



Leo M. Florkowski, Jr.

June 8, 1945 - April 25, 2023

Leo peacefully entered eternal life on April 25, 2023. Leo was born June 8, 1945 to Leo Sr. and Dorothy (Rybka) Florkowski. He was always proud of his Polish heritage. He attended St. Hedwig for Kindergarten, and then went on to attend St. Adalbert grade school. Leo was a proud graduate of Woodward High School, (class of 1963), and then went on to teach Social Studies for 37 years before he retired in 2005. Leo was a cross-country coach and class advisor. Mr. "Flo" took pride in seeing his students achieve and earning their trust. His impact extended into helping teens escape prostitution, abuse, and gangs.

Leo was a hard worker, and as a kid set pins at a bowling alley in the Lagrange Street Polish neighborhood. He put himself through college by working at AP Parts and Jeep. Leo earned his BS in Education from the University of Toledo in 1969, and his Masters in Social Studies at Eastern Michigan University.

Leo married Colleen Crippen, on Sweetest Day, October 21, 1978 at St. James Catholic Church. Leo was a devoted father who loved to play ball and spend time with his three children. He taught his kids how to help him plant and pick fruits and vegetables from his enormous garden that he grew every summer. He shared his harvest with family and friends all his life and enjoyed bartering with and learning from fellow farmers.

Leo was an avid fisherman who cleaned and fileted all his own fish. He would season them and fry them for his family to enjoy. Leo was also an expert

mushroom hunter, a skill taught to him by his father. Leo also enjoyed bowling and playing cards with his friends.

The absolute joys of his life and apples of his eye were his two grandchildren, Noah and Madeline. Babysitting them from infancy was the retired grandpa's new job. He did everything for them just as he had done for his own children, singing his made-up nonsensical songs, acting as their personal chauffeur for school, soccer and play practice, and attending all their events as he beamed with pride at their accomplishments.

Leo was preceded in death by his parents, Leo and Dorothy, and his sister, Jo-Ann Pawlaczyk. He is survived by Colleen, his wife of almost 45 years; daughter, Deirdre (Josh) Jones, son, Leo III, and daughter, Madonna; grandchildren, Noah and Madeline Jones; sister, Patricia (Jerry) Tuite, and many nieces and nephews.

Friends may visit on Sunday, April 30, 2023 2:00-8:00 p.m. with Rosary at 7p.m. at the Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Road, Toledo. The funeral will begin at Coyle on Monday, May 1st at 9:30 a.m. followed by the Mass of Christian Burial at St. Patrick of Heatherdowns at 10:00 a.m. Interment will be at Resurrection Cemetery.

"In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to Saint Vincent De Paul Society or UToledo Foundation for the Judith Herb College of Education Recruitment Assistance Account Fund to honor Leo." Please leave a condolence for the family at CoyleFuneralHome.com.

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery

5725 Hill Avenue
Toledo, OH 43615

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 30. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614

Vigil

APR 30. 7:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614

Mass

MAY 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Patrick Of Heatherdowns
4201 Heatherdowns Blvd
Toledo, OH

Tribute Wall

J'

“ My favorite Teacher @ WHS ! I wanted a mustache like his , it finally grew . He really sparked my interest in American History he got the class really involved in what we were learning. I always say teachers live on in the memories of their students.

Jon Thomas. '79 - September 05, 2024 at 06:52 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Woodward



Clayton Giovanni M - April 30, 2023 at 03:45 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Leo M. Florkowski, Jr..



April 29, 2023 at 12:35 PM

SW

“ To Colleen and family. We are so sorry to hear of this unexpected loss. Please accept our heartfelt condolences.

Sandy and Gerald White



Sandy White - April 29, 2023 at 10:32 AM

DL

“ I'm am so sorry Madonna for the loss of your father. My prayers for your family.

Dar Logan

Darlene Logan - April 28, 2023 at 02:47 PM


Kimberly
Sheaves

“ *Mr. Flo was my favorite teacher. I hated History but I absolutely loved his class. He made it so fun and interesting. He was very kind and caring. One day he told me that he loved brownies so I would bring him in brownies that I baked and he told me I made the best brownies ever and raved about them to other students. He'd always joke and pull up his sleeves and say you young whipper snappers meet me on the hill on Streicher 3:00. He was just an awesome guy who made learning fun. He will be missed.*

Kimberly Sheaves - April 28, 2023 at 01:15 PM

SP

“ *My condolences to Colleen and family. May you be comforted by the warmth of memory.*

Sheila Painter - April 28, 2023 at 12:31 PM

JW

“ *He was one of the most soft spoken men I know, he always was patient and kind, Me , my Dad and Butch went fishing when I was a teenager, and I have some great memories of the 3 of us having a great time on lake Erie together, he and my Dad Jerry wietrzykowski were great friends and fishing buddies, I am glad I have such good memories of Butch, along with my dad, he will be truly missed.....*

Jamie wietrzykowski - April 27, 2023 at 09:27 PM

DM

“ My prayers go out to the Florkowski family. Mr Florkowski was a very funny and well liked and admired educator. Those of us that had an opportunity to learn and grow under his leadership have a lot to be thankful for. He will be truly missed. R.I.P.

