



## Stephen Klapach

August 30, 2022

Stephen Edward Klapach, 70 of Englewood, New Jersey passed away on August 30th 2022. Stephen was born on July 14, 1952 to Stephen F. and Lorraine Klapach in Jamaica, New York. After Stephen graduated St John the Baptist High School in 1969, he went on to study Anthropology/Herpetology at SUNY College at Geneseo. In 1980, Stephen met Diana Contreras at Pan American Airways. Stephen and Diana married in 1982 and went on to have three children. It was not until 1997 that Stephen found his true calling and became the beloved science teacher to all students who entered "Klapachville". Stephen had a rapport with his students like none other, crowning him the Emperor of his classroom. He was known for being tough, but also had a side to him that was compassionate and funny; he was a true character. When not in the classroom, Stephen's varied interests enriched his inquisitive mind and lead to wonderful heartfelt friendships. Stephen was preceded in death by his father Stephen Francis and his sister Darlene. He is survived by his wife Diana, daughter Katelyn (Kevin) Talbot, son Edward (Cassandra) Klapach, and daughter Alexa (Michelle) Klapach. Stephen was loved by his grandchildren Luci and Sebastian, as well as many nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Esophageal Cancer Education Foundation: P.O. Box 821 Manalapan, NJ 07726 or online at [fightec.org](http://fightec.org). Visitation at Barrett Leber Funeral Home, Tuesday, September 6, 2022 from 4-8 PM. Funeral Mass, Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at 10 AM at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Tenafly.

Burial to follow at Milford Cemetery in Milford, PA.

# Cemetery Details

## Milford Cemetery

Milford, PA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 6. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

## Funeral Mass

SEP 7. 10:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Church  
10 County Rd  
Tenafly, NJ 07670  
(201) 568-0545

## Interment

SEP 7. 1:00 PM (ET)

Milford Cemetery  
Milford, PA



# Tribute Wall



“ I remember every single time Mr. Klapach entered our classroom. He had an aura about him that was nothing short of powerful and demanding, and under his hardened outer shell, was a kind and compassionate individual who cared for his students. His quick wit and relatable jokes made class fun and bearable at times, and he had a way of making his students smile that no other teacher in the school could. I remember one day he was talking about chess, and I thought to myself, would I ever get to play him? I guess that time would never come. I miss you, Mr. Klapach.

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**Aiden Park** - December 19, 2023 at 11:52 PM



“ Been trying to think of something to say for months to no avail before I remembered his classroom creed. KISS: keep it simple, stupid. Great teacher, greater man. Present and accounted for, sir!

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**Kubek Kim** - April 22, 2023 at 05:01 PM

YC

“ Whenever Mr. Klapach walked into a room, he commanded respect like no other teacher. He was in the classroom for one purpose: to educate the youngsters. He had set expectations he commanded around the classroom. He often referred to himself as a general and took attendance like a general to his soldiers. But beyond the tough persona, he was a kind and hilarious man. He left an impact on me that would last forever. I was one of his last students and his last year teaching (2021-2022) He taught life lessons, and he had always mentioned that he had little time left and he was going to spend it wisely. In the end, he did exactly that. On the last day of school, I wanted to go to Mr. Klapach and apologize and perhaps give him a hug when I had forgotten and just went home. I always assumed that I would see him next year to my dismay, that last class period was the last interaction I would ever have with him. I miss him a lot and I hope he is enjoying heaven, looking God in the eyes as he said he would. I miss you Mr Klapach, I hope you remember me. :]

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Yerin Cha - November 25, 2022 at 07:17 PM

KL

“ I was a student of Mr. Klapach back in 2017. He believed in my potential when no other teacher had and showed me a warmth I have never known. He was austere but gentle and I had the privilege of knowing him. His wisdom was an inspiration to everyone and it is the reason I have worked so hard throughout high school. I have learned perseverance and the beauty of learning amongst many other values I will forever cherish. I am a senior now who is applying to college and throughout the process, I am constantly reminded of the legacy he left behind. His support meant and will continue to mean everything to me and I still visit his classroom whenever I have the chance to. My deepest condolences to his family during this difficult time.

*"The thing to remember is to always remain confident even when you face failure. Never lose sight of the fact that all perceived failures have the seeds of future success in them. It is when we become discouraged that we are defeated. Never become discouraged and never give up."*

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**Katherine Lee** - October 12, 2022 at 11:31 PM

MJ

“ I've had the pleasure of knowing Steve over the last 7 years as his bank teller. He was always such a kind, pleasant father-like figure. I would save dollar coins for him for years, as he had a unique, cool way of saving. A few years back, my father had a heart attack and he had noticed my absence from work. When I saw Steve, he was so sweet and wished the best for my family. He would ask me every-time how my father was doing for years to come. It made a huge impact on me, as he was a very empathetic, kind person. I am so saddened by this news, and will happily continue to save dollar coins for his daughter in his honor. My deepest condolences to his family, may he rest in sweet peace.

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**Miranda Jones** - September 20, 2022 at 04:58 PM

DD

“ I taught with Steve for many years at the Fort Lee Middle School and always admired his commitment and passion. Our loss is truly great. Dan Distefano

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**Dan Distefano** - September 15, 2022 at 08:00 AM

CG

“ In the 4 years I have been back in Fort Lee, I loved being in the classroom or lunchroom with Steve. I would always ask him how his family was doing and when is he retiring. He would say never! He was one of a kind and will be sorely missed by all of us.  
Caryn Gilbert

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**Caryn B Gilbert** - September 06, 2022 at 05:51 PM

DO

“ Steve was a colleague of mine for many years and I enjoyed his strength, humor and indomitable spirit. I hope you know how much he loved and respected his family, he couldn't talk enough about all of you.  
RIP Steve, I know you will be missed at LFCMS.  
Debbie Oppenheimer

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**Debbie Oppenheimer** - September 05, 2022 at 08:18 PM

BC

“ Stephen was a wonderful colleague & true friend to me during the few years I spent as a Social Studies teacher at the Lewis F. Cole Middle School. A man of tremendous character and a strong sense of value his memory will always be a blessing to me. Rest in peace dear friend!

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**Bruna Capalbo** - September 04, 2022 at 10:31 AM

TK

“ *Mr Klapach made a lasting impression on my son and myself. He had old school values and was a very talented teacher. We are very saddened by his passing and will always keep his funny memories close.*

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**Tanya Byers Kang** - September 02, 2022 at 11:31 PM

KC

“ *Mr. Klapach was an amazing educator and coach. He was incredibly patient and really made a difference in my life. Twenty years later, I still tell stories about the time I broke the handle off his car door (I had to get something for soccer practice, and if you remember his car back then, I didn't break it!!!) Or that he was the teacher we would go to with our stupid 13 year old questions. He was a true asset to the fort lee community and will be greatly missed* ❤️

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**Kim C.** - August 31, 2022 at 09:44 PM