



Will Reiss

October 2, 1951 - July 21, 2021

Will (William) Charles Reiss, 69, of Upper Arlington, passed away on July 21, 2021. Will was born in Rittman, Ohio, to the late Robert William Reiss and Marguerite Goff Reiss.

Graduating from The Ohio State University with a Master's degree in Agriculture/Horticulture, Will's thirst for knowledge kept him regularly going back to the University taking classes in Finance, Earth Science, and Geology. He and his wife, Marilyn, just celebrated 41 amazing years together. Teaching at both Westland High School and Grove City High School, Will ran their Horticulture classes, as well as the greenhouses.

After retirement, he discovered he missed teaching too much to stop, so he found an opening in the Science Department at Bishop Watterson High School and worked there for 13 years. He revived their highly respected recycling program and pushed it to include composting so they could achieve a zero-waste level - only the dirt from the floor went into the trash and landfill. Locker cleanout at the end of the school year was a full-on press to collect everything that could be recycled, repurposed and reused. Those of you involved are probably exhausted just remembering!

Because of his incredible scope and depth of knowledge, he became the "Go-To-Guy" for questions - from plant identification and care to world events and cultures; world and Ohio history to genetic engineering and science. Will was the one you turned to when you needed someone to just be there because you knew he would do whatever he could to help without complaint.

His amazing heart saw only the "good" when others could find no good. Combined with his incredible patience and thirst for knowledge he was the beautiful, gentle, patient and caring man his students, colleagues, friends and family knew and loved.

The eldest of six boys, Will earned the love and respect of his siblings who looked up to him. He will be deeply missed by his brothers and their families: Peter (Carol) Reiss; Michael Doc Reiss; John Reiss; Dr. James Reiss and nephew Robert Vladimir Reiss; and

David (Susan) Reiss and niece Emma Minjung Reiss.

At Will's request, there will be no viewing or service. Keeping us in your prayers, we are asking friends and family to honor Will in whatever special way feels best. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Hope Hollow, a charitable organization very dear to Will that provides lodging, meals, transportation assistance and emotional support at no cost to cancer patients and their loved ones. Donations may be sent to Hope Hollow; P.O. Box 141423; Columbus, Ohio 43214 or at <http://www.hopehollow.com/donate>.

Comments



“ Mr. Reiss was a wonderful and kind teacher I ever had at Watterson. I always looked forward to his cards every year on my birthday and always brought a smile to my face. He would always say hi every morning to me and remembered my name. May he rest in eternal peace.
~ Audrey Dala

Audrey Dala - August 17 at 05:56 PM



“ Our condolences to Marilyn and the rest of Wills family.. With love. Bill and Mary Blaine



Bill and Mary Blaine - July 28 at 10:44 PM



“ Mr. Reiss inspired me to pursue an education and career in environmental science. Today, I'm the co-owner of an environmental and economic development consulting firm serving many different states. The work I do is because of him. May peace be with his love ones and all the other people he inspired.

Joey James - July 26 at 05:12 PM



“ A peaceful and loving man. Well done my good and faithful servant.
- Mike Huff

Mike Huff - July 26 at 07:00 AM



“ Mr Reid's was my horticulture teacher at GCHS . I honestly say he was the only reason I went to high school . I loved him as a teacher , person , helper , or any other category you could think of . God bless you Buddy ! Prayers and Peace to your family.

Mike Layton - July 23 at 01:09 PM



“ Mr.Reiss was one of my favorite teachers ever. I remember I made a ceramic vase in ceramic class and they sold it at a fundraiser auction and I found out later Mr. Reiss had bought it at the auction and he told me he bought it because he believed in me and knew I would do great things in life. I was so blessed to have him be a mentor in my life RIP buddy you will be missed

Gary Maurey - July 23 at 12:48 PM



“ God Bless you Will.

May you rest in peace.

I always enjoyed your classroom visits while you emptied our blue recycling trash bins.

You will be missed.

Joe Parise

Joseph A. Parise - July 23 at 11:08 AM



“ I went to bishop Watterson and He was my teacher. He never failed to put a smile on every students face each and every day. He went above and beyond to show gratitude and make people feel special by giving ALL the students cards on their birthday. He helped me to appreciate the small things in life. He will forever be remembered.

Anna Wenzinger - July 23 at 09:40 AM



“ He was everyone’s substitute teacher (he would sub for us at St. Andrew and Watterson)! He used to walk in the classroom and everyone would smile because he was the best.

Elizabeth (Barr) - July 23 at 07:08 AM



“ To the man who never wanted any of the accolades, here is my gratitude instead. To the best neighbor who gave me a birthday card every year, drove me to school with NPR up on the radio, who introduced me to gardening and helped me grow. To the teacher who was the purest example of giving of himself to others and to the earth . Thank you and you will be greatly, greatly missed

Katie Aylmer - July 22 at 10:21 PM



“ Mr. Reiss is the kindest, most humble, and loving person I have ever met in my life (I am not exaggerating), and I am a better person for knowing him.

