



## Ira Casimer Hamden

March 8, 1962 - June 24, 2020

HAMDEN, Ira Casimer. June 24, 2020. Age 58. Beloved husband of Susan (nee Martin) for 36 incredible years. Proud and devoted father of Zachary, Beth, and Paige. Loving son of Orville and the late Lucille. Cherished brother of late Glenn, Beverly (Matthew) Marchand, Edward (Karen), and Aaron (Kelly). Dear brother-in-law of James (Barb), Nancy Parker, and Beth (Ryan) VanAssche. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews. As a lifelong educator, he touched many students, parents, and teachers lives throughout his career. Dedicated coach and mentor to many. Always putting others before himself, the most kind and caring guy there was, he will be deeply missed. En lieu of COVID19, the family will be celebrating Ira's life in the summer of 2021; more information to follow. Please share memories with the family at their "On-Line Guestbook" at [WujekCalcaterra.com](http://WujekCalcaterra.com)

# Tribute Wall

TW

“ Hello Sue, so sorry for your loss. I know it has been many months, but I just recently heard about Ira passing. It has been over 15 years since I last Ira, but wanted to write to let you know that I am forever grateful for having had the opportunity to know him. Having just graduated from college and desperate to find a teaching job when few were available back in 2002, Ira took a chance on me and hired me to teach at Kelly Middle School. After many layoffs, a few years later, he literally rescued me from moving out of state by creating a position out of thin air. I would eventually take a new job and move away from all of my good East Detroit friends, but my memories of the good times we had golfing, taking our students on trips to D.C, coaching and teaching together at Kelly Middle School have never left me. So sad I wasn't able to see the man before he passed to thank him myself for helping me to get to where I am today. I am nearly 20 years into my teaching career at this point, but can honestly say my life path would have been very different if Ira hadn't gone above and beyond to help me out. He was a great friend, mentor, educator and person. Thoughts and prayers to you and your family.

-Todd Walker

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**Todd Walker** - January 21, 2021 at 11:52 PM

MS

“ Hello Sue,  
We are so sorry to hear of Ira's death and wanted to send our love to you. It was a pleasure to know both of you and to work with you both as well. You were the perfect pair both wonderful people and an absolute joy to work with. The world would be a much better place with more wonderful people like the Hamden's

We will always cherish the time we spent with both of you.

you two were the most awesome people I ever worked with, 2 truly wonderful people.

With deepest sympathies to the whole family

Love

Sandy & Michael Frazier and family Ira Michigan 4802

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**Michael & SandraFrazier** - September 03, 2020 at 07:38 PM

MS

we are at beechwood7@hotmail.com the Frazier's

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**Michael & Sandra** - September 16, 2020 at 12:15 PM

LC

“ Hi Susan, Zachary, Paige, and Beth. I learned of Ira’s passing while just browsing a local Facebook page. I am so, so sorry for your loss. I remember Ira as one of the nicest, most sincere, upbeat men I have ever met, and Susan, you know your marriage was just so sweet. A true team, and you both exuded love for one another and your children. Reading of your loss, I almost couldn’t comprehend it being true. This is tough for all of you, and I truthfully can’t say I understand the pain of losing the love of my life. I wish there was anything else I could say that would even be of encouragement. All I can say is, Susan, you and Ira fulfilled those vows you made to one another, and you did it in love. So many of us can’t say that, so I hope that fact and the knowledge you will meet again will be of some comfort. Zachary, Paige, and Beth, again, my deepest sympathies to you also on the loss of your dad. He was one of a kind, as you know. I’m so sorry.

Lenore Castillo - August 28, 2020 at 04:01 PM

LM

“ My dear Susan, one of my first friends at Alma College, I am so very sorry to hear about Ira’s passing. What a profound loss to you and your family. He was such a kind and gentle young man - one of the first guys that took the time to get to know a shy and kind of nerdy girl on your hall. He was always a fantastic listener with great advice, and I remember how much he dearly loved you. I pray for healing for you, your children, and all of Ira’s family and friends. Sending hugs.

