



Norbert Alvin Lerch

June 3, 1927 - January 9, 2021

Norbert Alvin Lerch, 93 of Williamsburg passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 9, 2021.

Norbert was born June 3, 1927 in Detroit Michigan to the late Mary (Schwohl) and Norbert William Lerch. Norbert served in the United States Navy during World War II (actually he was so young he convinced his mom to go to the recruiting office to signoff on his enlistment), and then returned home to later graduate from Eastern Michigan University. On April 19, 1952 he married Constance (Connie) Beebe in Ypsilanti. They moved to Utica where he built our family's first home together with another friend. Norb began a very successful career with Utica Community Schools in 1953 that continued for 34 years, many as a secondary principal at his beloved Malow Junior High School. Norb and Connie retired in 1987 to his favorite spot in Michigan, Traverse City. Their house on the bay kept him busy boating, fishing, golfing, snow skiing, and entertaining the grandkids at the beach. Norbert and Connie's life together in 59 years raised three sons, and left a legacy of 7 grandkids, and 8 great grand children. Their surviving sons are William and (Teresa) Lerch, Thomas and (Janice) Lerch, and Daniel and (Susan) Lerch. Surviving Grandpa Lerch are grandchildren, Thomas Lerch and (Emy Reyes) Joshua and (Tanya) Lerch, Emily and (Billy) McKeogh, Jenna and (Tim) Wicks, Jessica and (Joel) Zoller, Eric Lerch and Kiel Lerch. Also part of that legacy are great grand children, Summit and Maple Lerch, Zoe and Liam McKeogh, Charlie and Margeaux Wicks, and Ruby and Owen Zoller. Service for Norbert is Private. In lieu of flowers, family suggest contributions to UCS Foundation or Alzheimer's Association. Share memories with the family at their "On-Line Guestbook" @ [WujekCalcaterra.com](https://www.WujekCalcaterra.com)

Tribute Wall

JG

“ *Norb was a dear neighbor. Always smiling and friendly. He supplied us all with wonderful produce from his garden. What a treat it was to see him peddling down the driveway with a bag full of tomatoes or zucchini.*

We have all missed him the past year.

Janet Guidos

Janet Guidos - January 19, 2021 at 08:18 PM

MS

“ *1 file added to the album Norb, 1981*



Mary Savoyard-Fogel - January 19, 2021 at 09:35 AM

ER

“ *MY TRIBUTE TO HIS FAMILY----MET NORB UP HERE IN TRAVERSE CITY SEVERAL TIMES OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. GOT TO KNOW NORB IN THE UTICA SCHOOL SYSTEM WHERE I WORKED WITH HIS SON BILL AT FORD H. S.*

ALSO GOT TO KNOW BILLS WIFE, TERESA, A TEACHER AT FORD ALSO . VERY NICE, GOOD PEOPLE WHO WILL ALWAYS BE IN MY MEMORIES ED RINGLER. ---- RETIRED FROM FHS 1985

Edward Ringler - January 17, 2021 at 01:08 PM

BB

“ *Sending good thoughts and prayers to the family today - and remembering the years I worked with Norb at Eppler Jr. High in Utica. I started in 1960 and left in 1971 when my husband and I moved north to Grayling to enjoy living on the Manistee River. Norb and I had a long and positive relationship while I was there working as his Secretary. .We worked well together. .*

Betty Bennett - January 15, 2021 at 10:32 PM



“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Calcaterra Calcaterra - January 14, 2021 at 02:00 PM



submitted by Maryann Foxlee

Calcaterra Calcaterra - January 14, 2021 at 02:00 PM



“ Pat and I will always cherish the times we spent down the street at the Lerch family gatherings. Oh, what fun! During those visits, proud Grandpa Lerch shared many stories about his loving wife Connie, his beautiful (growing) family, his beloved career, and his wonderful vacations. Whenever Mr. Lerch was with his family, it was evident to all that he couldn't be happier.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Norb Lerch's entire family at this time of great loss. His love, bond, and legacy will continue to be shared by his dear family as well as his friends, former students, and colleagues. Love and prayers!

