



## John W. Chopard

August 23, 1933 - November 13, 2013

John W. Chopard of Cadillac passed away November 13, 2013 at his home. He was 80. He was born August 23, 1933 in Cleveland, Ohio to Harold and Pauline (Townsend) Chopard.

Mr. Chopard graduated from Mount Pleasant High School in 1951. He then went on to receive his Bachelor of Science degree from Central Michigan University and later received his Master's Degree from Michigan State University in 1963. He served in the United States Army from 1955 to 1957 at Dugway Proving Ground in Utah with the Chemical Corps.

Mr. Chopard taught in Cadillac Area Public School system from 1958 until 1964. He served as assistant principal and later elementary principal of Cooley, McKinley and Franklin Elementary Schools from 1964 to 1971. He then taught fourth grade at McBain Agricultural School from 1971 until 1976 before becoming principal. Mr. Chopard worked a total of 14 years at Cadillac Area Public Schools and a total of 26 years for McBain Agricultural Schools. In June 1994 he retired from education.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, golfing, camping, woodworking and decoy carving. Mr. Chopard also enjoyed activities with his family and reading, especially Civil War books. He served on the board of directors at Love, INC. beginning in January 1995. He was an active member of the Northern Light

Church of Cadillac.

On March 25, 1972 in Lake City he married the former Janice (Odette) Hillman and she survives him along with children: Andrew (Jennifer) Hillman of Lake City, Laurie (Richard) Rohloff of Grant and Jona (Paul) Seeley of Tustin; three grandchildren: Zacary and David and Joslyn; one niece and two nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother in 1951; his father in 1992; a sister, Dorelyn Rech in 2002 and an infant brother, Keith.

Memorial services will be held 11:00 a.m. Saturday, November 23, 2013 at the Northern Light Church in Cadillac with Reverend John Mellish and Pastor Scott Sacrey officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the Northern Light Church in Cadillac. An online guestbook is available at [www.petersonfh.com](http://www.petersonfh.com).

# Tribute Wall

CR

“ *Mr. Chopard was my elementary school principal at Cooley elementary school and I remember him fondly. He was good man.*

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**Christopher Reitmeyer** - July 03, 2018 at 09:35 AM

BZ

“ *Sorry to miss John's funeral, Jan. Would certainly be there if I was still in Michigan. Our family had a lot of good time with the Chopards. Ernie and John were very good friends. They were both great men and John will be missed, as we miss Ernie.*

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**Billie Zetzman** - November 23, 2013 at 03:15 PM

DB

“ *John was part of our group of high school classmates who kept in touch over 60 plus years and met annually at various parts of the country to renew old friendships and reminisce. We have lots of great memories and will miss John's smiling face and great sense of humor. He was loved by all and will leave a big, empty space in our group.*

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**Dave & Barbara Barnes** - November 22, 2013 at 03:44 PM

CB

“ *John was the best brother-in-law in the world! I will miss his laughter and great stories. We had such fun on our little "mini-trips" these past 3 years and I will cherish the memories. He was so loved and will truly be missed.*

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**Carol Brown** - November 22, 2013 at 08:08 AM

DB

“ How does one express the profound sadness when you lose a good friend? John was my friend at Mt. Pleasant High School...we fished and hunted together many times.

*Even when I moved away from Michigan I kept in contact and occasionally visited him.*

*In the last dozen years we met every year with other classmates and became even closer friends while sharing wonderful memories.*

*My two most lasting memories of John: 1) his wonderful sense of humor, and 2) his great love for Jan and their family.*

*We will miss you John.*

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**Dick Bronson** - November 19, 2013 at 11:09 PM

RH

“ I was saddened to read of John's passing. It was a great joy to see and speak with him at Russ Peterson's service. It had been many years since I had last seen him. John was an inspiration to so many, including me. A compassionate, kind and knowledgeable educator, he had a positive influence on so many students and teachers over his long career. His mark on the educational system will be long remembered. Peace.

