



John E. Laurent

December 1, 1931 - August 10, 2018

John E. Laurent of Cadillac passed away Friday, August 10, 2018 at his home. He was 86.

He was born December 1, 1931 in Cadillac to Fred and Jennie (LaMarre) Laurent. Mr. Laurent graduated from Cadillac High School in 1950 where he was a member of the 1949 undefeated Cadillac Football team. He married Joyce E. English on August 23, 1952 at St. Ann Catholic Church in Cadillac.

Mr. Laurent attended and graduated from Western Michigan University in 1954 before reporting to active duty with the United States Marine Corp. He proudly retired as Lt. Col. in the reserves after 21 years of service. Mr. Laurent was a teacher and coach at Anchor Bay High School in New Baltimore, Michigan where the highlight of his coaching career was leading the winless Anchor Bay Tars to two undefeated seasons and several conference championships. While at Anchor Bay he received his MA degree in Education from the University of Michigan in 1962. In 1965 he became the Assistant Principal at East Grand Rapids High School and in 1969 he returned home to Cadillac as the principal of Cadillac High School. He then became principal of Lincoln Elementary school for nine years retiring in 1987 after 30 years in education.

As principal of Cadillac High School, he established the Veterans Day

Assembly in 1969 and was proud to be made an honorary member of the band, "KISS" , when they came to Cadillac as part of the homecoming celebration in 1975.

Mr. Laurent was a member of the Elks Lodge and Saint Ann Catholic Church. He enjoyed golfing, talking politics, sports and casino trips. Mr. Laurent was an avid University of Michigan fan.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Joyce along with sons, David A. (Tina) Laurent of Dewitt and Gregory S. Laurent of Cadillac; grandchildren: Ryan, Kyle (Tianna) and Devin Laurent and Ashley and Christopher Laurent; great-grandchildren: Rowan and Hadley and Knox Laurent; brother, Richard Laurent of Greenville and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Mary Ziska; brothers: Leland, Kenneth, Howard, Jim, Max, Doug, and Gerry; in-laws: John and Micky English, John R. English, Frank Ziska, Evelyn Tyler, Barb Laurent, Marjorie Laurent, H. Joyce Laurent and Delores Laurent Long.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be held 11:00 AM Tuesday, August 14, 2018 at Saint Ann Catholic Church in Cadillac with Rev. Michael Janowski as celebrant. Visitation will be from 4-7 PM Monday at Peterson Funeral and Cremation Services in Cadillac with the rosary being prayed at 7:00 PM. His final resting place will be Mount Carmel Cemetery in Cadillac.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Cadillac Viking Boosters, Saint Ann Catholic Church or Elks Lodge of Cadillac. An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Tribute Wall

JF

“ I remember Coach Laurent as a great coach who taught all of us respect, perseverance, loyalty, and how to win football games. He molded a bunch of teenagers into a football machine. Teamwork, was obvious when you were in practice. He was a hard taskmaster who also rewarded us when we succeeded. The lessons that he taught us have inspired me for my entire life. He will always be in my thoughts as a great friend, and patriot, who had a significant impact on my life.

John Funk

John Funk - July 19, 2022 at 06:05 PM

KM

“ I am a former student of Cadillac High School; graduated 1979. Knew John very well.
Peace, prayers, God's grace be with all friends and family of Mr. Laurent. I only knew him for the 4 years I was a student at Cadillac; long enough to make a positive difference in my life.

Kim (Forbes) McKenzie - August 15, 2018 at 06:34 PM

DA

“ So sorry for your loss. Mr. Laurent will be sadly missed.

Donna Anderson - August 14, 2018 at 04:10 PM

RS

“ So sorry for your loss. Mr. Laurent will be sadly missed.

Roberta Sterrett - August 14, 2018 at 04:09 PM

RF

“ Really enjoyed working for Mr. Laurent. He was a good principal and will be sadly missed.

