



Edward Gorrilla

August 3, 1924 - July 7, 2016

Edward F. Gorrilla was born August 3, 1924, to Edward and Susan (Jarabko) Gorrilla, in Ironwood, MI, where he was raised. Ed played football at Montana State University where he earned his bachelor's degree in education. He earned a master's degree from the University of Minnesota in 1952.

Ed served three years in the US Army, including 18 months of duty in Europe during WWII. He married Florence Fischer on July 31, 1960, in Moorhead, MN, and they had one child, Heidi. They made their home in north Fargo, ND.

Ed loved working with youth and sharing his love of sports with them. Ed was very involved in youth sports in Fargo, Moorhead, and Glyndon (MN). He was a Physical Education teacher in Fargo schools for thirty-five years. He coached baseball, football, basketball, and track and field. Ed was a member of the NDSU statistical crew for football and basketball. In addition, Ed coached American Legion baseball in Fargo and Glyndon, coached Babe Ruth and served as the Minnesota Babe Ruth District Director for many years

Florence preceded him in death on May 16, 2015. For the last year and a half, Ed had been living at Guardian Angels Care Center in Elk River, MN. He died Thursday, July 7, 2016, at Fairview Northland Medical Center, Princeton, MN, at ninety-one years of age.

Ed is survived by his daughter, Heidi (Tom) Warnke, Big Lake MN; grandchildren, Stephen and Kristyn Warnke, Nicole and Fred Binczik, and Kristine Warnke; great-grandchildren, Nakyah, Elise and Tonette Warnke, and Abby Binczik; sister, Dorothy Baima; sister-in-law, Charlotte Fischer; brother-in-law, Donald Fischer; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Visitation will be Thursday, July 14, 2016, from 5 – 7 PM, with a prayer service at 7 PM, in Korsmo Funeral Chapel, Moorhead. The funeral mass will be Friday, July 15, 2016, at 11 AM, in Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Fargo. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery, Glyndon.

Cemetery

Riverside Cemetery, Glyndon

Glyndon, MN, 56547

Events

JUL Visitation 05:00PM - 07:00PM

14

Korsmo Funeral Chapel

409 8th St. S., Moorhead, MN, US, 56560

JUL Prayer Service 07:00PM

14

Korsmo Funeral Chapel

409 8th St. S., Moorhead, MN, US, 56560

JUL Funeral Mass 11:00AM

15

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

1420 7th Street North, Fargo, ND, US, 58102

Comments



“ What a great guy! Taught gym with Mr. Swanson I think who I also liked a lot. Favorite quote from Mr. Gorrilla, "We're gonna lift some weights today and turn those mosquito bites into bee stings"

Scott Nygaard
Class of 76

Scott Nygaard - October 18, 2016 at 09:23 PM



“ So sorry to the Gorrilla family for your loss. My memories of Ed were similar to many of those below. I had him at Ben Franklin for gym and football in the late 60's, and he was there at the plate while I pitched in little league baseball. He was a little scary at first, but when you saw that smile, you knew he had a big heart. I guess I didn't mind the flat top since my dad made me wear one. When I was in the Army, I thought of Ed and what a great Drill Sergeant he would have been. Maybe he was and I didn't know it. When Ed spoke, believe me, everyone listened. What a great Guy. God Bless! Rick Sakshaug, North High Class of 70.

Rick Sakshaug - July 25, 2016 at 10:24 AM



“ I had Mr. Gorrilla in jr. high for gym class in the late 1970s and ours was the class where the girls were very athletic, much more so than the guys. He was SO frustrated that he couldn't make athletes of those very studious young men. Godspeed to you Heidi, and our deepest sympathies from the Braun family. - Mary (Braun) Widiger Class of 1985

Mary (Braun) Widiger - July 18, 2016 at 09:52 AM



“ Mr. Gorilla was a Phy Ed teacher when I was at Ben Franklin. Then, he only taught the boys, but we all knew him! He was tough, but well respected. It was an honor to have later taught in the same district. Rest in peace and know you have touched the lives of thousands of us!

Sandi Lindstrom - Class of 1969

Sandi Lindstrom - July 13, 2016 at 05:19 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Edward Gorrilla.



July 13, 2016 at 02:34 PM



“ I first met Mr Gorilla in 1970, Ben Franklin Jr High. He was my gym teacher, and at first he scared the crap out of me. As i got to know him my respect grew for him. He really wasn't that scary, must have been the flat top. A good man. My best to Mr Gorrilla and family.

