



Alfred Hiram Snap

August 19, 1922 - May 5, 2022

Alfred Hiram Snap, age 99, of Asheville, died on May 5, 2022.

Born in Forreston, Illinois in 1922, he was the son of Albert Snap and Ora Snap. Al grew up in Freeport, Illinois, and graduated from Freeport High School in 1940.

Al was very musically inclined and enjoyed playing trumpet in the high school band. During Alfred's junior year in high school, he began playing trumpet in the 129th Infantry Band of the 33rd Division Illinois National Guard. In March of 1941, he was called to active duty. In August of 1942, the 129th Infantry and the band found themselves headed for the South Pacific area of combat. He was in a variety of combat situations including the beachhead on the island of Bougainville in the fall of 1944.

After coming home from the war in 1945, Alfred entered the University of Illinois at Champaign, Illinois, and majored in the field of English. He continued his interest in music and played in the University Marching Band and also played in dance bands in the area. Alfred met his wife Norma Tanner, also an English major, in one of their classes together. They became engaged and then were married in 1950.

Al received a Bachelor of Arts degree in The Teaching of High School English in 1949 and a Master of Arts degree in Education Administration from the University of Illinois in 1950.

In August of 1950, Alfred and Norma moved to suburban Chicago where he taught classes in English until 1965 at Arlington High School. At that time in 1965, he was chosen to become the Director of Reading and the Coordinator of English for the several district high schools. He did this until he retired in 1980.

In 1980, Al and Norma moved to Asheville, North Carolina where he became an adjunct member of the Asheville Buncombe Technical College, teaching courses in the English department, and establishing individual counseling in study skills improvement. Alfred did this teaching method for ten years from 1980 to 1990 and then he retired from the teaching field.

During Alfred's years in Asheville, he was active in the Central United Methodist Church where he had served on committees such as the Administrative Council and Finance Committee, in addition to many committees in the Sunday school class.

Surviving is his son, Stephen Snap. Also surviving are numerous nieces and nephews. His wife, two brothers, and three sisters preceded him in death.

No services or memorial events are planned at this time.

Tribute Wall



“ Alfred Hiram Snap

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ I started teaching reading at Buffalo Grove High School in 1975. Al Snap was my mentor who encouraged me to do whatever is needed to meet students' needs. He would invite me over to the central office to share books, kits, audios, and speed reading accelerators. The kids loved all of it. I am happy he had a long life and he should know that he earned extra credit for heaven by the way he was and his generous nature. RIP Bobb Darnell

Bobb Darnell - August 02, 2022 at 12:05 PM



“ In the mid 70's I was a young English teacher at Buffalo Grove High School. I remember Al Snap attending our department meetings where he represented the District Office. Later I taught an evening Advanced Placement English class for students from schools in the district that did not offer the class during the day. Mr Snap was of great assistance making sure I had the books, materials, and District support necessary to teach the class. I recall his gentle words of encouragement and his visits to the class. He was always gracious and kind.
Darlene Larson

Darlene Larson - July 31, 2022 at 07:59 PM

JP

“ I met Al Snap in 1966 when I applied for a position of reading teacher at Elk Grove High School. Al was the English and Reading coordinator for District 214. I had to interview with several administrators before I was offered a contract in 214. Happily, I made it through all the interviews and started work at EGHS in the fall of 1966 at a salary of \$5760.00 a year, highest paid school district in the State of Illinois at the time. It was a lot of money for a guy with no experience beyond student teaching and a couple semesters of Sunday school. I had taken one course in reading, and read two books on the subject. In retrospect, Al became my mentor from the very day we met. Connecting with this man was one of the luckiest coincidences of my life.

When I unlocked my classroom, I found that it had been completely fitted out with all of the materials I would need to get right down to business. I had graded readers and work books, vocabulary and comprehension programs, SRA Kits, a classroom library with at least one copy of every young adult novel known to the profession, and most important, a complete set of Al's personal lesson plans. And I had Al on my side. Once a week or so, he would stop in and we would sit together in my classroom and discuss teaching methods and material. There was no way I could fail.

On parent/teacher nights, Al would invite me to his home for an early dinner, prepared by Norma. By the time I had to face my first room full of parents, I was somehow at ease and ready make a good impression, thanks to Al and Norma.

Al Snap was one of our “Greatest Generation”, a WWII vet whose mission in life was to make a better world for everyone. The basic values he instilled in me during those early years have stayed with me all my life. I know that I am a better man because to his careful guidance. I shall always fondly remember my friendship with Al Snap.

Joseph Prendergast - July 29, 2022 at 03:28 PM

RR

“ My son, Dave Rees, was in the Methodist scout troop with you, Steve, although younger. Class of '78, PHS. I can remember your dad really pushing Dave to get his music or musician merit badge although there wasn't any such talent in Dave...or his dad, Bob. Your dad assured Dave that his voice was an instrument.....good thought, but definitely not so! Nevertheless, Dave and Bob had some great scouting experiences up in L'Ance. Bob never forgot the night he and Arvid Alvin were awakened by a bear nosing around the campground. And, of course, the DIRT attached to cars, clothes, etc. had to be seen to be believed. Bob came to #214 in 1959, so knew your dad way back when. He always liked Al and knew that the teachers who were here in those earlier years were who and what set #214 on the clear path toward excellence. The NW suburbs owe much to your dad and many others. I'll pass this on to Dave, who has lived in Hong Kong for over 30 years. And yes, he has a box of his old scout uniform, merit badge sash, etc. there! A mom cannot be expected to keep such things forever! Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your dad, 99 years: WOW!
Ruth Rees

Ruth Rees - July 29, 2022 at 01:36 PM

SS

“ When I became one of the very fortunate new educators in District 214 in 1964, I had the privilege of getting to know Al Snap. He was one of several curriculum leaders at the district level. Al was a an enthusiastic leader for his discipline and was supportive of new ideas from staff in diversifying programs in speech, reading, writing as well. as social psychological and historical developments in literature. He lead the m development the modern English curriculum the district has today. Many of us enjoyed working with with Al. I knew him for 16 years and I'm happy that he had such a long life and retirement.

Stephen D. Berry (Retired 214 Supt.) - July 28, 2022 at 05:55 PM

BK

“ Mr. and Mrs. Snap were our next door neighbors on Crabapple Lane. Mr. Snap was a fount of knowledge on many different subjects. Mrs. Snap was always very elegant in her demeanor and appearance. So glad Al and Norma are together again❤️

Bonnie and Rick King - May 19, 2022 at 12:48 PM

PP

“ We are close friends with Al Snap's son Steve. We met Al and Norma in the early 1980's when they moved to Asheville NC. We always made it a point to visit both Al and Norma when we made it to Asheville to visit Steve. Al was a personal down-to-earth guy that had an noticeable zest for life that made our visits with him such a treat. His stories of his past experiences and his view of current events were always interesting and worth listening to. He had a contagious positive attitude that was always so uplifting that it always made us feel good about life whenever we paid him a visit. He was a one-of-a-kind person that one runs across in life who sticks out in your memories due to the impressions he left people that crossed his path in life. We feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity in life to have met him and he leaves us with memories we will carry through our life.
Our condolences go out to both Steve and Al's family.
Pat and Tina Puntoni

Pat and Tina Puntoni - May 08, 2022 at 09:06 PM