Lisa Anne (Tomei) Mithen

Lisa Anne Mithen - August 26, 2020 at 09:53 PM

SG

“ The world will be forever changed without the light of Ira Hamden. I will never forget the impact he had on people as a young man with such integrity. A smile that could change your day and intellect that could change your life... Amazing sportsman with wisdom beyond his age and kindness that always stood out in a crowd. This man probably had no idea the amount of lives not only that he impacted but changed with just his gifts from God. It’s thank you for who you always were in life and as a great role model to so many including myself. You are a man of integrity and honor and I’m quite sure as you entered the gates of heaven the Lord said welcome my loyal and faithful servant for that is who you are in life and in passing. I pray peace over your family my friend , you will be forever missed until we meet again. Thank you for being who you always were.

Scott Garner - July 12, 2020 at 11:26 AM

SA

“ RIP cousin. Love You! Sabrina

Sabrina - July 10, 2020 at 10:49 PM

RH

“ We are so sorry. Ira was always my favorite cousin and I feel a very deep loss. Ira and I were born 4 days apart in 1962. We had been to many Hamden family reunions together but it was not until 8th grade that I really met Ira. We had a basketball game at Davis Junior High when we met and talked before the game. From that point on we kept close due to sports. My favorite memory is our senior years playing sports, I at Adlai Stevenson and Ira at East Detroit. That year we, together won MVP of the Eastern Michigan League for football (Ira), basketball (Bob) and baseball (Ira). He was the kindest person. I am still in shock. It is ironic that I found out about Ira's passing as I was looking for information on his namesake Ira Murray Hamden who died in WWII. Our condolences to the family.  
Robert and Tina Hamden

Robert Hamden - July 07, 2020 at 08:10 AM

AL

“ It is with great sadness that I learned of Ira's passing. I remember Ira as a dedicated student, as a committed athlete, and as a successful administrator. He was an outgoing and personable young man. Those of us who knew Ira will be left with fond memories. My wife, Margaret, and I wish to express our sincerest sympathy to Ira's family.  
Allan Torp



AllanJ.Torp - July 05, 2020 at 12:21 PM

BP

“ THE PLUSZCZYNSKI FAMILY SENDS THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS. WE ALL ARE VERY SAD FOR HIS LOSS. HE WAS A VERY KIND MAN. MEMORIES, LOVE WILL ALWAYS KEEP HIM CLOSE TO YOUR HEARTS.

beth pluszczynski - July 03, 2020 at 05:24 PM

ME

“ So sorry for your Loss, my Prayers and Thoughts are with all of you. Ira always was Laughing and smiling, Clintondale lost a Great Principal and person, and Heaven gained a Special Angel. Ira was a Happy Guy May He R.I.P. Ira you will be missed

Michelle Holuk. ( Rainbow Elem) - July 03, 2020 at 09:58 AM

SA

“ I'm sorry for your loss, Ira was an awesome man. I'm thinking of all of you.  
Love, Sandy Salisbury Walsh

sandy - July 03, 2020 at 07:51 AM

TJ

“ He was always so bright, happy and willing to help. Always smiling and trying to solve problems and keep everything in order. He will truly be missed. He kept good spirits. This is very sad to hear

Ty jackson - July 02, 2020 at 01:41 PM

DP

“ Ira would always tease me about how high maintenance I am (especially about food)! So for one of our Christmas parties, he literally gave me the menu and said , “Danijela you choose any appetizers you want, and I will get them!” He got every single one! I will forever remember this! The most recent, fond memory is that he ordered a speaker/mic set in order to help my strained vocal cords. I’m so very thankful and will miss Ira very much.

Danijela Petkoff - July 02, 2020 at 08:33 AM

GG

“ On behalf of all of us at Clintondale Community Schools, I would like to thank Ira and his family for the wonderful contributions that he had made to so many students, families, and peers. I have had the great pleasure of knowing him for the past ten years as a friend; he always brought me laughter and joy. Ira was an extremely talented educational leader, and our school community will forever remember the imprint he left on all of us.

Greg Green - July 01, 2020 at 08:48 PM

GS

“ Greg Green - Superintendent, Clintondale Schools purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ira Casimer Hamden.