I attended Watterson and was president of the Environmental Club my senior year, but was always very active in the recycling committee, quite honestly, because I just wanted to help him out. I got so much joy in talking with him every day at school. He was always so appreciative of the work that the students did and were so humble about his own work. I vividly remember giving a tour to an incoming student and Mr. Riess bragging about how I was the "top recycler and composter" to the student. He would always attribute our recycling program's success to the students. We even got an award from the Ohio EPA because of the program that he ran. He was so proud of his students and their work in the program when, in reality, he was the one who was the driving force behind the recycling committee.

He also had a great love for Hope Hollow, and I am so glad that it was mentioned as the selected charity. I remember volunteering one Saturday morning with him, his wife, and his good friends Miss J.C. and her husband. He was so helpful there and did all the work on the home with love.

He was also incredibly supportive. He donated to the plays and musicals I was in at St. Charles every year without fail and would even attend the shows I was in. He would go above and beyond in his support of me and my passions and always made me feel so special because of this.

While I never actually had Mr. Riess as a teacher, I had him write many recommendations for me for scholarships, leadership roles, jobs, and college applications. This was because he was someone who knew me best. He was the type of person who chose to put in the time and effort to get to know everyone. He loved everyone with his whole heart and showed this through his words and actions.

Going off of this, Mr. Riess would write a birthday card for everyone in the school and hand-deliver them. And when I say everyone, I mean EVERYONE. He would greet all students with a big smile and an even bigger "hello".

Mr. Riess will not be forgotten. I will be sure to let his memory live on by telling my future family and friends about the kindest person I had ever had the privilege of meeting.

From the bottom of my and the whole Golonka family's hearts, you have our sincere condolences. Thank you for sharing one of the most incredible people with us. We are better people because of him.

Love and Prayers Always,
Caroline and the Whole Golonka Family



“ The best human being I have ever met.

Mike Roark - July 22 at 08:20 PM



“ Well said.

Mike Huff - July 26 at 07:01 AM



“ Will was such a good and caring person. He always greeted everyone with a big “How are you” and always asked about my daughter and told me what a lovely and wonderful girl she is. Will was well known for giving out birthday greetings and cards to everyone in the Bishop Watterson Community. He was such a pleasure to know and work with and brightened everyone’s day. He was such a dear sweet man and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Our lives are better for having known him.

Tina Maloney Kestella

Tina Kestella - July 22 at 12:13 PM



“ Will was an amazing individual and he brought joy to all the lives he has touched. He took so much pride in his care for God’s creation. He worked so hard to recycle everything he could in order to preserve the earth. His birthday cards each year brought a smile to my face. God definitely gained an angel if not a saint! He will surely be missed by all. Prayers for all family and friends!

Jennifer Rush - July 22 at 03:38 PM



“ Will was such a great individual who touched many lives through his years at BWHS! He took such pride in recycling to preserve God’s creation. He was such a selfless man and I loved to receive his yearly birthday cards. It would always brighten my day! God surely gained an angel if not a saint! Heaven will shine even brighter with Will’s great smile and enthusiasm. We will miss you! Prayers for all family and friends.

Jennifer Rush - July 22 at 03:42 PM



“ Mr. Reiss made a difference every single day and I hope he knew that. One of the purest souls!

Carson Hoover - July 22 at 07:15 PM



“ Mr. Reiss was the heart of Watterson. He made my day every single day in the hallway when he asked me “Hi, how are you Mackenzie?” He will be greatly missed and forever in SO many Watterson students’ hearts.

Mackenzie Yates - July 22 at 07:53 PM



“ Mr.Reiss was the nicest teacher. He would always greet you with a huge smile and always say hello! No matter what was going on that day he would take the time to relax and have a conversation with each of his students! He was the heart of Watterson. Prayers to all the family and friends!

Caitlin - July 22 at 09:23 PM



“ It took me a while to figure out that this amazingly positive individual was also extremely knowledgeable and knew a lot about many things. I recall having a conversation with Will about the ancient Romans and their passion for garum, a fermented fish sauce. I expect people to know of the Colosseum and the aqueducts but how he knew about the 'ketchup of the ancient world', I'll never know. He talked to me about what a huge industry it was and that the garum was shipped all over the Mediterranean. In any case, I never thought about him the same way again. He was simply a delight and you were always bettered for having spoken with him.

Denise Davis-Henry - July 23 at 01:35 PM



“ Thank you Will for being the wonderful human being that you were. We are all blessed for having worked with you and having known you. You were always the perfect gentleman, thoughtful and kind. You never forgot to ask about my granddaughter Gia and i so appreciated your cards and good wishes during my illness. I know that you are in the arms of God. Rest in peace dear Will.
My prayers and deepest sympathy to Marilyn and Family.

Maria Lucchin

maria Lucchin - July 23 at 03:17 PM



“ A wonderful and gentle man that I had the privilege to know and work with. God bless you and keep you close in his arms.
Prayers and sympathy to your family.

Nayda Canales

Nayda Canales - July 28 at 03:02 PM



“ Thank you to everyone for sharing your love for Will. I'm so glad you all had the chance to get to know this incredible, loving man even just a little. I am the luckiest woman in the world to have shared his love for so many beautiful peaceful years. He was my Joy. Marilyn Reiss

Marilyn Reiss - August 01 at 02:23 PM