



Calvin D. Moely

October 27, 1935 - September 28, 2018

Calvin Diehl Moely, 82, beloved husband, father, and grandfather passed away peacefully, surrounded by family and his pastor on September 28th, 2018 at the Agnesian Hospice Home of Hope in Fond du Lac.

Cal Moely was born October 27th, 1935 in Madison, WI to Diehl and Mildred (Schoephoester) Moely. He attended no less than 4 one-room schoolhouses and graduated from Prairie du Sac High School. He attended North Central College and earned a degree in music education. He later completed his Masters of Education in Music at the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh. Cal served his country in the Army as a Chaplain's Assistant and organist while stationed at Fort Ord, California.

He then began a long and successful career as the band instructor and director at L.P. Goodrich High School in Fond du Lac for 27 years. During his tenure, the Goodrich Bands represented Fond du Lac and Wisconsin in two Presidential Inaugurals, and numerous concert band tours domestic and abroad. Goodrich Bands and the Fond du Lac Music Department hosted visits, clinics, and collaborative performances by many world-famous musicians and composers. Cal was instrumental in making those visits occur, much to the benefit of the students and the greater community. During his summers, he was a rehearsal director and tour director for Performing Arts Abroad. He chaperoned thousands of high school students from all over the

United States throughout Europe for over 20 summers.

Cal was also a church organist, choir director, and music coordinator for the Plymouth Congregational Church UCC and Pilgrim United Church of Christ for a total of 54 years, up until this past July. He enjoyed working with numbers and put that to good use as a tax preparer for H&R Block for 25 years.

He married Marie (Lammert) Geidel on July 12th, 1980 at the First Lutheran Church in Janesville, WI. She survives him and misses him dearly. They enjoyed 46 ship cruises together in most oceans of the world. Their favorite, the Caribbean, was visited most often. Cal was an avid motorcyclist and logged well over 100,000 miles during his 30 years of riding. Cal and Marie enjoyed 38 years of marriage and he was often heard saying that “Marie is still my best friend”.

Also surviving Cal are children: Greg (Joan) Moely of Reedsburg, Todd Moely of Fond du Lac, Christine (Robert) Steinert of Fond du Lac, and Laura (Richard) Thomas of Raleigh, North Carolina. Grandchildren: Jillian of Philadelphia, Thomas of LaCrosse, Michael of Reedsburg, Steven of Verona, Stephanie (Ben) Reuter of Fond du Lac, and Sophie and Carys of Raleigh. A brother Donald (Eloise) Moely of Stevensville, Michigan, and a nephew Michael Moely of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. He was preceded in death by his parents, and niece Donelle Moely Bronstein.

The family wishes to thank the nurses and staff at Hospice Home of Hope for the compassionate care given to him during the last two weeks of his life. They provided a wonderful level of comfort and assistance to Cal and his family that is truly appreciated. A true blessing...

VISITATION: Family and friends may visit from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 20, 2018 at Pilgrim United Church of Christ, 535 Stow Street, Fond

du Lac.

SERVICE: A memorial service celebrating Cal's life will be conducted at 2:00 P.M., Saturday, October 20th, 2018 at Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Fond du Lac. Pastor Ted Drewsen will be the celebrant.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Pilgrim UCC or Agnesian Hospice Home of Hope.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **20**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Pilgrim United Church of Christ
535 Stow Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Service

OCT **20**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Pilgrim United Church of Christ
535 Stow Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Tribute Wall

SL

“ Getting to this very late, but my sincere condolences to Marie, Greg, and Todd. What can I say? Cal's mentorship during my high school years set the course for my life as a musician. He kicked my a** for three years: "we need an arrangement for this concert." "Can you write something for that concert?" "Solo-ensemble competition is coming up - why don't you transcribe this organ piece for woodwind choir"... and on and on. Cal was a force of nature who defiantly insisted on the highest possible musical standards when others would say, "oh, that's good enough." I was lucky to be his student.

Scott Lindroth - April 18, 2023 at 10:55 PM

MW

I like Scott, owe Moely (we called him by his last name always) everything. From the day he handed me Miles Davis "Kind of Blue" I've never looked back. He gave me the drive and passion to become as good a Jazz Pianist I could be. He sent me on a trajectory that to this day I enjoy. I still play professionally and will always think of him when I sit down to play. He also instilled a sense of musical arrangements, orchestrations and sounds that made look at music more as an art form of experimentation. My last memory was when we were in Europe with a band and he took some of us to the Le Cavern Jazz Club in Paris. Bought us drinks, pulled out his pipe and watched some amazing performers swing their tails off. What a night. Thanks Mal. I'm forever grateful. [Www.markwilhelms.com](http://www.markwilhelms.com). Thank you.

Mark Wilhelms - August 28, 2024 at 03:21 PM

RS

“ As an exchange student from Holland I met mr Moely on Goodrich High in 1986. As a musician (pianist) I wanted to be in the High School band, also because they were going on a concert tour in Mexico that year.

Mr Moely just handed me a French Horn (almost random) and warmly welcomed me in the band. I started practicing and started playing with the band at christmas, and actually went on the concert tour through Mexico. It was one of the best times of my life, and changed my life in very good ways.

Nowadays I find myself being a music teacher on a small High School in Holland, doing what mr Moely taught me. Encourage students playing music, performing with our own High School band (which I founded) and seeing young people come and go, hoping I can give them as much as musical inspiration as mr. Moely gave me.