Greg Green - Superintendent, Clintondale Schools - July 01, 2020 at 08:26 PM



“ I had a rough time in middle school, Mr. Hamden did what he could to make it better. He was always fair, and i'll never forget him. Thank you for your help, you did more than anyone.

Tyler Fuller - July 01, 2020 at 04:48 PM

GR

“ Ira it seems just like yesterday that we were playing baseball at Pleasantview school with your brothers, dad and my brother. I've watch you from afar as you climbed the educational ladder and what an impact you made where ever you were. Thank you for the memories.

George Rafaidus - June 30, 2020 at 04:41 PM

HD

“ Mr Hamden was the most kind hearted man you will ever meet he cared for every single one of his students I made an art project in 7th grade and he kept it in his office until this day he would always check up on me I will forever miss this amazing soul blessed to be able to know him❤️

Haley Deloach - June 30, 2020 at 12:57 PM

GS

“ Mr.Hamden always cared for his students deeply. You could always turn to Mr. Hamden with any problems that you had. He was truly a gem.

Gabriella Smiljanic - June 30, 2020 at 12:22 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ira Casimer Hamden.



June 30, 2020 at 12:05 PM

YC

“ Your Friends at CALL purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ira Casimer Hamden.



Your Friends at CALL - June 30, 2020 at 10:23 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ira Casimer Hamden.*



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June 29, 2020 at 11:53 PM

AW

“ *When I started 7th grade, I was nervous about many things. Me getting to my classes on time, keeping my grades up, even opening my locker. Mr. Hamden was there. He helped me with whatever was going on, school related or not. During my time in middle school, I would get called down to his office often, thinking I was in trouble...turns out he just needed some paper in the printer or help bringing in stuff for the Dragon Dollar Store. He would regularly joke with the students, always making time for a chat with anyone, not to mention that Mr. Baldwin and him are the dynamic duo of Clintondale. Sending my deepest condolences to his family and friends. I can't imagine the pain that they are experiencing during this difficult time.*



*Thank you, Mr. Hamden*

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**Alex Wiggert** - June 29, 2020 at 11:05 PM

MK

“ *Mr. Hamden was a very special man. Few are beloved by so many. He effected everyone with his uplifting mood, patience, and great sense of humor. He was my all time favorite coach, and I have many treasured memories of him. My condolences to his wife, children, and extended family.*

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**Michael Klein** - June 29, 2020 at 08:44 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ira Casimer Hamden.*



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June 29, 2020 at 04:14 PM

CN

“ I didn't have the pleasure to have mr Hamden as a principal. But my younger siblings did. He was so kind to my brothers and my sister. My sister doesn't complement or talk about principals that often. But she had wonderful things to say about him and how he helped her in school.

caroline napper - June 29, 2020 at 04:10 PM

MR

“ It is very hard for me to express what I am feeling since I have been there. Please know that you, Sue and your children are in my thoughts and prayers . Your husband and father was one of the good ones who always said "hi" with a smile! Please accept my deepest sympathy for your loss. May he Rest in Eternal Peace and be embraced by God .

Marina C. Russo - June 29, 2020 at 01:20 PM

PL

“ Working for Ira as a teacher and football coach at C.M.S. was fantastic and enjoyable. He was always supportive and encouraging. A truly unique man, who mentored many of us with perhaps not even realizing he was doing it. We will miss him so much, please accept our deepest sympathy. He loved his family as much as a man could.

Patrick Laughlin - June 29, 2020 at 01:03 PM

RR

“ I work in the kitchen at Clintondale and serve lunch on the middle school side. I can only say good things about IRA Hamden,rest free Ira~~~

Renee Rovacchi - June 29, 2020 at 12:49 PM

LU

“ Ira was such a great guy. Any time I subbed at the Middle School after 33 years of full time teaching, he was always very supportive! We often talked sports and this Spartan particularly enjoyed sharing MSU stories. He was so caring for his students and he will be missed by so many. My prayers for his family!