Randy Baumgartner
Class 1976

Randy Baumgartner - July 13, 2016 at 02:34 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Edward Gorrilla.



July 13, 2016 at 11:20 AM



“ "Mr. Gorilla" was my Little League umpire, my PE teacher in junior high at Ben Franklin, and my coach as a 7th - 9th grade football player. "Ed" become my friend and respected elder as I went into high school, college and as an adult. I am now 62. I have such great memories at every phase of my life as he was truly an outstanding gentleman. He initially instilled in me a healthy fear for authority. However, I always knew his compassion trumped his bark. Two short stories will illustrate: he was umpiring a game - right behind me as the pitcher - in Little League baseball. I threw two strikes and then a third right down the middle - but no "strike three". He whispered to me " let's give the batter one more chance." I later realized how kind this was on his part. In 9th grade, my teammate ran for a long gain, but the play was called back because of a downfield blocking penalty on me. At halftime I expected to be chewed out but, instead, he chose to tell my teammates that he was proud of my for hustling downfield to try make a play. I saw Ed may times as an adult. I was proud to have grown to be his friend. He truly is one of the best of the greatest generation!
Mark A. Beauchene, Fargo.

Mark A Beauchene - July 13, 2016 at 08:31 AM



“ My very first English assignment as a freshman in college was to write a paper on the one person who most inspired me to that date. I wrote it on Mr. Gorilla. I loved him dearly and he was very instrumental in my growth. God have mercy on his soul.

Jay Weingarten - July 13, 2016 at 07:21 AM



“ I will always remember Mr. Gorilla for his flat top hair cuts. He was such a nice gym teacher when I was in high school. And will truly be missed by all who knew him.

John D Smith - July 12, 2016 at 08:45 PM



“ I have fond memories of Mr. Gorilla's gym class. He was tough on the outside but was a gentle soul on the inside. My thoughts and prayers to the family.

Caroline Connelly Narveson - July 12, 2016 at 05:48 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Edward Gorrilla.



July 12, 2016 at 12:56 PM



“ I had Mr. Gorilla as my PE teacher in middle school. I got picked more than once to demonstrate dance moves with him. Always cracked me up. Saw him in church in Fargo when I visit my parents and he always remembered my name asked how I was. Great teacher. Tough but fair.

Jill Rudh Tracy - July 12, 2016 at 07:30 AM



“ My dad and Mr. Gorilla used to keep stats at Bison basketball games at the BSA. Mr. Gorilla was the main book and was never off. I used to get to sit at the table with my Dad and I learned from both of them the importance of being accurate and commitment to the job.

He was also my Gym teacher in Junior High. He was a fair man that commanded respect and whom you could tell had a big heart. He will be missed and I'm very sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends!

Mike Larson - Class of '89 - July 11, 2016 at 11:55 PM



“ I will never forget those shorts and that whistle. That guy knew how to handle a bunch of obnoxious kids. A blessed transition to you, good soul.

ron kochevar - July 11, 2016 at 11:13 PM



“ I too remember Mr. Gorilla from gym class at Ben Franklin. And also though that the name fit him, since he looked like a gorilla LOL. He was such a good guy, and also very patient with us students, and he and his flat top hair cut will so surely be missed.

John D Smith - July 11, 2016 at 10:39 PM



“ He was the best coach I had. He was fair but tough.

Nevin Clemenson
Class of '86

Nevin Clemenson - July 11, 2016 at 10:09 PM



“ Mr. Gorilla was my gym teacher in 9th grade. I was the "volunteer" to demonstrate the waltz during the dance section of the curriculum. He was so light on his feet; it was a total surprise. I tell that story often. Thoughts of peace to his friends and family.

Kerri Holen Willert - July 11, 2016 at 06:15 PM



“ He was a great coach, teacher and role model to a bunch of 13 year old boys learning how to play football. God Bless!

Carl Pfiffner - July 11, 2016 at 05:55 PM



“ For many years he was my teacher and coach. He was a decent, kind, and gentle man and in retrospect I often wonder how in the world he ever put up with me. At a very formative time in our lives he was very important to me and my classmates and we have been enhanced by his work and from knowing him. Bruce Lytle MD

Bruce Lytle MD - July 11, 2016 at 12:44 PM



“ I loved having Mr. Gorilla as a gym teacher! I moved to Fargo just before middle school and had him in the early 80's. He was always strict, fair, and fun. I loved getting that smile out of him! Once he picked me to be his dance partner and I remember being mortified but then pleased with his compliment to my "grace". :) My sympathies to all of you and hope you are celebrating a long happy life of joyful memories with him.

