



William Wallace "Wally" Grimm

March 7, 1942 - January 10, 2025

William Wallace (Wally) Grimm, 82, of Wapakoneta, formerly of Van Wert, went to be with his Lord on Friday, January 10, 2025, at his home. Wally was born in Mason, West Virginia on March 7, 1942. He was preceded in death by parents Rev. Harry Joseph Grimm and Maxine Elias Grimm, as well as a sister, Claudia Jo McDaniel. He married Donna L. Ebner on August 5, 1967, who survives him and lives in Wapakoneta, Ohio. He is the father of 4 children: Claudia (Matt) Crawford of Ada, Ohio, T.J. (Suzanne) Grimm of North Royalton, Ohio, Shelly (Bob) Barrett of Wapakoneta, Ohio and Rusty (Vicki) Grimm of St. Marys, Ohio and the grandfather of 9 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Wally was a graduate of Tiffin Columbian High School, Heidelberg College, and received his Master's degree from Bowling Green State University. He was an English teacher at York High School, Bellevue High School, Bowling Green High School, and Lakota High School. Wally loved the arts and music and directed many high school musicals and show choirs. He was also an actor and musician and held the starring roles in musicals such as Fiddler on the Roof, The Music Man, Oliver, The Sound of Music and many others in local theatres. Wally was a 32 degree Mason, and member of the Van Wert Service Club. He also coached basketball and golf. He then became the principal of Van Wert High School for 26 years where he spent years serving on the The Ohio High School Athletic Association Northwest District Board of Control. After retirement he worked at the Willow Bend County Club and

coached the Van Wert High School golf team.

Wally was a dedicated Christian who was a lay speaker in his church and a speaker for the Gideon Organization. He was a member of the Wapakoneta First Methodist Church. He was a member of the choir and was a frequent soloist. He will be remembered for his sense of humor and the jokes he always played on people.

Preferred memorials are to the Wally Grimm Scholarship Fund at the Van Wert County Foundation located at 138 East Main Street, Van Wert, Ohio 45895

Funeral Services will be held at 12 pm on Saturday, January 18, 2025, at the Wapakoneta First Methodist Church at 504 Glynwood Road, Wapakoneta, Ohio. Visitation will be from 10am-12pm, Saturday, prior to the service. Burial is to follow in the Greenlawn Cemetery, Wapakoneta. Arrangements are under the direction of the Eley Funeral Home & Crematory, Wapakoneta, where condolences may be expressed at www.eleyfuneralhomeandcrematory.com.

Cemetery Details

Greenlawn Cemetery

Presar Road
Wapakoneta, OH

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 18. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Wapak First Church
504 Glynwood Road
Wapakoneta
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Service

JAN 18. 12:00 PM (ET)

Wapakoneta First Methodist Church
504 Glynwood Road
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Tribute Wall

JS

“ *My deepest condolences to the family , hugs and prayers are with you !!*

Julie Stutz - January 20, 2025 at 09:31 PM

CG

“ *Being a graduate of the Van Wert High School Class of 1999, I was blessed with the opportunity to have Mr. Grimm as principal for 1 and a half years before his well deserved retirement. It was always a joy to see him in the halls, interacting with the student body. He was truly a "Go-getter" and not someone who stood on the side and let the day pass by. His presence and his example in my life, and many others' lives, will always live on!*

Christopher G. Golliver - January 18, 2025 at 12:05 AM

KH

“ *Kris H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Wallace "Wally" Grimm.*

Kris H. - January 17, 2025 at 11:47 AM

KH

“ *What an accomplished individual! We knew him as Principal Grimm and the father of our classmate T.J. at VWHS, but it is evident, after reading the brief biography in the newspaper, that Mr. Grimm certainly lived his life fully. The truest testament to this is the legacy he leaves behind in the wonderful woman he married and the remarkable children they reared together. Rest in peace, brother Grimm!*

- Kris Herminghuysen, Dublin, OH

Kris Herminghuysen - January 17, 2025 at 11:42 AM

CF

“ *I have so many wonderful memories of Mr. Grimm. From growing up in the same neighborhood where he and his family lived, performing beside him in musicals at The Van Wert Civic Theatre to his leadership (as our Principal) at The Van Wert High School, to most recently seeing him and Donna about 2 1/2 years ago. His big smile, joyful demeanor and zest for life were contagious. He touched so many lives including mine and my siblings. My thoughts and prayers go out to the entire family. Sincerely, Camille Frysinger*

Camille Frysinger - January 13, 2025 at 12:04 PM

TT

“ *I'm so sorry to hear about the passing of Principal Grimm. While it's been 32 years since graduation, I still have fond memories of him. My condolences to the family.*

Tracy (Mendenhall) Tempio - January 13, 2025 at 11:35 AM

TS

“ Trina S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Wallace "Wally" Grimm.

Trina S. - January 13, 2025 at 10:55 AM

JJ

“ My dear friend Wally!! We had so many great times on stage together! The laughs after were always the best! Rest in Peace!! My love to Donna and the family!---Jane Post Jones

Jane Post Jones - January 12, 2025 at 10:11 PM

DH

Sorry to hear of Wally passing! Will always remember your family and our kids growing up with your kids. God's blessings on all of you. Don and Diane Haller

Don and Diane Haller - January 13, 2025 at 05:11 AM

TS

There are too many fun times to list them all. Wally was an extraordinary person and had so many gifts in his repertoire. He will be missed; however, heaven has a good one with a voice to celebrate for all there. Sending love to Donna and all the family. Peace and prayer as you move forward in your bereavement process. Trina Shultz

Trina Shultz - January 13, 2025 at 10:46 AM

RH

In my 31 year teaching career, because I was a circuit teacher for the final 12 years, I worked for at least 11 Principals and "W. W." ranks right up there at the top of the list. I will always cherish the times of laughter, discipline, support, and friendship that we shared. Heaven got a good one this time!

Rita "Reets" Hurless - January 14, 2025 at 12:37 AM

KF

I am so sorry to hear of Wally's passing. Donna & Wally were our back door neighbors for several years in Van Wert. I send love to Donna and their family. Kathleen Clark Fetherolf

Kathleen Fetherolf - September 01, 2025 at 10:34 PM