Lois Ullrich

Lois Ullrich - June 29, 2020 at 12:36 PM

BP

*Our hearts ache when we heard about the passing of Mr. Hamden. Our family sends our condolences to his family as they go through this difficult times. Know that he was loved by many and we considered him as our extended family. You will never be forgotten. Love The Petty Family (Bryant, Rachael and Ryan)*

**Bryant, & Ryan Petty** - June 29, 2020 at 05:21 PM

ED

*“ Mr.Hamden as done so much for me during my time being a student at CMS. He treated my brother and me as if we were family. He would always tell me he was proud of me and always wanted to know about the good news. I thank you for everything, Mr. Hamden you will forever be in our hearts*

**Elijah Daniel** - June 29, 2020 at 10:59 AM

NK

*“ I Remember A Time In School When I Wasn't Having Too Good Of A Day, So I Went To Mr. Hamden And He Helped My Day Become So Much Better, He Was An Amazing Man And My Family Was Shocked To Hear About This Tragic Event, I Miss You, We All Do, Rest In Peace Mr. Hamden.*



**Noah Knoellinger** - June 29, 2020 at 10:32 AM

GJ

*“ Our family is so saddened by the loss of Mr. Hamden. He was well-respected by all of Clintondale. We wish that we had the chance to know him better. Sending love & prayers to the Hamden Family.*

*Sincerely, Michael & Genevieve Jones  
Clintondale Teachers*



**Genevieve Jones** - June 29, 2020 at 10:17 AM

LV

*“ Worked at Kelly Middle School when Ira was the principal. Very kind and personable man who genuinely loved the students of KMS!*

**Linda VanHaaren** - June 29, 2020 at 07:59 AM

RV

“ *Mr. Hamden was the most influential teacher I ever had! I was his student in 1991 at Kelly Middle School. I'm so thankful I was able to tell him that last year when I saw him at the teacher of the year ceremony where my husband was one of the teachers being honored.*

*Mr. Hamden made everyone feel so important and he was so genuine. He was an excellent mentor and role model and made a lasting impact on my life! My sincere condolences to the family.*

*Rhonda (Oakes) Voydanoff*

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**Rhonda Voydanoff** - June 28, 2020 at 11:00 PM

HE

“ *Mr. Hamden was a kind and decent man who always had a smile and a kind word!!! Everyone will miss him greatly!! My condolences and prayers for all of you!!!!*

*Heather Millar*

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**Heather** - June 28, 2020 at 08:00 PM

AB

“ *Allan Bara lit a candle in memory of Ira Casimer Hamden*



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**Allan Bara** - June 28, 2020 at 06:37 PM

AB

*You were always there for those in need. Love you like a brother.*

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**Allan Bara** - June 28, 2020 at 06:42 PM

AB

“ *We were surprised and saddened to hear about Ira's passing. Our hearts go out to your family. It was a pleasure coaching a top notch high school baseball player and than to work with Ira on many special projects in education. The best of colleagues. A dedicated educator, both as a teacher and administrator. He and I enjoyed a true friendship.He told me I was his mentor. Little did he know that I learned a lot from him. Holding your family in close thoughts and wonderful memories.Will be sending some special memories of Ira . Al and Norene Bara*

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**Allan Bara** - June 28, 2020 at 05:10 PM

Carla  
Monst-  
Murray

“ *My deepest condolences to your family. Ira was very special to my family. Not only did I get the pleasure of working with him in the office on occasion, but I will never forget all the football games that my daughters and I shared with him in the concession stand. He loved to joke with all of them. He will forever hold a special place in all of our hearts. Thank you for always watching over my girls when they were in your care.*

*Carla, Madalyn, Lela and Ava Murray*

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**Carla Monst- Murray** - June 28, 2020 at 02:08 PM

LB

“ *He will be missed. I only worked with him for one year. I remember when I came back from my surgery. He said please make sure you are ok to come back. He said this is just a job we can find another teacher and you would be missed, but your family needs their mother and Dave needs his wife and that can't be replaced.*

*This is one of the many memories. My heart is as an elementary teacher, but Ira taught me to love secondary students. He was so supportive to me as a teacher and person. Will not forget the chair race after school in the office, the poker night. Ira was so professional but he was also human. We never discussed religion but you knew he was Christian by his actions. Ira I know you are in heaven telling a joke. You may be gone from this world, but you will be remembered in our hearts forever. Rest in peace your journey is complete faithful servant.*

