



Dan Staggs

Danny D. Staggs, 79, of Ottumwa died September 7, 2018 at his home.

He was born October 4, 1938 in Hannibal, MO to Arthur Lee and Genevieve Evelyn Baugher Staggs. He married Carol Ann Holland on August 14, 1960. She preceded him in death on March 20, 2016.

A graduate of Keokuk High School, Keokuk Community College and Iowa State Teachers College, he earned his Master's in Education from NE Missouri State University. Dan started his teaching career at Avon, IL where he taught 2 years. He started teaching P.E. at OHS in 1964. He started the boys tennis team in 1964 and the girls tennis team in 1965 as well as running summer tennis programs. He was also a basketball coach, coaching the sophomore boys basketball team for several years under Coach Kramer and was head boys basketball coach for five years. Along with his career in coaching, he was a referee for high school basketball for many years. Dan retired from teaching in 1997. Even after he retired, he never stopped coaching.

Dan was the 2016 recipient of Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union's Golden Plaque of Distinction Award and was inducted in 1982 in the Iowa Tennis Hall of Fame. He served on the IGHSAU and IHSAA Tennis Advisory committees. The city of Ottumwa named six tennis courts in his honor.

He was a member of the First Lutheran Church. He enjoyed collecting and customizing old tennis racquets, collecting tennis memorabilia and Standard Oil antiques. He was also an avid St. Louis Cardinal Fan.

Surviving are two sons, Jeff (Shannon) Staggs of North Platte, NE and Gregg (Sherri) Staggs of Oostburg, WI; a son-in-law, Mike Fontana of Ankeny; five grandchildren, Natalie Clark, Taylor, Samantha, Jack and Josh Staggs; two step-grandchildren, Matthew and Emily Fontana and a brother, Ron Staggs of Cincinnati, OH.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Amy Juella Staggs-Fontana and a sister-in-law, Marsha Staggs.

His body has been cremated.

Memorial services will be 2 p.m. Friday at the First Lutheran Church with Rev. Mark Johnson officiating. Private inurnment will be in Roland Cemetery at a later date.

Family visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday at Reece Funeral Home.

The family requests, in lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Lutheran Church or to the Ottumwa Tennis Club, PO Box 533 Ottumwa, IA 52501.



Reece Funeral Home

Jim Walter Sep 16, 2018

My sincere sympathies go out to the family and friends of Dan Staggs. I played for coach Staggs 1965 - 1967 at OHS.
Great times and great coach !

Sara Dickinson Humphrey Sep 15, 2018



I will always remember how friendly Dan was. He put people at ease with his warm smile and how accepting he was. The one thing that sticks in my mind is when he first came to Keokuk, he liked to play "Walking My Baby Back Home" on his trumpet. When I think of Danny, I will smile. Hope you all do too...

Larry Lucas Sep 12, 2018

My sincere sympathies go out to The families and friends of Dan Staggs. He coached me in his early years at the summer tennis program in South Ottumwa. He made me a better person and taught me how to play tennis the right way. I was able later to win both the men's single and doubles titles in 1960. Thanks for everything Danny you were the best.

JOHN REARDON MARSHALLTOWN Sep 12, 2018

SO SORRY TO HEAR OF DANS PASSING.
HE WAS A GREAT TENNIS COACH TO MY
DAUGHTERS AT OHS.

Jim and Rosalea Ragland Sep 11, 2018

Dan was a positive coach who encouraged young kids of all ages to continue tennis throughout their lives. He was a wonderful role model for our kids, Kathleen, Erin, and John, and we'll always appreciate him for this. He will be missed by all who knew him.

John Stewart, Fort Myers, Florida Sep 11, 2018

My sincere condolences to Dan's family and many friends. For several years I helped Dan with the Ottumwa Open Tennis Tournament. He was a dear friend and great role model. He has left lasting positive examples for all who knew him.

Mike Thies Sep 11, 2018

Dan was my special friend and fellow teacher. I have wonderful memories with him. He will be missed by many.

Tom Davis Sep 11, 2018

My deepest sympathy, thoughts, and prayers to the family, and many friends of Dan. He was a true gentleman and scholar. May he rest in eternal peace.

Joe Coop Sep 10, 2018

A dear friend and buddy from our KHS days. We spent lots of time on and off the tennis courts together. I will miss him. Rest in peace Dan. May God Bless.

Randy Krejci Sep 10, 2018

What a tremendous gentleman Mr. Staggs was throughout his lifetime. He was a super coach, teacher, official, tennis administrator, tournament director, and he was Mr. Tennis in the Ottumwa community. I am glad I got to share times with him ever since I was in high school and he was coaching Ottumwa High School in his early days. He might be the best tennis expert, director, and coach of anyone in this state at the high school or college level. May God bless you and your family, Coach Staggs, you will be missed throughout the Midwest!!!

Martha Sigmund Barclift Sep 10, 2018

Danny was such a great guy. Went to Keokuk High School with him. I'm sure he will be missed by so many family & friends. RIP Dan!

Theresa (Hennen) Holifield Sep 10, 2018

I have so many fond memories of Dan and the whole Staggs crew growing up together as neighbors on Northview. Just a really fine, fun, and friendly family!!! I never took tennis lessons formally from Dan, but he was always around to give a quick pointer or lesson or give us tennis balls and old racquets. My thoughts and prayers are with Jeff and Gregg and the whole family! May God bless you and the whole family as He surely has with your parents! And call to mind many cherished memories!

John Richards Sep 10, 2018



He was just the best. He was kind, funny, and his students respected him. Wonderful teacher and true friend.
Dear Mr. Staggs... you will be missed. JR

Kimberly Howard-Beggs-Riebkes Sep 10, 2018

I am truly honored that I was on Dan Staggs tennis team as a Junior in 1982. It was the only year I was enrolled at Ottumwa and I wish I could have been there for all 4 years. His daughter Amy was on the same team. I was so fortunate to have seen him at the American Legion baseball this summer and have my picture taken with him. He was a mentor and a legend. One of the finest of all mankind and he will be missed but not forgotten.



Coach Dan was a special guy on and off of the tennis court. Brad and I played against him from Burlington, and Coached against him also. Our Sympathies to you. Dawn and Brad Callison, Renee(Boyd from Ottumwa) and Brian Japsen.