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**Ron Hellenga** - November 19, 2013 at 07:59 PM

KK

“ John lived just across the street from me in Mt. Pleasant and is one of my oldest friends. I can't recall all the scraps and adventures we got into during those 67 years, but I treasure every one! I miss John with all my heart but know that John, Chuck, Jim and I will golf again on the old Moss course in the not to distant future. Love you John....

Kay Keffer - November 19, 2013 at 10:58 AM

MF

“ My Uncle, my friend. Be in peace aside your wonderful sister, my Mom. I miss you both terribly. Loosing my Dad last month and now you, I have lost two very special men in my life. You left me with great memories Uncle John. God Bless you and your Family. I Love you!

Michael Gase and Family - November 18, 2013 at 01:48 PM

MS

“ Mr.Chopard was a gifted teacher. I will never forget him (Franklin School in the sixties) He treated us with respect and dignity, valued our opinions, talked to us and challenged us with advanced science projects. Every time I see a ginkgo leaf on the ground and recognize it - I laugh a little and think of him. My condolences to the family.

Mardi Suhs - November 18, 2013 at 10:55 AM

LB

“ Dear Jan, Andy, Laurie, Johnna and families. I'm so sorry to hear of John's passing. You are all in my thoughts and prayers... Dear Woodland Drive neighbors for years...thinking of you all.

Linda Bell-Ziska - November 18, 2013 at 10:33 AM

DS

“ Dear Aunt Jan & family: We are deeply saddened to hear of Uncle John's passing. Our entire family has very fond memories of time spent with Uncle John and each of us were blessed to know and spend time with him. John will forever be a bright memory for each of us. Please accept our deepest condolences. Love, Darin, Kim & Family

Darin & Kim Sliefert - November 18, 2013 at 09:32 AM

AG

“ I have many memories of Mr. Chopard back in the day...Laurie I am so sorry for the loss in your family, please know that I am thinking of you and sending hugs your way!

Amy (Harcourt) Gibbs - November 18, 2013 at 09:12 AM

MM

“ He was always provided a comforting presence in McBain School. Sorry for you loss

MaryAlice (Damhof) Marschner - November 18, 2013 at 07:39 AM

DR

“ Mr. Chopard was one of a kind.He was the best. He was my principal at McBain and I remember onetime when I was sick at school and my mom had noway of coming to get me well out of the kindness of his heart he took me home (With permission from my mom.) for my mother. He will be missed.His family is in my prayers.

Denise Williams Rish - November 17, 2013 at 09:33 PM

A(

“ It is Hard to believe, he was a great man in school. he was elementary principal and great, sweet person. He will be greatly missed.

Anna Olds (DeKoekkoek - November 17, 2013 at 09:18 PM

DI

“ Mr.Chopard was one of my favorite teachers. I had him in 7th grade at Franklin School. With his kindness and patience, he helped make my transition from a one room country school to a city school go very smoothly.

Diane (Bode) Iler - November 17, 2013 at 07:34 PM

CD

“ I very sorry to hear about John. He was a great Principal at McBain when I was growing up. He taught Hunter's safty to me which helped me learn the value of gun safety I still practice today. I worked on his house a few years back right after my own father had a bad stroke and he had some off the most encouraging words. He was a great man with great principles and would help out anyone that needed it. He will greatly missed and I hope him and my Dad are having a great time together now in a better place where the pain is gone. To a Great guy, may he rest in Peace. Till we see each other again

Cory Dykhouse - November 17, 2013 at 07:28 PM

JE

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the family at this difficult time. I have many fond memories of Mr. Chopard. I am so grateful to him for taking a chance and hiring me thirty-six years ago, as a 'kid' right out of high school, while he was principal at McBain Elementary. I am still there! He was more than just a boss, he was a friend. I will never forget how understanding he was to, not only the students he came in contact with, but his employees and co-workers as well. I am so blessed to have known him.

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**Joan Dieterman Elenbaas** - November 17, 2013 at 06:15 PM

DP

“ John was my oldest and dearest friend. I have 50 years worth of great memories and many funny of life's experiences to remember.