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**Lynn Burley** - June 28, 2020 at 12:41 PM

KK

“ *Dear Mr. Hamden thank you so much for making my first day of 6th grade and last day of 8th so memorable at Kelly Middle School! You were always so nice (even though i had to visit your 1 time for a not so cool visit lol.) I thought you were so cool because you had a glass eye and you could play basketball! Thank you for being my favorite principal I've ever had! R.I.P*



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**kayla (bryant) kusch** - June 28, 2020 at 11:36 AM

TA

“ Dear Sue, Zack, Beth and Paige, sorrow cannot express the grief we are all feeling with the loss of your beloved husband and father, Ira. There are very few people that are as good as Ira. His intelligence and wit made him a joy to be around. His warm smile and generosity is something we will always cherish. Know that we loved and will miss his friendship dearly. God Bless  
You're Friends  
Joe, Joanne, Sarah, Julia an Eli

The Andary's - June 28, 2020 at 10:29 AM

LW

“ Thank you IRA, my friend, for all of the talks we shared. I miss you so much and the halls of the Middle School will never be the same without you there to guide the staff and students in the right direction. Rest in peace.

Lee walmsley - June 28, 2020 at 09:54 AM

LP

“ In 2005-06 I worked at Kelly Middle School and Ira was my Principal. He greeted me with warmth and welcome, made sure that I was meeting my needs for help, supplies, and advice, and was a wonderful person to work for. I am sorry for the family's loss and pray for their peace of mind and heart.

Leslie Pope - June 28, 2020 at 08:29 AM

NV

“ Nicole (Ruggero) VanZandt lit a candle in memory of Ira  
Casimer Hamden



Nicole (Ruggero) VanZandt - June 28, 2020 at 08:05 AM

NV

My sincerest condolences to Mr Hamden's family. I had the pleasure to have him as a teacher at Kelly. He had the kindest heart and a great personality. Rest in Paradise Mr Hamden 🍀

Nicole (Ruggero) VanZandt - June 28, 2020 at 08:18 AM

LP

“ I’m so very sorry to hear this. I was a student in one of Mr. Hansen’s first years teaching and I’ll Always remember him. He made learning so much fun. He would never let us say ‘sucks’ unless we were talking about lemons 😊 That was 30 years ago and I still remember.  
My deepest condolences to his friends and family.

Lisa Perdue - June 28, 2020 at 12:58 AM

LP

Mr Hamden. Sorry about the auto correct 🙏📖

Lisa Perdue - June 28, 2020 at 12:58 AM

HF

“ For the Hamden family... This is a tough loss for you and everyone who knew Ira. He was just the kindest person no matter what. If it was just a small chat in the morning or after a long day. He was there to help every kid & we all appreciate his kindness.

Huyghe family

Huyghe Family - June 27, 2020 at 11:34 PM

DM

“ Dianne M. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Ira Casimer Hamden.



Dianne M. - June 27, 2020 at 11:25 PM



“ Healing & Hope Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Ira Casimer Hamden.



June 27, 2020 at 11:22 PM

DM

“ We remember Ira and Sue when they were students at EDHS! Two great kids! We are saddened to read of Ira's passing. Our love and prayers go out to Sue and all the family and friends who grieve.  
*Art and Dianne Miller*



Dianne Miller - June 27, 2020 at 11:17 PM

ED

“ Memory from the 6th grade at Pleasantview Elementary School...he and I were going over strategy on the day before our city finals basketball game. He brought 2 pocket bibles for us to put in our pocket during the game (which we did). We won the game which capped off an undefeated season. That always stuck with me. Great man. Prayers & love to the family.

