



Shawn Russell - November 01, 2013 at 08:07 AM

JS

“ I'm so sorry to hear the news. Dan had a way to make you laugh even if you didn't want to! I loved the times we would just sit and talk. I'm praying for you Marnie, McAvoy and Pierson families.
In Him,
Jeff Schlote

Jeff Schlote - November 01, 2013 at 12:44 AM

CB

“ I have been so honored to know Dan since he came into Marnie's life. He handled his life with love, grace, humor and much faithfulness in our Lord. While most of us would have been angry over the onset of such a debilitating illness while still relatively young, Dan never was. He was truly an inspiration to all who knew him and will be dearly missed.

Chris Blum

Christine Blum - October 31, 2013 at 04:21 PM