Pat and Debbie Teaney - January 14, 2021 at 01:27 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Calcaterra Calcaterra - January 14, 2021 at 12:13 PM



Submitted by Marlene Neuman

Calcaterra Calcaterra - January 14, 2021 at 12:13 PM

SB

“ Uncle Norb was a smart and kind family man. I'll always remember the Thanksgivings we spent together in Utica with him, Aunt Connie, Bill, Tom and Dan enjoying great food, conversation, Lions football and lots of laughter. Growing up, I learned a lot listening to the interesting discussions between my dad and Uncle Norb, both career educators, about the education system and current events. And I've long admired him for his love of family and the many adventures he had skiing, rafting, and exploring with the boys, their families, and especially his grandchildren. That's the kind of grandfather I want to be!

Bill, Tom, and Dan, may your endless, loving memories and faith provide comfort to you and your families in the days ahead.

Love,

Steve & Melissa Beebe

Steve Beebe - January 14, 2021 at 11:00 AM

JB

I can't think of a more loving tribute to your grandfather.

Joyce Bak - January 16, 2021 at 06:17 PM

BT

“ Thank you, Norb, and all the old neighborhood Dads, for showing us how it's done.

Bob Thompson - January 14, 2021 at 10:37 AM

RB

“ The best thing about Uncle Norb was his calming voice. You just couldn't help but be mesmerized when he spoke.

With love and fond memories.

Rick and Sally Beebe

Rick and Sally Beebe - January 14, 2021 at 08:37 AM

GB

“ Connie was my older sister and Norb my brother-in-law. They both gave me and my family a ton of support over the years. Together they raised a family that is loved and admired by all. It is easy to understand why Norb's former staff and students have such fond memories of him. My favorite story about Norb was during his high school days he lived near Dundee, MI His home was a distance from school and near US 23. His mode of transportation was to catch a ride with one of the "bread trucks" coming out of Toledo heading out for their morning deliveries.

Gary & Midge Beebe

Gary Beebe - January 14, 2021 at 06:21 AM

TL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



tom lerch - January 13, 2021 at 08:24 PM

JF

They loved each other and it always showed 😊

Joyce Bak Feldhaus - January 13, 2021 at 08:44 PM



“ Your dad,grandfather, great-grandfather loved his family, and you can see the joy and happiness in his eyes in the pictures you shared! He was a good man with a fair rule for all staff. Personally, I was fortunate to be a teacher at his "Beloved Malow." He supported us when he knew we needed it, and let us know when we needed to " tow the line".
Best boss I ever had!

From: Joyce Bak Feldhaus

Sean Hamlin - January 13, 2021 at 03:57 PM

DB

“ Norb was my teacher at Utica High. When I began working for UCS Connie and Norb were social friends. Sorry to hear of his passing he along with Connie were a great couple. Most sincerely, Dorothy Busch

Dorothy Busch - January 13, 2021 at 02:37 PM

BL

“ 3 files added to the album *A life celebrated*



Bill Lerch - January 13, 2021 at 09:55 AM

ND

“ *A delightful compatriot who shared his room with me at Utica High in the 60's. We all had good staff gatherings and wonderful memories through the years. Norb was a good friend.*

Barb and Jim King

Nancy Druia - January 13, 2021 at 09:54 AM

MF

“ *Malow was my first permanent teaching position and Norb was an amazing mentor. He had the gift of bringing out the best in people. He liked my bulletin boards and asked if I wanted to teach Art. I did plays in my English classes and encouraged me to teach Drama and Choir which I loved. I went back to school to get a degree in Theatre and finished my career teaching TV Production and Drama. He was strict which made our job easier and treated his young staff like family. I have so many wonderful memories from Malow and will always cherish the friendship of Norb, teachers and my students. I was so lucky to have him in my life!!*

Maryann Foxlee - January 13, 2021 at 09:34 AM

DM

Norb was truly a gentleman and had a smile that would light up the room. He was so proud of his family and all the memories of his life will live on forever.