Edward Dilone - June 27, 2020 at 11:09 PM

JD

“ Ira Hamden was a great principal at Kelly Middle School. He was very caring and kind during troubling times my family was having. He had a good soul. He will be missed. Prayers for the family. Mrs. Judith Delong

Judith Delong - June 27, 2020 at 10:41 PM

AN

“ Alana Amore' Nicolazzo lit a candle in memory of Ira Casimer Hamden



Alana Amore' Nicolazzo - June 27, 2020 at 09:47 PM

AN

*I remember when you would take me out of class for a few minutes and walk the halls with me and talk. At lunch when we would joke around. You were such a wonderful mentor and a beautiful soul, it was an honor to know you. Rest in peace friend.*

*Alana Amore'*

Alana Amore' Nicolazzo - June 27, 2020 at 09:49 PM

VA

“ So sorry for your loss great man, great family. My prayers are with you

Vince Alessandrini - June 27, 2020 at 09:37 PM

NF

“ Dear Ira, always had a smile & a short chat in the morning at Kelly Middle school...Very sad to hear about his loss, sorry to Sue & the family RIP Ira....God Bless

NANCY Feeney - June 27, 2020 at 09:16 PM

DH

What a wonderful, kind man Ira was! Our families met when our girls were in Science Olympiad in elementary school and from there we advanced to middle school and high school athletics. We all enjoyed being with him and Sue. Our thoughts and prayers go to the family. Rest In Peace Ira.

Dave and Julie Hoehing - June 27, 2020 at 09:28 PM

EM

“ Ira always had a special love for our special education students. He always greeted my students and would just come in to visit. We always appreciated that. My deepest condolences to Sue and the family.

Ellen Mazzara - June 27, 2020 at 08:44 PM

KE

“ He was my middle school principal at Kelly Middle School. He was such a caring man. He helped me and other students as we tried to adjust and find ourselves. He will be missed dearly.

Katelyn Erdelyi - June 27, 2020 at 08:11 PM

SS

“ The Sudney family loved Ira. Great memories of Ira and Suheil Malki showing up early to go to school while attending Grant. I would still in bed trying to wake up and they would be in the kitchen conversing with my mother. Great athlete, and friend back in the day. I'm sorry I did not try and connect with him over the years. Rest in peace my friend. You are forever a true friend and inspiration in my life. Condolences to Susan and the rest of his family.

steve sudney - June 27, 2020 at 08:00 PM

 Cindy Maggetti

“ Ira was such a wonderful guy!! He was so full of life and always made you laugh! He was very genuine and gave the best hugs!! My thoughts and prayers to comfort Susan and the kids, along with all of the family and friends who will dearly miss Ira! <3  
Cindy Maggetti

Cindy Maggetti - June 27, 2020 at 07:42 PM

LL

“ Sue and family many condolences on the loss of your dear Ira. He was such a nice man. I will always remember his big smile and warm greeting he gave if you ran into him even after many years. Hugs and prayers.

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**Louise Amsden LaFaive** - June 27, 2020 at 07:39 PM

DB

“ Ira was a sweetheart, always a smile and had respect for everyone he met. My heart goes out to Sue and their family. Rest in Eternal Peace 🙏❤️

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**Diane Julio Burcz** - June 27, 2020 at 07:29 PM

PC

“ So sorry for your loss

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**pat caprara** - June 27, 2020 at 06:42 PM

AZ

*I'm sorry for your loss. I have great memories of Ira and my time at Kelly*

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**Alice Zeckzer** - June 28, 2020 at 10:54 PM

SF

*So sorry for your loss. I worked for Ira at Kelly and he was a great principal and a caring person.*

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**Sandra Fisher** - June 30, 2020 at 01:18 PM

DA

*Ira was my first principal 15 years ago and I've compared others to him ever since. Unfortunately, none have them have measured up. He is one of a kind and put children and family first. When I left East Detroit Schools one of the main factors in my deliberation was Ira. I loved working for him and knew I wouldn't have a principal as awesome as Ira in my next position.*

*David Stevenson*

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**David** - July 08, 2020 at 09:18 AM

JL

*My condilences to Ira's family at this tragic time. We started Kelly Jr High on the same day, he's a decade younger than me so I admit I had a bit of a hard time when he then became my boss. We had a struggle here and there over the years but in the end he always came through and did the right thing. We were all like one big family over there at Kelly that's for sure 🙌🏻 So sorry to hear this news.*

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**janet livingston** - July 22, 2020 at 02:23 PM