



John David Tanis

February 21, 1951 - July 7, 2017

John David Tanis of Rensselaer, Indiana passed away Friday, July 7, 2017 in Lafayette, IN. John was born in Hammond, Indiana on February 21, 1951, the son of Glenn Robert and Beulah (Willette) Tanis.

John received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Concordia College in Moorehead, MN. John was a music teacher for the Lincolnwood Elementary School in Evanston, IL for many years.

John was the music director and organist for the Epiphany Lutheran Church in Elmhurst, IL

Surviving is his mother Beulah Tanis of Rensselaer; partner, Douglas Powell of Rensselaer; brothers and sisters, Lynn (Rich) Zegers of AZ, Paul Tanis of AZ, Karen Klein of Hammond, Elsie (Cliff) Selby of Rensselaer, Bob (Deb) Tanis of Rensselaer, Julie (Robin) Hernaez of CA and Sherry Bult of IL; and several nieces, nephews, and great nieces and great nephews.

A Celebration of his life will be planned at a later date.

Memorial donations may be given to Epiphany Lutheran Church, 314 W Vallette St, Elmhurst, IL 60126 to enhance their music ministry.

Tribute Wall

LL

“ I just came across this page now; unfortunate to see such an awesome life fade away.
I was in Mr. Tanis’s Choir for a good... 3 or 4 years, I’d say. Still remember the little pizza breaks he gave us, there had to be at least 60 kids fed every session. He’d come out with a cart with the homemade pizza and our little sippy cups, and it was just.. such a great time.
I wanted to show my thanks; because of joining his children’s choir, singing has become my passion. I doubt I’d be participating in ILMEA if it weren’t for Mr. Tanis.

Libby Liebman - October 05, 2017 at 02:03 AM

RT

“ It’s amazing to think that nearly half a century has passed since John’s creation of the “Summertime Singers”. The enthusiasm and energy he had as a teenager was no doubt a hallmark of his lifetime dedication to music and education. It was a great time in many of our lives.

Rick Teichler - July 13, 2017 at 10:15 AM

MT

“ John Tanis was the choir director at Lincolnwood School where my two grandsons attended. He worked so hard to lift the voices and the music for his students and all who attended his Holiday and Spring concerts. He set standards and expected the best from his music students and his concerts were wonderful. Teaching music is challenging in elementary schools and striving for excellence even more so. Mr. Tanis was a star at Lincolnwood and now his musical soul shines in heaven.

margo morris tamkin - July 13, 2017 at 08:46 AM

NM

“ John was kind and talented and fun. The world was a better place for him having lived in it. He probably is already organizing an angel choir. My condolences to his family.
- From Nancy Stasack Matchett

Nancy Matchett - July 12, 2017 at 09:25 PM

RF

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Ronald Feltman - July 10, 2017 at 09:15 AM

LN

“ John was loved at Epiphany Lutheran more than words can say, and his heart was huge, full of compassion, and especially towards my handicapped parents. There was one time after my Dad passed, John sneaked up on my Mom during the service and gave her a big stuffed animal. I am sorry for the loss of this kind Angel who is now in heaven

Laurie Nielsen - July 09, 2017 at 12:48 PM

EC

“ Elsie, sorry to hear of your brother's passing. You have our sympathy.
Eunice and Carl

Eunice and Carl - July 07, 2017 at 09:24 PM