

James McHugh

March 6, 1936 – July 6, 2008

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MC HUGH James Patrick James Patrick McHugh, a.k.a. Dege, died peacefully on July 6, 2008. He was born on March 6, 1936 to John J. McHugh and Sarah Elizabeth (Keenan). He was raised with his four brothers, Jack (Posy), Tom O.S.F.S., Phil (Delores) and Joe (Darlene) on Berkeley Drive in West Toledo. His parents and brothers preceded him in death. He is survived on the McHugh side with wonderful nephews and nieces.

He was a proud graduate of St. Agnes, Central Catholic High School and Niagara University. While at C.C.H.S. he was a three-year varsity basketball player. His teams won two City Championships and advanced to the State Tournament in 1952. He considered being a priest and spent four years with the Oblates of St. Francis and taught two years in Oblate high schools in Philadelphia. Disciplinary requirements hastened his departure to the secular world where he returned to Niagara University and graduated.

On a blind date, he met and decided to marry Margaret O'Leary. She accepted his eventual proposal and they were married on June 23, 1962. Marrying into the O'Leary family proved to be one of the best decisions that he ever made. His in-laws, Joseph T. O'Leary (deceased) and Ailie (Akkala) treated him with kindness and understanding. His brother-in-laws and their families were always loved and appreciated. He and Marge shared a life marked by family togetherness, humor, and mutual respect for their own unique personalities.

He began his teaching career at Bedford High School in 1961. He taught Social Studies and English. In 1965, he became principal at Bedford Junior High. At the time, he was the youngest Junior High principal in the state of Michigan. He retired as principal in 1991. He always considered himself as a teacher with administrative duties and both gave and received fierce loyalty from students and staff. He served with the Bedford Education Association and was inducted into the Bedford Hall of Fame. Academic honors at Bedford Junior High have been named in his honor.

Almost ten years ago, he received a kidney donation from his daughter, Ellen.

This greatly improved the quality and length of his life. He as a loving father to his three children, Pete (Mary), Joseph and Ellen (Kevin Angeles). He had two step-grandchildren, Hilary and Claire Parlette and three grandchildren, Jimmy, Jane and Thomas, who were all eager students of his lessons. Jim was always proud to be an Irish Catholic Democrat. He always enjoyed golf with his many friends. He always rooted for the Notre Dame Fighting Irish and saw them both at home and away. He and Marge made many trips throughout the country and made journeys to Ireland and Eastern Europe. He always had a strong Catholic faith and was a lector at St. Clement's Catholic Church since 1965. His voice was always strong. He always appreciated the sacrifices that his parents made for him. The love of his family and friends always amazed and energized him.

The care that he received from so many caregivers was always appreciated, particularly from the staff of Northwest Ohio Hospice. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his honor could be made to Central Catholic High School, St. Francis DeSales High School, St. Clement's Parrish, Hospice of Northwest Ohio or a charity of the donor's choice. Visitation will be on Wednesday, July 9, 2008 from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Ansberg West Funeral Home, 3000 W. Sylvania, Toledo, Ohio, with the Rosary to follow. A funeral mass will be celebrated on Thursday, July 10, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Clement's Catholic Church, Tremainsville Road, Toledo, Ohio (Please meet at church, no prayers will be recited at the funeral home).

"Heaven is my home, I'm just here for a visit."

Please make an entry in the [Guest Book](#) to offer your personal memories, recollections and experiences with Mr. McHugh. Others would really like to hear from you.

If you prefer, send any photos and thoughts to honor Mr. McHugh's memory to the webmaster and they will be added to these pages: [Email Webmaster](#)