



## Jerome "Jerry" Sullivan

August 15, 1936 - August 21, 2024

After a long and fulfilling life, Jerome "Jerry" Sullivan passed away on August 21, 2024 at age 88, with family by his side. Jerry was born on August 15, 1936 in Madison Lake, Minnesota and grew up in St. Peter, Minnesota. He was the youngest of four children born to James and Alvina Sullivan. Following a stint in the United States Army, he enrolled at Mankato State University. In 1959, he married Dixie Deviney after meeting her in social dance class at college. Jerry and Dixie would have celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in September.

After finishing his degree at Mankato State, Jerry and Dixie moved to Racine, Wisconsin where he began his career as an educator, first teaching in elementary schools and later becoming a principal. They moved to Fond du Lac in 1970 and Jerry was an elementary principal at Waters, Roberts, and Pier Schools in the Fond du Lac School District for 25 years before he retired. After retirement, he served as a substitute principal in the Fond du Lac School District and instructor at Marian College.

He was active in the community throughout his life – a member of the morning Kiwanis, the Elks, and the Saint Vincent de Paul Conference. Jerry was also involved with the YMCA, Loaves & Fishes, United Way, Thelma Center for the Arts, Fond du Lac Concert Series, Fond du Lac Children's Choral, and National Association of Elementary School Principals. He was a founder of the original Warming Shelter at the Episcopal Church Annex and started the Buttermilk Creek Park men's evening tennis league in the 1980s. Jerry and a

group of tennis league regulars volunteered their time to teach tennis to in an afterschool program for junior high school students. In addition to playing tennis for most of his adult life, Jerry was an avid biker – completing a couple of century rides, card player – part of a regular bridge group for more than four decades, and Badgers fan – getting to Madison for a football game most seasons.

Jerry loved and was loved by his family. He is survived by his wife, Dixie, and four children: Mary Sullivan (Greg Steiner, sons Alex and Vince Steiner (Jaclyn Freeberg)), Susan Sullivan (daughters Ellie Henningsgaard (Andy Galbraith) and Lucy Henningsgaard), Joe Sullivan (Sue Sullivan, sons Owen, Dermot, and Ryan Sullivan), and Katy Sullivan (Tim O'Callaghan). He is also survived by his sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Diana and Denny Krieger, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, his siblings and their spouses, his son Timothy, his son-in-law Bill Henningsgaard, and grandson Max Henningsgaard.

The Celebration of Life for Jerry Sullivan will be held on Wednesday, September 11 at Pilgrim United Church of Christ located at 535 Stow St, Fond du Lac, WI 54935. Visitation will begin at 12:30 pm and will last until the service begins at 2:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be made to the SSM Adult Day program via the Agnesian HealthCare Foundation or the Saint Vincent de Paul Conference – Fond du Lac.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 11. 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

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

## Service

SEP 11. 2:00 PM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall

TB

“ Jerry was the principal at Robert’s school when our boys were there. I always told him that every school in Fond du lac should be Sullivanized. He knew every child by name and took an interest in them.

Later, Jerry entered our lives again at St Vincent de Paul. My husband learned so much from him as a partner on visits and I in the call center.

We also had the pleasure of playing bridge as subs in their bridge group.

He gave so much to the community of Fond du Lac. We were so fortunate to know and work with him..

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**Tess Butz** - September 08, 2024 at 08:57 PM

JF

“ He cared. Most of us would express our thoughts, concerns, and solutions. Jerry was a doer....a successful doer .

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**Jerin Frey** - August 30, 2024 at 03:30 AM

JH

“ An amazing man! I truly admired "Mr." Sullivan! He was principal at Roberts when my children attended grade school. He knew every student by name and knew where they fell academically. The walls of his office were lined with "his" student's grade reports. A very altruistic man. What an example to all!



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**Joleen H.** - August 25, 2024 at 11:40 AM

LT

“ Our deepest sympathy Dixie and Family. Hang on to cherished memories and hold them close to your heart. Rest peacefully Jerry.  
*Lois & Mike Thome*

Lois Thome - August 24, 2024 at 07:20 AM

PM

“ May the Lord bring you and your family peace and strength. May the angels watch over you and your husband.

Pat Majerus - August 23, 2024 at 11:30 PM

LT

“ Dixie and Family....we are so sorry to hear about Jerry's passing. Sending prayers for strength during this difficult time. I'm sure you have many cherished memories to hang on to.....hold them close to your hearts.  
*Lois & Mike Thome*



Lois Thome - August 23, 2024 at 09:06 PM

MM

“ I only met Jerry once when he and Dixie came out to pack their daughter Katy up for her move back from Princeton, NJ to Minneapolis. He was fit and fun and focused! A wonderful father helping his baby girl (not a baby anymore) make a big life transition. I know he will be watching over his children now as they make their own transitions to life without their admirable father. He and Dixie raised a wonderful brood of children (some of whom I finally got the pleasure of meeting at Katy's bridal shower last year.) Blessings on the Sullivan family. This is a big loss. I am glad you have such a wonderful close family to support each other. My thoughts are with you all.

Meredith Moore - August 23, 2024 at 05:44 PM

DC

*I knew Jerry mostly as his junior partner for home visitations for St. Vincent de Paul Society. The way he sincerely cared about the less fortunate really showed his character. Fond du Lac has lost a good man. Sincere sympathy to his family.*

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**Don Cayen** - August 26, 2024 at 08:53 PM