David Middaugh - April 27, 2023 at 04:04 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Leo M. Florkowski, Jr..



April 27, 2023 at 12:24 PM

DR

“ DeAnne Riebe lit a candle in memory of Leo M. Florkowski, Jr.



DeAnne Riebe - April 27, 2023 at 11:48 AM

DR

R.I.P. Mr. Florkowski, a great teacher.

DeAnne Riebe - April 27, 2023 at 11:49 AM

KT

“ Absolutely LOVED Mr Florkowski as a teacher at WHS. He was wonderful with the students, and had sense of humor. One of my favorites. RIP Mr Florkowski.....prayers to the family, that they may live in his memories and smiles...

Karen (Zawisza) Tietjen - April 27, 2023 at 10:43 AM

SH

“ *Sandy L. Holland lit a candle in memory of Leo M. Florkowski, Jr.*



Sandy L. Holland - April 27, 2023 at 09:43 AM

 Patti Johnston Willets

“ *Colleen: So sorry to hear of Leo's passing. I hope all of the messages from former students and friends give you comfort in your time of need.*



Patti Johnston Willets - April 27, 2023 at 09:37 AM

CF

Thanks so much, Patti!

Colleen M Florkowski - April 28, 2023 at 01:56 PM

KA

“ *mr florkowski the greatest. hansome teacher in Woodward in 70s. RIP Mr Leo*

Karen - April 27, 2023 at 09:11 AM

JV

“ *Judy VanderHorst lit a candle in memory of Leo M. Florkowski, Jr.*



Judy VanderHorst - April 27, 2023 at 04:32 AM

JV

“ Dearest Colleen, I am so sorry for your loss. I remember the one time when I went over to your house and you asked me if I wanted to try Leo's, I think you called them his blood eggs? Not sure, but I declined the offer. Never heard of them back then and I certainly wasn't going to eat any!!! I have missed you all these past years. Please let me know if I can help you in any way. All my love to you and your family. Love, Judy (Gogol) VanderHorst

Judy VanderHorst - April 27, 2023 at 04:31 AM

CF

Judy, Thank you for your kind words. It may have been blood sausage. SOOO good to hear from you. We should catch up sometime.

Colleen M Florkowski - April 28, 2023 at 01:58 PM

MP

“ MaryBeth {Dimling} Parker lit a candle in memory of Leo M. Florkowski, Jr.



MaryBeth {Dimling} Parker - April 27, 2023 at 01:59 AM

RA

“ Mr. Flo was the only teacher that believed in me and never gave up on me. I could tell him anything and hed listen and give me advice. The day I told him I was dropping out he hugged me and told me don't give up 🥹 I never did and I have my diploma . You were a great mentor and friend and I'm going to miss you and your crazy stories

Raziel - April 26, 2023 at 11:02 PM

AW

“ I have known Butch since I was a little kid. My dad and him were great fishing buddies and always cleaned and filets the fish and he taught my dad how to go mushrooming. He always looked out after me in high school to keep me out of trouble. You will be greatly missed.

Audrey Wietrzykowski - April 26, 2023 at 10:53 PM

DN

“ Mr. Florkowski was one of my favorite teachers. Now over 40 years from HS, I've lost the names of most of my teachers, but I'll always remember Mr. Florkowski. RIP. Dave Newsome.

David Newsome - April 26, 2023 at 09:59 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Leo M. Florkowski, Jr..



April 26, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ So sad to see of your passing ..you were not only my teacher at Woodward and a lifelong friend of my father in law, Jerry moon but a wonderful human being. You gave myself and my friend Cheryl(the lamplight twins) a cute nickname in school. I'll never forget you butchy . "all bubbles inside" all my love to you and condolences to your family.

Tina Eckhart Foster-Wietrzykowski - April 26, 2023 at 08:49 PM



“ Leo Florkowski was one of the reasons why I turned my academic career around. I can hardly remember my first two years at Woodward high school. Leo convinced me to get involved and the next two years just flew by. Thank you for pushing me and getting me to believe in myself. I had the confidence a few years later to become an Ohio State Trooper and I successfully retired after 33 years. God bless.