Lisa Dill Hanson
Class of '87

Lisa Dill Hanson - July 11, 2016 at 10:48 AM



“ Fair but tough, great teacher. Between Ed, and Marley Swanson if they couldn't straighten you out it just was not going to happen.

Robert Olson
Class of 83

Marjorie - July 12, 2016 at 06:34 PM



“ I had Ed as a baderuth coach in glyndon in 1977, i will never forget his disapline, being ready before he got to the field, doing pushups if you did something wrong. I still field the baseball like he had taught us. Great mentor to look up to. GREG

greg krause - July 13, 2016 at 11:03 AM



“ Tough but fair is right. I got into a fight with another kid, lets call him Tommy, because that is his real name. The fight was totally his doing, because he wouldn't pay up when he lost a game of marbles.

Marbles was a serious sport at Horace Mann, and when you lost, you paid.

Tommy refused and ran the north door of the school, grabbed the janitors broom and whacked me over the head with it, so I went after him, yelling at the top of my lungs, scaring him half to death.

His response was to run to Mr Gorilla and tell him that I had attacked him. I was called to Mr Gorillas office and as punishment he told me to empty my pockets of all my precious, hard won marbles. These disputes were not uncommon, so he had a box in his desk

drawer where all of the marbles of contention were kept.

All my denials and declarations of innocence were of no use. I was devastated and needless to say Mr Gorilla was not my favorite teacher that year.

But now for the fairness part of the story. At the end of the school year, I was again called to his office. He apparently had heard the truth of my encounter with Tommy, because he opened his desk drawer, took out the box of marbles that were confiscated over the entire year and handed them to me with that huge warm smile. I made out like a bandit, it was like compound interest in marbles, because there were way more beauties there than the ones I had originally contributed.

I still have a few of those marbles, in the back of a closet, in a plain white coin bag from First National Bank.

Mr Gorilla taught me the invaluable lesson of fairness and taking responsibility that day. He went to top of my list and has stayed there for 60 years.

Jon Clement - July 13, 2016 at 11:10 AM



“ I knew Ed Gorilla at Horace Mann and he was my Phy Ed and Health Class teacher. Rough and gruff, but fair in all respects. He was always a tough guy who taught you well and instilled in you self respect and responsibility for your actions. A tough act to follow. RIP Ed Gorilla!

E. John Carlson, FHS Class of '63

E John Carlson - July 14, 2016 at 06:48 AM



“ We have been blessed to be neighbors of Ed and Florence Gorrilla all the while our kids were growing up in north Fargo---the boys and their friends all spoke of Mr. Gorrilla with humor and fondness for him. They and their daughter, Heidi, were very special to all of us on 23 Ave N.

Chuck and Geri Munro - July 14, 2016 at 11:34 AM



“ Mort and I both taught PE with Ed. Mort and Ed coached football together and Ed took my shot put and discus girls in track and worked with them. He was always fair and truly interested in helping youth strive to achieve their goals. He was a wonderful man and great colleague over the years. Heidi, and family, we are truly sorry for you loss. We have such great memories of your dad.

Marv and Babe Mortenson - July 14, 2016 at 02:20 PM



“ The tradition of excellent summer baseball programs in Glyndon started with Ed Gorilla taking the babe ruth program to the highest level in the seventies. Many of his players went on to do great things on the baseball field in legion, college and amateur baseball. Ed laid the groundwork with his demanding but fun practices. He was so organized and always lined up good competition. Thanks for helping me fall in love with baseball and showing me to respect the game. Gerald Hagene

Gerald Hagene - July 16, 2016 at 09:53 PM



“ I had him as my PE teacher in the 60's at Ben Franklin. I will always remember his coaches shorts and flat top haircut since I too had that cut at the time. How he and Marley Swanson kept a bunch of boys in line I will never know. I remember him making sure that we weren't running down the hall or stairs to get the first fresh cinnamon rolls from the cafeteria for lunch. He was always tough but fair with every student. May he rest in peace.

Rob Dahlen

Rob Dahlen - July 25, 2016 at 04:34 PM