Rita Finzel - August 14, 2018 at 04:06 PM

TS

“ Joyce, David, Tina & Greg-
Wow- The memories our families have shared are endless, much like the love we had for your dad. Hug each other tight and smile as you reflect on the life of a great man. I know John & my dad have already played a couple rounds of golf in heaven!

Tracy & Marylou Smiedendorf - August 14, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ We'
re thinking of you and wishing you comfort and peace. Extending our sincere sympathy and friendship to you and your family.

John& Linda Coffell - August 13, 2018 at 11:19 PM

JS

“ Dave & Tina, so sorry for your loss. We will pray for you and your family. May God hold him in the palm of his hand, Grant him eternal rest and let perpetual light shine upon him.

Jim & Liz Sigmon - August 13, 2018 at 09:55 PM

RM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time. John was blessed with many people in his life that loved him. Please know that we sympathize greatly in your loss.

Robert and Penny Moomey - August 13, 2018 at 08:33 PM

RB

“ My condolences to the Laurent family. Here's to a life well lived. Thanks for all you did for the Cadillac schools.

Rick Baird - August 13, 2018 at 04:44 PM

MJ

“ My Prayers go out to the Laurent family. Strength and wisdom as you go through this sad time. I have many memories of John Laurent at father/son golf outings and High School. You will be missed John Laurent.

Mic Joynt - August 13, 2018 at 02:15 PM

JL

“ Dave/Tina and kids, So sorry for the loss of your father, father in law and grandpa Hugs and Kisses to all during this difficult time.

Julie Leavenworth - August 13, 2018 at 12:30 PM

DA

“ I am sad to learn of Mr. Laurent's passing. However, I am thankful for having him in my life! Sat MANY times in his office as a scared, big mouth, very unsure of who I was, little freshman at CHS... listening to him, as he helped the Lord guide and shape my life!
I am FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR PEOPLE LIKE JOHN LAURENT... THANK YOU FOR LOVING KIDS... OUR LIVES ARE FOREVER CHANGED BECAUSE OF FRIENDS LIKE YOU!
And to Dave and Greg... my condolences, much love and prayers to you and your family... May God bless your dad's memory.

Dave Anderson - August 12, 2018 at 06:32 AM

MD

“ Prayers are with you: I loved your dad:

Mary Jane Dewey-Canfield - August 11, 2018 at 07:40 PM

MB

“ I will miss John. He was a good friend, an excellent leader and a great family man. He did more for Cadillac High School than many people will ever realize. Semper Fi John!

Milo D. Brines - August 11, 2018 at 05:52 PM

RF

“ Great man! Kind but Firm. A true leader and good person. Sorry for your loss.

Rod Fagerman - August 11, 2018 at 03:03 PM

JK

“ Joyce, Dave and Greg, we are saddened to hear of John's passing. Our family has such fond memories of him through the years. As a part of the legendary KISS experience, he was a special part of our high school experience. May your memories of him comfort you during this time.

John and Kimbra Klarquist - August 11, 2018 at 09:57 AM

JL

“ Our prayers are focused on the Laurent family. We have many fond memories of John as a principal and a distant cousin. He was well respected and a pillar of this community.

Jerry and Diane Leavell - August 11, 2018 at 08:54 AM

DB

“ One of my favorites in the 40 years I lived in Cadillac. We hit a few golf balls, had great chats and I would go to their house, load up in his Cadillac and drive to Turtle Creek with him and Joyce!!He always had time for me and made me laugh. Best to the families...RIP, John.

Daniel Brooks - August 11, 2018 at 07:56 AM

CM

“ Sorry for your loss of a much loved man. RIP Mr Laurent. You will be greatly missed by all of us who knew you. You was was the principal when I graduated from Cadillac. I was a member of the " KISS" class at Cadillac High School.

Cheryl (Yager) Maapes - August 11, 2018 at 04:21 AM

CF

“ I am so sorry for your loss. He was one of the good guys! My children adored him when he was at Lincoln Elementary. May God hold you all very close and May the Lord give you strength to go through this very sad time.

Carol Feltman - August 10, 2018 at 09:40 PM