



Donald Bretsch

May 21, 1937 - August 26, 2023

Donald O. Bretsch, age 86, of Centralia, IL passed away Saturday, August 26, 2023 at St. Mary's Hospital in Centralia, IL.

He was born May 21, 1937 in Belleville, IL, the son of Oscar and Beulah Bretsch. He married Phyllis McGill on August 21, 1960 in Mt. Vernon and she survives him in Centralia. They were married 63 years.

Besides his wife, he is survived by three sons: Jeffrey (Jackie) of St. Charles, MO, Gregory (Joy) of Loveland, CO and Bradley Bretsch (significant other: Melissa Aviles) of Alma, IL. Grandchildren are: Kyle Bretsch of Springfield, MO, Jenae Mason (Spencer) of Town and Country, MO, Rheagan, Logan, and Landon Bretsch of Loveland, CO, Travis Bretsch of Earlville, IL and Tyler Bretsch stationed at Oak Harbor, WA. Two great-grandchildren: Mary Claire and Theodore Mason.

Mr. Bretsch was raised in Mascoutah, IL where he attended grade school and high school. He enjoyed a long career as a teacher and principal, spending 43 years in education. He obtained his Bachelor's Degree from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, a Master's Degree from Illinois State and a Specialist Degree from Eastern Illinois University.

He began his career as an Industrial Arts teacher at Webber Township High School in Bluford. He moved on to teach at Feitshans High School in Springfield, IL. From there he began his career in school administration. He began as an assistant principal of Edison Jr. High in Springfield and then moved to assistant principal of Springfield Southeast High School. Mr. Bretsch

then went on to serve as principal at Charleston and Carlyle High Schools and finished his career at Centralia Jr. High. He often expressed how blessed he was to have such a long, enjoyable and rewarding career.

Early in his career he served on a number of school evaluations for the North Central Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges. He also served on the Illinois High School Athletic Association Baseball Committee and was a charter member of the Illinois Principal's Association. He was an affiliate staff member of the University of Illinois Student Teaching Program. Don was a member of the Phi Delta Kappa.

Mr. Bretsch was always active in his community. He was a Rotarian for over fifty years and a Paul Harris Fellow. In 2019 he received his 50 year Master Mason Membership pin . He served 20 years on the Centralia Salvation Army Board and 12 years on the Centralia Cultural Society Board. He served 10 years as a volunteer fireman with Carlyle Fire Protection District. Mr. Bretsch was a faithful member of the Calumet Street Christian Church and served terms as both Deacon and Elder.

Don loved the outdoors. His hobbies were hunting, fishing, gardening, and travel. He and Phyllis visited all 50 states and 20 foreign countries.

Don loved his wife, family and the Lord Jesus. He especially loved hunting and fishing with his sons and grandsons.

A funeral service will be held at Calumet Street Christian Church on Friday, September 1, 2023 at 11:00 am with Pastors John Willis and Anthony Sweeney officiating. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Park. Visitation will be held Thursday, August 31, 2023 from 5:00 pm till 7:00 pm and Friday, September 1, 2023 from 10:00 am till 11:00 am. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Calumet Street Christian Church or Shriner's Children Hospital and will be accepted at Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home at 235 North Sycamore Street in Centralia, Illinois 62801 (618) 532-3523, who is honored to be of service to the Bretsch family. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com or the Funeral Home's Facebook page.

Cemetery Details

Hillcrest Memorial Park

2500 Old Highway 51 North
Sandoval, IL 62882

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 31. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Calumet Street Christian Church
2240 E Calumet St
Centralia, IL 62801-6512
(618) 533-4421

Visitation

SEP 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Calumet Street Christian Church
2240 E Calumet St
Centralia, IL 62801-6512
(618) 533-4421

Funeral Service

SEP 1. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

Calumet Street Christian Church in Centralia

Tribute Wall



“ *Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Donald Bretsch*



Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services - August 30, 2023 at 05:49 PM

Judy Ellis

“ *Dear dear Phyllis and family. Just learning of Don's passing, Tom and I share your grief and loss. Although many miles apart, we have always been close in heart. Phyllis and I have known each other since '52 in Casey Jr. High. Where have the years gone? Too few and too fast. Sharing many memories at Don and Phyllis' home, school reunions, 50th anniversary and dinners out. Don's life was very blessed with great love and sharing his life with family, especially the children and grand children. Don's generous spirit led to helping many in any capacity. This tribute video brought me tears, turned to laughter to moments of "OH MY". Don's life was well lived. Our love to all. Judith Bailey Ellis and Loren(Tom) Ellis*

Judy Ellis - September 24, 2023 at 05:25 PM

SL

“ *My favorite principle ever. I was a very disrespectful child, but never to him. I am sorry for your loss. You are all in my thoughts and prayers ❤️.*

Sara J Light - September 04, 2023 at 09:09 AM

CW

“ Christine W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Bretsch.

Christine W. - September 03, 2023 at 06:00 PM

CH

“ My sincere condolences to Don's family. May God grant you peace and strength in the days ahead.

Carla Holtz - August 31, 2023 at 11:42 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donald Bretsch.



August 31, 2023 at 01:36 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donald Bretsch.



August 31, 2023 at 10:51 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Bretsch.



August 31, 2023 at 06:58 AM

LR

“ *Sorry for your loss*

Linqueal (mookie) rounds - August 29, 2023 at 06:16 PM

SG

“ *Sorry to hear of his passing! Please accept my sincere regrets.*

Sarah Gainer - August 29, 2023 at 01:33 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald Bretsch.*



August 29, 2023 at 08:14 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald Bretsch.*



August 29, 2023 at 01:20 AM

VM

“ *Victoria Migliore lit a candle in memory of Donald Bretsch*



victoria migliore - August 28, 2023 at 09:51 PM

TT

“ We’re so sorry to hear of Mr. Bretsch’s death. He was always a wonderful principal, well respected and fair. He loved Colorado and helped us plan our honeymoon trip to Ouray. My dad, Don Taylor considered him a good friend and respected fellow educator. Our sympathies...

Tracy and Shelia (Schmitt) Taylor

Tracy Taylor - August 28, 2023 at 08:39 PM

LW

“ I had several pizzas with him at the junior high I was on level one and every six weeks I got a pizza with him he was the best principal ever I will miss him

Laura weisel - August 28, 2023 at 05:39 PM

BM

“ Brandon M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Bretsch.

Brandon M. - August 28, 2023 at 05:37 PM

DB

“ Don and Bunny purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Donald Bretsch.



Don and Bunny - August 28, 2023 at 03:17 PM

DB

“ Don and Bunny planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Bretsch.

Don and Bunny - August 28, 2023 at 03:17 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald Bretsch.



August 28, 2023 at 02:58 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donald Bretsch.

August 28, 2023 at 02:05 PM

MM

“ Sending love to the entire family and wishing peace for you all. He will be fondly remembered by all of us who attended CJHS.

Missy Meador - August 28, 2023 at 02:04 PM

MK

“ My sincere condolences to the family. I have great memories of him as an educator & his family as being kind too. May your memories & photos bring you joy.



Mary Jo Kauling - August 28, 2023 at 01:16 PM

LA

“ Laycee sent a virtual gift in memory of Donald Bretsch



Laycee - August 28, 2023 at 12:20 PM

LA

“ My name is LayCee. I remember when he was my principal at the Centralia junior high school I was in 7th grade . He's going to be greatly missed but also greatly remembered in my ❤️

Laycee - August 28, 2023 at 12:18 PM