

Henry Wortche Jr.

April 30, 2024

Henry Wortche Jr., beloved husband, father, and grandfather, went home peacefully to Heaven to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on April 30, 2024.

Henry was born on February 14, 1950 to Henry and Mary (Pape) Wortche. He was a lifetime resident of Bergenfield, NJ, where he taught and then proudly served as the principal of Washington Elementary School for 22 years. In April 1978, Henry married the love of his life, Jill May Salzmann, and they shared 46 beautiful years together.

Henry was a faithful servant of Jesus Christ. He and his family worshipped at Grace Chapel in Tenafly for decades. Even through his long battle with cancer, he praised God for the many blessings in his life. He found so much joy in spending time with his daughters and grandchildren, and he cherished God's daily gifts to us—a warm spring breeze, the ocean's salty spray, glorious pink sunsets, and the smell of crisp autumn leaves.

Henry is survived by his wife, Jill; their two daughters and sons-in-law, Allison and Ian Burkard, and Joanna and Will Neil; and his four grandchildren, Elena, Natalie, Owen, and Ethan.

Family and friends are invited to visit Thursday 4- 8PM at the Barrett Leber

Funeral Home, 148 Dean Dr., Tenafly. A service celebrating Henry's life will take place that evening at 7PM. The funeral procession will be departing from Barrett Leber Funeral Home on Friday at 11AM. All are invited to meet at the funeral home or go directly to George Washington Memorial Park, Paramus.

Cemetery Details

George Washington Memorial Park

234 Paramus Road
Paramus, NJ 07652

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 2. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Barrett Leber Funeral Home
148 Dean Dr
Tenafly, NJ 07670
(201) 568-8043
<https://www.barrettleberfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

JE

“ I threw a tomato at his car when i was in 4th grade. I got into trouble about it but Principal Wortche didn't overblow it and was kind to my parents and me. I learned my lesson and my deviant days were over . My dad still laughs about my tomato throwing days.

Jess - May 18, 2024 at 07:39 PM

ER

“ Mr. Wortche was my 6th grade teacher in 1978. This year I am retiring from a 35 year career in Education. Wrapping up my retirement paperwork in April of this year, I was asked who inspired my career. The answer was easy- Mr. Wortche. Gone but not forgotten.

Ellen Rohan - May 07, 2024 at 03:48 PM

AD

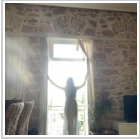
He was the best! Do you remember him teaching us "a lot" is two words. He did it in such a fun way. I never forgot and always think of him when someone writes it as one word. May He rest in peace. Prayers to the family.

Alison Ricciardi D'Agostino - May 08, 2024 at 10:06 PM

JS

“ I've known Henry and Jill for many years when I lived in New Milford and attended Grace Chapel. I currently live in Florida and have kept in touch with my dear friend, Jill. I don't remember Henry talking much about his teaching experiences but from the posts I know he was a fine dedicated teacher. I remember Henry as a quiet, steady kind of man who loved his wife and family and was a committed church goer. My heart goes out to Jill and the family. May they find that God is the God of all comfort, as I did when my husband passed into heaven in 2016.

Jean Steinhofer - May 04, 2024 at 10:29 AM



“ Mr. Wortche was a memorable principle. He seemed so tall to us K-5 kids and always had a kind smile under his dark mustache. Easily remembered was when he spoke to me about my grandmother's passing when I was in 5th grade(Mr.Wall). It was just brief and simple but helped 10yr old me feel better and safer. Another vivid memory was when Mrs. Montisano shoved a hole Twinkie in her mouth (demonstrating something). He tried to look stern and not laugh but Mrs. Montesano was a quirky lady, she stared at him chewing until he did. My heart goes out to his family but he lives on in memory and I truly believe they are always with us.

-God Bless-

Nicole Tsarnas

Nicole Tsarnas - May 04, 2024 at 09:21 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Henry Wortche Jr..



May 02, 2024 at 08:13 AM

DK

“ Dr. Michael Kuchar planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Henry Wortche Jr..

Dr. Michael Kuchar - May 02, 2024 at 08:13 AM

ES

“ My 6th grade teacher. Then ... an incredibly loving supporting principal to my mom. Then ... full circle ... I taught his wonderful daughters while I was an educator/colleague. A special, special human. My sincere condolences to a great family. Much love!

Eric Swensen - May 01, 2024 at 09:43 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Henry Wortche Jr..



May 01, 2024 at 06:37 PM

EO

“ Erik Olson and Diane Olson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Henry Wortche Jr..

Erik Olson and Diane Olson - May 01, 2024 at 06:37 PM

GD

“ So sorry to hear of Henry's passing. I'll always feel honored to have worked with him for many years. My condolences to Jill and the girls and families.

Glenn Davis - May 01, 2024 at 11:46 AM



“ *Mr. Wortche was a wonderful principal, and I have so many fond memories of him as a Washington School student. He will be truly missed.*

Kira Rutherford-Boese - May 01, 2024 at 09:20 AM

MM

“ *Henry was a wonderful neighbor and friend for many years and will be missed so very much.*

Maureen Murphy - April 30, 2024 at 02:02 PM

MM

Henry was a great guy. I've known him since 1966 when we moved next door to him on Porter Ave. I will miss seeing him and talking with him when I visit my parents. My condolences to his family. 🙏🙏🙏

Mickey Murphy - April 30, 2024 at 06:53 PM

FR

Mr. Wortche was always there for his students while they were at Washington School, and remembered them afterwards. My sympathy to the family. He will be sincerely missed.

Flo Rutherford - May 01, 2024 at 12:33 PM

PD

Was just notified of Henry's passing. Was a neighbor of Henry's on Porter Avenue more than 50 years ago. May his memory be a blessing.

Patrick Daly - May 02, 2024 at 02:01 PM