

**Duane Wilson:** So sorry to lose Dan. I remember him as a wonderful friend, dedicated educator, happy warrior, and proud Irishman. The world is a much better place for having him in it. I'm proud to have known Dan as a close colleague at MEA, and very grateful to have been touched by his incomparable sense of humor. May he rest in peace.

**Leila Whiting:** It sounds as though he was a very special person. I never met him, but recall hearing others speak fondly about him.

**Stephanie Wolkin:** I, too, remember Dan as a colleague at MEA. I also remember his interest in the Moriarty clan and the newsletter he wrote which, I think, was sent (in the days before computers) to Moriartys all over the world. He was a gentleman and a gentle man...

**John Borgen:** Dan was on the staff of the MEA when I joined the organization in 1971 as a UniServ Director. I always admired Dan's even temper and calmness. Dan inspired me to always look for the opportunity to use our union's programs to elevate the teaching profession, especially in the context of contract negotiations. Rather than just fighting for salaries and benefits and leaves of absence to stand for processes and advocate for conditions which enhance teaching and learning opportunities for students. Always gentle and kind, Dan was a teacher through and through.

**Corky Marinkovich:** Dan was well respected and I always remember that quiet laugh he had. I worked with Dan at the MEA from 1972-1982. He was well respected and such a gentle man. The comments from those students he touched in life is great testimony.  
(earlier note) Dan was always the gentleman with that great smile. He played golf once with Barney [Palmer] and our group and he took a very healthy swing at the golf ball and missed. Without even taking his eyes off of the ball after he had "whiffed" in golf terms, he simply stated still looking down at the ball , "practice."

**Dick Bernard:** I knew Dan in a different context, as a staff colleague with what was then called "MEA". In those days, back in the 1970s, Dan was staff person for Instruction and Professional Development (IPD). He had the style then, which matches the accolades from those many lucky students who had him as a substitute teacher (somewhere I, too, have his book of Grandpa stories.) Before IPD, he helped teachers with negotiations back in the days before collective bargaining, and before that he was a teacher himself. I haven't seen mention yet of the fact that he was a WWII veteran, a Marine in the Pacific. If memory serves, Iwo Jima was one of his ports of

call in those horrific times in the Pacific Theatre. He went into service after high school graduation. I had the privilege of listening to him tell one of his stories, tragic, yet with very funny elements, to a bunch of military veterans back in 2004. These veterans hung on every word. We are all unique; so was Dan. Farewell, my friend.

**Judy Berglund:** Dan was a wonderful mentor for me when I joined the MEA staff in 1981. I remember what a wonderful, patient man he was. And, strange enough, I remember most this quote from him: "I think someday we will realize that taxes are a bargain." He meant, of course, that the money we invest in education, in children, will pay-off tenfold. Farewell, you beautiful person.

**John DeSantis:** When I started in Southwest, we had a number of teachers involved in IPD at the state level. For any program in IPD, Dan was by far the choice to present. I found him very accessible on educational issues. If he didn't have answer on a question, he would get it for you. He treated all of us, with respect. He was a true professional and gentleman.

**Larry Wicks:** Dan was one of my early mentors as well as my first staff contact with MEA. His passion for public education and Association members was unrelenting. He was also instrumental in the formation of the Educator Standards Board.

**Bill Newton:** Dan was one of the most gentle of gentlemen I have ever met. He was passionate about helping teachers develop strategies to better improve their own teaching skills. I always thought that it would have been nice to have worked directly with Dan when I was the chair of IPD. I do remember consulting with him on the negotiability of IPD issues when serving as the chair of the Negotiations council. He was very helpful in advising how to possibly skirt the administration's response as "that is educational policy and thus not negotiable.." He definitely had a positive influence on many Minnesota teachers.

**Evonne Seivert:** My image of Dan was that of the ultimate professional. I was a teacher in a small rural school and was so impressed and inspired by his MEA presentations, advocacy, and strong belief in the importance of education. He made my job as educator feel vital and important. Although I later became a staff member for MEA, I never got to know him personally, but one did not need to know him to be inspired by him. Thank you Dan, for inspiring others! E

**Roger Barrett:** I first met Dan when I came on staff in 1978. I remember

him well: he was a real gentleman and a true professional. I had not seen Dan in years but remember him well.

**Donna Adams:** I remember the day that Dan was hired at MEA. Dan was a true professional. He was also a good friend. He was our son's confirmation sponsor. He and Esther were two outstanding individuals. He always had a good word to say about every one. He will not only be missed by his family but by all his friends.

**Millie Ellertson:** YOUR FATHER WAS ONE OF THE KINDEST MEN THAT I WORKED WITH AT MEA. SURE KNOW THAT THE GOOD LORD WILL ENJOY HIM.

**Bob Black:** I can in no way say much that would add to the many heartfelt remembrances of Dan. I remember him first as a teacher leader and then on staff. What ever his role, he did it with confidence and professional zeal. We all seem to remember him that way.

**Chuck Lentz:** I joined the MEA staff in 1969, before UniServ. The staff was just beginning to expand and engage in field advocacy. It was a small group interacting on an almost daily basis to establish strategy and tactics. No one of us really had any advocacy expertise then, so sometimes bravado filled the void.

Except for Dan. No bravado, no gamesmanship. Always he was thoughtful, even contemplative. He contributed significantly to the staff dialogue on all issues, but he held a special and notable interest for "IPD" (Instructional and Professional Development), and he worked to gain MEA's on-going commitment to teacher quality. He had a clear vision of the future of the union's mission and breadth of purpose.

Dan was a fun guy. I remember his hardy Irish laughter and most of all his gentleness. He was a gracious man, observant, thoughtful, supportive and helpful.

The comments from staff colleagues display our a shared affection for Dan and reflect his well earned legacy. As Bob Black puts it: "We all seem to remember him that way."

**Paul Moen:** There isn't much new to add to the many tributes to Dan. When I have thought about him over the years, though, I remember quite fondly the times he and Esther opened their home for an MEA staff party. There were drinks and goodies, lots of good friendships and, of course, who would

forget the songs that were raised around the old player piano. The player piano worked fine but I won't vouch for the quality of the music. Anyway, it was a fun time and Dan helped make it so. He will be missed by many.