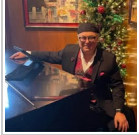
Roger van Straaten
Schijndel, Holland

Roger van Straaten - July 10, 2019 at 09:42 AM

RT

“ My sincere condolences to the Moely family during this time of sorrow. Know that Cal lives on in many,many oh so many of us, his former students, every day. He welcomed a skinny kid with glasses that transferred in not knowing many of his peers at the beginning of my sophomore year. It did not take long for the band room to become my favorite hiding place for the next three years. He taught us all to be confident in our abilities and nugged us to use our talents beyond music to sell tickets for our concerts, emcee band events and even be his substitute teacher when the district would not approve one. There are too many fond memories to list here, but “Whoopie Cal” will be missed.

Rick Tetzlaff - October 07, 2018 at 12:51 AM



“Moely”, we just called him “Moely.”

Cal Moely or just plain "Moely" is what we call him - funny, we never addressed him as Mr Moely or Cal, Just plain old"Moely" - I think he liked it, the irreverence of it all. the bond he had with his students. He was more of a coach than a teacher - although he taught. Yes, he did. Anyway "Moely", took a chance on me as a young sophomore and recruited me to play piano in the Goodrich Jazz Band. I was playing in a Rock band and had no idea what jazz was. I wasn't sure I even wanted to do it but he insisted that I try it out. He said he needed someone on piano with my guts. He introduced me to the world of Jazz and gave me records to take home: Miles Davis, Stan Kenton, Oscar Peterson, Count Basie. He said "Will, listen to these over the weekend and then let me know what you think" So I did - over and over again. and from that moment on, I never looked back. I joined the band and loved it. I listened and practiced Jazz Piano for hours each day. I started to play little gigs, some of which Moely would set up. I played professionally for many years thereafter and I also thought, what a gift I was given to be able to do this. I have Moely to thank. I became a huge Jazz fan and I am to this day because of Cal Moely, taking a chance on me, believe in min me, left me with a lifetime gift and I will forever grateful.

Favorite memory: I was on a European Band Tour with a group and Moely was the director. We were heavily curfewed each night but one night, when we were in Paris, Moely snuck some of us Jazz players out and headed to the Cavern Club where many Jazz musicians played and became famous in the 30's and 40's. The great Django Rhienhart played here in the late 1930's to a room full of German officers and Nazis during the occupation. As luck would have it. there was a small Django Quintet playing that night. We sat in this smoked filled Basement of a Bar at a small round table and listened. He said this is Jazz, this is "Americas music" and it's being played all over the world. This is where it began in Europe. Look around and take it in. This is why we came to Europe.

Thanks again, "Moely," for all you have done for myself and the many others who came before and after me. We are forever grateful.

Mark Wilhelms - October 04, 2018 at 06:43 PM

TP

“*Mike and Tina Potter send their condolences to the Moely family. We would love listening to Cal's music at church, and when we had a chance our little chats too. I especially loved that awesome motorcycle of his. It was the coolest color ever and he looked cool driving it. Our thought and prayers go out to the family and friends.*



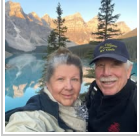
Tina Potter - October 04, 2018 at 09:20 AM

CI

“*May God Bless the Moely family during this time of Celebration in Mr. Moely's endless accomplishments. I only went to Goodrich for a year and a half, finishing in Michigan. I was in a few classes with Todd. But I had the Joy of Mr. Moely's instruction as I'd practice my flute in the empty bandroom. I didn't join band, though he encouraged me many times. I feel truly Blessed he still took the time to encourage, and bring up the meekest of musicians. God Bless you Mr. Moely.*

Cathy Lee Irizarry-Barron

Cathy Lee Irizarry-Barron - October 04, 2018 at 07:49 AM



“ *My deepest sympathy to all of Mr. Moely's beloved family and friends. He was the center of our band world at Goodrich. His work cultivated a love of all genres of music in his students that I enjoy to this day. He worked hard to give us opportunities to play in different settings, under guest conductors, performing music written for our high school band and premiered in public, marching in different venues and the list goes on and on. Reading his obituary, it warms my heart to see that he had a full and interesting life with a huge variety of interests outside of our little band sphere at Goodrich. Rest in Peace, Mr. Moely -- The Leader of the Band.*

*Laura (Smith) Sherman Perkins
Class of 1975*

Laura Perkins - October 03, 2018 at 10:23 AM

DM

“ *Saddened to learn about the passing of Cal Moely, who was my band teacher in high school (concert, jazz, marching, and pep bands), and private music instructor. I played trumpet at high school basketball/football games, high school concerts, jazz band competitions (recorded a jazz album), talent shows, Milwaukee Circus Parade, Indianapolis 500 Parade, Plymouth Congregational Church (accompanied by Cal), and other special events. He was a big part of my teenage years.*

Dick Mulligan - October 03, 2018 at 07:16 AM

PG

“ *Our sympathies to the Moely family.*

Paul, Cindy and Alianna Gedlinske - October 02, 2018 at 09:48 PM

RH

“ Our prayers and hearts are with all of the Moelys' at this time. Cal was a great neighbor to our family, his music instruction, direction and the good he did for the community and myself as a musician was incredible. We thank Cal forever for the music accomplishments and all the lives he bettered because of his great music and leadership. The incredible music events we did and the professional musicians he put us all in touch with will forever be in our mind and hearts.

Thank you Cal for all the wonderful years, rest in peace my friend, we pray for you and the family.

Dick Hoover and family, Las Vegas Nevada.

Richard Hoover - October 02, 2018 at 08:16 PM

MA

“ My deepest sympathy to Marie and the family. Cal was a great neighbor and friend. I'm grateful I was able to spend time with Cal and the family while I was in Wisconsin in August. I will miss his humor and emails. Cal will never truly leave us. He will live on in the kindness he showed and the comfort he shared. He took great care of my father the last few years my dad lived next door to you both.

Michael Brockman, Glendale Arizona - October 02, 2018 at 03:19 PM