

Stephen Ansel Ritzenthaler



Ritzenthaler, Stephen Ansel age 73, resident of Lake City, Cannon Falls & Mesa, AZ, passed away on March 12 after a three month battle with non-Hodgkins mantle cell lymphoma. Stephen, son of Ansel and Geraldine Bockman Ritzenthaler, was born January 29, 1944 in Reedsburg, WI and was raised in Springfield, MN. He received his

music education from The University of Northern Colorado in Greeley and his masters education at Mankato State. He began his teaching career in Comfrey, MN and then became music director in Lake City for over 30 years. "Ritz" retired in 2000 from a very successful career with his concert, jazz and marching bands that received superior awards from every adjudicator. Music continued as his focus after retirement. He was a long term member of The Sheldon Brass Band in Red Wing. During winter months he played cornet for The Salt River Brass, Mesa City Band and The Viewpoint Concert Band of which he became conductor in 2015. Preceded in death by mother Geraldine Bockman Ritzenthaler and father Ansel E. Ritzenthaler, he is survived by his wife Mary Ellen Evenson Sturm, Sister Anne Hawkins and husband Dick, Nieces Pegi (Tony) Cull, Ginna (Mark) Hanson, Betsy (David) Chernof, Katy (Peter) Booth and their families, Stepson Thomas (Lori) Peterson, Stepdaughter Jayne Overstreet, and grandsons Christopher Lee, Jack Overstreet and Sam Peterson, brother-in-law, Jack Evenson, and sister-in-law Karen Johnson and their families along with hundreds of music students that he considered "his kids" The celebration of his life well be held in The Lincoln High School auditorium on May 13 at 3PM. After sharing a meal, a special event will take place on the marching band field. Memorials preferred for the proposed Ritzenthaler Memorial Lake City Band Shell.

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Guest Book

1 comment

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Leah Y  May 8, 2017

One of the best teachers, mentor and friend. He inspired so many.

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