*As a teacher and school administrator he loved children more than any educator I ever met. He was always loving, compassionate and understanding of all children especially those who struggled. He inspired me to become a building principal also.*

*We hunted, we fished, we swapped stories and we always laughed which he loved to do. He was the big brother I never had. He was always there for me when I needed him. Although I shall miss him dearly there is much to celebrate about John's life including his friendship to me. I shall never forget him, as he is a part of me.*

*His family will be kept in Karen's and my prayers.*

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**Darryl Petterson** - November 17, 2013 at 03:15 PM

LA

“ *RIP Mr Chopard, you were a great teacher and wonderful principal. May God bless and watch over your family.*

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**Lisa Bekken-St. Arnold** - November 17, 2013 at 02:36 PM

AZ

“ *I would like to express my condolences to the family of John Chopard. Mr Chopard was my principal at McBain Public, and I remember him fondly. He was always very kind and encouraging. I remember him teaching Hunter's Safety; in fact I still have that little orange card. My prayers are with you in your loss.*

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**Angela Zemla** - November 17, 2013 at 12:19 PM

TS

“ *Dearest Jan and family, I was truly sadden to hear of your loss. I will always cherish the fond memories of hunting, camping and just plain hang out with John and the family. My deepest condolences to you and the family.*

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**Tim Snellenberger** - November 17, 2013 at 12:09 PM

MA

“ *An amazing man who touched so many lives just got his eternal wings. Blessings to his family.*

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**Margie** - November 17, 2013 at 11:07 AM

LP

“ *Mr. Chopard - R.I.P. You were a great teacher. I have fond memories of 4th grade; my first year in McBain. My prayers are with the family - may your hearts not be troubled.*

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**Lori Petrovich** - November 17, 2013 at 09:57 AM

CW

“ I also was a student at McBain while he was principal. Softly spoken with authority! A wonderful man who touched a countless number of lives in the McBain area. His memory will live on in a great many peoples hearts.

Chan Wiinikainen - November 17, 2013 at 08:47 AM

DB

“ John C was an amazing man...his faith in God and his heart for children was so evident. He patience and compassion left a positive impact in the lives of hundreds of children...helping to the parents they are today...we will see you in heaven Mr. Chopard.

Don & Mary Bowers - November 17, 2013 at 08:37 AM

KB

“ So sorry to see John is gone I really enjoyed him he was very kind and interesting man

Ken Bigelow - November 17, 2013 at 07:55 AM

DV

“ I'm so sorry. for the loss. mr chopard was a great. principal. for mcbain elementary school

Dena vanderwall - November 17, 2013 at 07:23 AM

PB

“ I remember Mr.Chopard as my Prin cipal at Cooley school. Then at McBain he was my 4th grade teacher! My best year of school! He always made me feel special! Fond memories!

Pamela VanBelkum Boyer - November 17, 2013 at 06:58 AM

AR

“ He will be forever missed. He made an everlasting imprint on all us kids at McBain school. Our prayers are with you all.

Angie Roby - November 17, 2013 at 01:00 AM

JW

“ As a former student I had the privilege of visiting with Mr. Chopard in the office too often, but he was always fair!! Truly a Great man that will be Forever be missed in McBain..... Thank you Mr. C

Jon Walenjus - November 17, 2013 at 12:30 AM

LB

“ I was a student at Cooley School. Mr Chopard was a wonderful principal. He played softball every day at lunch with us and truly enjoyed children, making everyone feel cared about. My condolences to your family.

Liz Garber Bruning - November 16, 2013 at 10:38 PM

JK

“ I want to say I sending my condolences to the family of the lost of a awesome principal I eve had in mcbain public school. May he look down n guard the love ones.

joanne knapp - November 16, 2013 at 09:19 PM

RS

“ Dear Jan and family - we are so sorry to hear of John' s passing. His kindness as our neighbor will never be forgotten. Ron so enjoyed the time they spent on the golf course. May the love of friends and family comfort you at this time.

Ron & Terry Saarela - November 16, 2013 at 07:31 PM