J.J. Reyes - April 26, 2023 at 08:06 PM

MM

“ I am so sad to hear the passing of Mr. Florkowski. I had Mr. Flo for a zero hour class my junior and he was one of my absolute favorite teachers in high school. He was a dedicated teacher and an even better human. He genuinely cared about each of his students and arrived to instill more in us than just lessons about history. I am sending all the love to the Florkowski family at this time.

Marisa Toth McLeod - April 26, 2023 at 07:54 PM

MM

*He strived, not arrived

Marisa Toth McLeod - April 26, 2023 at 07:55 PM

TT

“ I am proud to have called this man my teacher, because of him I went on to college earned my bachelor's and masters in history. He always had encouraging word for me. I deepest condolences to his family Mr. Flo made the world a better place. God speed.

Thomas Torth - April 26, 2023 at 07:54 PM

JR

“ I am so sorry to see that Mr. Flo has passed. He was one of my favorite teachers in high school and I loved to bring him his favorite dessert: brownies. I even painted a ceiling tile for his classroom with brownies on it. Many hugs and prayers to his family. He is one of the best.

Jessica Drouillard Ruetz - April 26, 2023 at 07:52 PM

FP

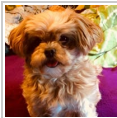
“ To Colleen and all of your family, I am so sorry for your loss. May you find comfort in your memories of good times and shared experiences with Leo - husband, father and grandfather. Holding you all in my heart today and in the days to come.

Felicia Page - April 26, 2023 at 05:16 PM

PT

*Our condolences to the family.
Wieczny odpoczynek racz mu dać Panie. A światłość wiekuista niechaj mu świeci na wieki wieków. Dusze wiernych zmarłych dzięki miłosierdziu Bożemu niech odpoczywają w pokoju. Amen.*

Polish American Community of Toledo - April 26, 2023 at 07:50 PM



One of my favorite teachers at Woodward. He made all the subjects he taught make sense. Still as handsome as ever. Condolences to your friends and family. I really believe that he lived a good life. Compassionate, humble & he will be missed.

Patty Sportsman - April 26, 2023 at 08:57 PM

SM

Mr. Flo was my favorite teacher at Woodward. He was the reason I wanted to become a teacher. He was truly one of the best. As said many times above he truly cared about all of his students. I did run into him a few times at Meijer. Good memories! Sending my love and comfort to his family. He will dearly be missed.

Shannon Spillis Mills - April 26, 2023 at 09:39 PM

EM

I had a lot of incredible teachers at Woodward, but Mr. Flo was undoubtedly my favorite. He nurtured my love of history and made all his students better appreciate their respective family heritages.

I took U.S. history with him my junior year. I'll never forget the huge class project he assigned to be due at year's end: To research and report on famous people -- the good, the bad, the notorious -- from the student's ethnicity. This required going to the Main Library every week for research. We had to create index cards about each person and then write a report encapsulating what we learned. The goal was to not only to teach the value of ancestral heritage, but also the beauty and impact of immigration in U.S. history, and the interconnectedness of the world's peoples.

My parents, both Polish, were so impressed and grateful that he required us to do that. My Dad fought in WWII, and my mom lost relatives in the Katyn Forest massacre.

Mom and I were lucky enough to run into Leo about 10 years later at a wedding in Ludington, Mich., of all places! He was still the same Mr. Flo, engaging and witty, and brushing off our accolades for the impact he had on my life. (But happy to hear that I had been writing a local history column for the newspaper where I worked!)

To his family, you have my most sincere sympathy and prayers. He was a priceless diamond of a man.

Elisa Tomaszewski Mantey - April 27, 2023 at 02:56 AM

MM

My condolences to the family. He was my teacher at WHS in 1972. Some teachers you never forget. He actually managed to get me interested in his class. That was a major feat.

Marlene Moreno - April 28, 2023 at 06:05 AM

RL

Always Leo to us at the 1959 Class of St. Hedwig....so happy he touched so many people in a good way...He deserves all the accolades.. God Bless him. Rick Lesniewicz WHS '63 Bronson Street

Rick Lesniewicz - April 28, 2023 at 05:34 PM

JM

*Dear Colleen and family,
So very sorry to hear about Leo's passing. I am unable to attend
visitation or funeral but wanted to extend my deepest sympathy to all of
you. I will continue to keep Leo and your family in my thoughts and
prayers. Miss seeing you at St. Clement Church.
Rest In Peace, Leo!
Judy Miller*

Judy Miller - April 30, 2023 at 10:57 AM

LD

*Colleen, I am so sorry for your loss. I will keep you and your family in
my prayers at this time of grief. Our condolences. Prayers.
Lynn and Charlie Demkowski*

Lynn Demkowski - April 30, 2023 at 09:44 PM