Donna McGill - January 13, 2021 at 10:55 PM

DK

“ *Prayers and deepest condolences to the entire Lerch family...*

Love from the Krenznel family

Deborah Krenznel - January 13, 2021 at 08:31 AM

MB

“ Jan, thinking of you with the passing of your dear father-in-law. May you and your family find comfort and peace. May he rest in the loving arms of God. Mary Ellen Bross

Mary Ellen Bross - January 13, 2021 at 07:29 AM

TA

“ We are heartbroken to not be with the family at this time. My favorite memories are getting engaged near Grandpas house and riding his bike and staying for that magical weekend, and Watching his face light up when he would watch his grandkids, especially Zoe, sing.

tanya - January 12, 2021 at 10:56 PM

CG

“ Dear Bill, Teresa and family! So sorry to hear about your loss! Fond memories will always be a part of you! With sympathy, Catherine (Kitty) Gillespie



catherinr gillespie - January 12, 2021 at 10:46 PM

RG

“ So very sorry to hear of the passing of Norb. Sending prayers and thoughts to all of your family. I was a teacher at Malow under his leadership for 20 years. May he Rest In Peace.
Rick Greenup.

Rick Greenup - January 12, 2021 at 09:44 PM

BL

“ 7 files added to the album A life celebrated



Bill Lerch - January 12, 2021 at 09:23 PM

LD

“ Norm was a fine man and an excellent principal. JoAnne and I enjoyed our visits and friehndship with he and Connie. My favorite Norb story was when Connie said "he left me a note on the refrigerator for me and signed it. Norbert. Lerch." A great couple and a great boss.

Larry Doyle - January 12, 2021 at 08:08 PM

KK

“ Bill--I'm so sorry for your loss. Sending love and prayers to you and your family!

Kristen Khamis - January 12, 2021 at 06:32 PM

BL

“ 23 files added to the album A life celebrated



Bill Lerch - January 12, 2021 at 05:51 PM

JH

“ Norb was my first principal when I started teaching in Utica. He taught me the right way to do things, and I was always appreciative of that. I taught at Malow in the morning and at Shelby in the afternoon. One time my car broke down, and Norb lent me his car to get to Shelby. I respected Norb greatly! RIP Norb Lerch!

Jim Hall - January 12, 2021 at 04:31 PM

HC

Norb was a wonderful educator and friend to children. I had the pleasure of working with him many times as an education reporter.

Hildy Corbett - January 12, 2021 at 05:23 PM

TB

Norb and I were fellow principals in Utica Schools. My students attended Crissman Elementary and was a feeder school for Malow Junior High. We shared many stories about students. He was a super principal who always had the best interest for his students. He will will be missed! Prayers are sent to his family. Tom Bodell

Thomas L Bodell - January 12, 2021 at 05:26 PM

LB

Norb was the best - he guided by example. His high expectations for his staff and the students at Malow Junior High brought out the best - in everyone! I so enjoyed working for him - as he was a class act. And one morning, when my car wouldn't start and I panicked and called the school, Norb gallantly drove to my house to pick me up. (I was eight months pregnant at the time - and only lived one mile from the school.) What a legacy he has left -what a beautiful family to carry on his name - his values! Prayers to his family at this sad time. But know, Norb will never be forgotten. RIP!

Linda Boehmer - January 12, 2021 at 06:15 PM

DH

We are so very sorry for you loss. Your Dad was such a genuinely nice person through and through and he passed this trait onto his boys. What a great role model you all had. Cherish your wonderful memories. I'm sure he and Connie are dancing in heaven.

Terry and Debbie Hincks

Debbie and Terry Hincks - January 12, 2021 at 07:45 PM

JS

I worked with Norb for many years at Malow-he even allowed my students to paint a mural on one of 'his' precious walls. He always surprised me with his skiing, how much he cared about his school and teachers, how concerned he was when Connie's wrists were hurt, and even how much he loved his dog-He was a complicated person of passion and concern and I send best wishes to his family.

James M Shaw - January 12, 2021 at 07:46 PM

JF

His or yours?

Joyce Bak Feldhaus - January 13, 2021 at 07:46 PM