



Preston Michael "Mike" Jones

January 9, 1945 - October 15, 2023

IN MEMORY OF:

Preston Michael "Mike" Jones

Serving Location:

CRAIN PLEASANT GROVE-MURDALE FUNERAL HOME

31 Memorial Drive (Old Route 13), Murphysboro, Illinois

Preston Michael Jones, 78, of Murphysboro, Illinois passed away peacefully on Sunday, October 15, 2023 after a short battle with cancer.

Mike was born to Preston F. and Henrietta V. Jones in Murphysboro on January 9, 1945, and resided in his beloved hometown all his life.

He graduated from Murphysboro Township High School in 1963 and from Southern Illinois University in 1967 with a B.S. degree in History Education.

In 1968 he married Sharon Ward, and they shared 55 wonderful years of marriage.

In 1968 he began teaching sixth grade for Murphysboro Unit District 186 and remained in that position for 33 years. He influenced hundreds of students and instilled in them a love of history. He really enjoyed this age group

because in a way, he was big 12 year-old kid.

Due to Mike's deep love and knowledge of history, over the years he became known as the "go-to-guy" in Murphysboro for any question one might need answered about local history. He became immersed in the history of General John A. Logan, and with the help of many good friends Mike founded the General John A. Logan Museum in 1989. Due to his hard work and diligence the museum continues to expand and is becoming an exemplary regional Civil War museum.

His greatest achievements and love came with the birth of his two daughters, Robin and Holly. They have been a source of great pride. This love was magnified with the birth of his 3 grandchildren, Preston, Fiona, and Samuel whom he doted on.

Mike was involved in and supported many civic organizations. He served on the Murphysboro Planning and Zoning board, the Murphysboro Park District board for over 20 years, Historic Preservation board, the Chamber of Commerce board, and the Murphysboro Tourism Commission.

He was a life-long member of the United Methodist Church and served as the church historian. He was a man of faith and tried every day to follow the 3 tenets of Methodism: Do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God.

Mike received numerous awards throughout his life. To name a few: the Lifetime Achievement award from the Illinois State Historical Society, Studs Terkel Humanities award for the Illinois Humanities Council, the Delta Award from the Friends of Morris Library, The Founders Medal from the DAR, Outstanding History Teacher in Southern Illinois from the SIUC History Department, the Distinguished Achievement Award from Epsilon Sigma Alpha International, Historian of the Year from the Jackson County Historical Society,

the Southern Illinoisan Leaders Among Us Award, and served as Grand Marshall of the Apple Festival Parade.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister Jamie.

He is survived by his wife Sharon, daughters Robin Sievert (Todd) of St. Louis and Holly Fletcher (Chad) of Herrin; 3 grandchildren Preston and Fiona of Herrin and Samuel of St. Louis. He also leaves behind his best friend of 61 years Richard Green of Murphysboro.

Visitation will be Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home. The visitation will resume Friday, at Murphysboro United Methodist Church at 9:00 a.m. until the service begins at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Michelle Parker-Clark will be officiating.

Burial will follow at Murphysboro City Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family has designated memorial donations may be given to the Murphysboro United Methodist Church and the General John A. Logan Museum.

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **19**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home - Old 13
31 Memorial Dr.
Murphysboro, IL 62966
(618) 687-2500
crain@crainsonline.com

Visitation

OCT **20**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

United Methodist Church
1500 Pine St
Murphysboro, IL 62966
(618) 687-2317

Funeral Service

OCT **20**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

United Methodist Church
1500 Pine St
Murphysboro, IL 62966
(618) 687-2317

Tribute Wall

TS

“ Mike became my friend during my research for a novel about John A. Logan. His generosity, enthusiasm and warmth made him feel as if he had been my lifelong friend. I will miss him very much. With heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and community.

Tim Strongin - November 06, 2023 at 04:14 PM



“ Preston Michael "Mike" Jones

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM

LJ

Sharon and girls, I was so sorry to hear about Mike. He was such a wonderful person and did so much with the museum and city of Murphysboro along with being a fantastic teacher. I am so sorry I could not be at the visitation or funeral. Thoughts and prayers with you. Linda Johnson

Linda L. Johnson - October 23, 2023 at 02:03 PM

EB

“ It was my Great honor to know him & Sharon, it is with a heavy heart that we won't get to talk and or write anymore. The love of history, family, Murphysboro history, oh and a good laugh, was this rock of kindness. No matter what it was it was always a big smile. You just can't say enough about Him.

E. Kevin Baker

E. Kevin Baker - October 20, 2023 at 02:39 PM

JB

“ Mr Jones was a ‘one of a kind’. He started as my 6th grade home room teacher, but became my mentor and later my friend through the years of school, history fair, Logan days and later the Logan Ball. I am just heartbroken for his loss. Murphysboro won’t ever be the same without his servant heart. He brought the love of history to several generations and I know the movement he started will continue on for many more.

Jessie Belobraydic - October 19, 2023 at 11:24 AM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Preston Michael "Mike" Jones.



October 19, 2023 at 11:19 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Preston Michael "Mike" Jones.



October 19, 2023 at 11:06 AM

DW

“ Donald and LaLeeta Wilson purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Preston Michael "Mike" Jones.



Donald and LaLeeta Wilson - October 18, 2023 at 11:02 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Preston Michael "Mike" Jones.*



October 18, 2023 at 05:43 PM



“ *Elmer and I send condolences on Mike's passing. Mike gave me a love of history that continues today, and Elmer has great memories of working for your parents. May God bless you and give you peace during this difficult time. Sincerely, Elmer and Sandy (Pope) McRoy*

Sandy McRoy - October 18, 2023 at 01:20 PM



“ *Mr Jones was our daughter's teacher many years ago and we lived on Elm Street for over 30 years just down the block from "the Jones home." He was a delightful person and we so enjoyed talking to him every year at the Apple Festival. Condolences to his family.*

Larry and Brenda Morse - October 18, 2023 at 12:39 PM



“ *On behalf of the Department of Illinois, Son's of Union Veterans of the Civil War I send condolences to Mike's family. We all will miss him.
(Gary Gunderson Commander ILL. SUVCW)*



Gary G. Gunderson - October 18, 2023 at 10:25 AM

JW

“ Unfortunately, due to a work obligation, I will be unable to attend Mr. Jones' service on Thursday. My condolences go out to the entire family, particularly Sharon. Mike Jones had a tremendous impact on my life. He definitely taught me a lot and instilled many values that I carry with me now as a 60 year old!

He was a great man who Murphysboro will never forget thanks to the legacy he left behind. God bless all of his family as you mourn his passing but I know the memories will sustain you through this difficult time.

Jane Williams - October 18, 2023 at 09:20 AM

VC

Sending condolences to the Jones family, close friends and Murphysboro. Mr. Jones was had a love and respect for learning and teaching, his legacy will continue in the minds and hearts of his family, students, and community.

Verita Cobb - October 18, 2023 at 11:34 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Preston Michael "Mike" Jones.*



October 18, 2023 at 07:43 AM

MM

“ Mr. Jones was my sixth grade teacher back in 1983. He was by far my favorite teacher, and later as I grew up a good friend. He taught me the love of history thru his passion of history and humor. As a teen my mom would go to the Jones Card Shop and I would go with her just on the chance I might see him and talk history. He will be forever missed from this world. I am sending truly heartfelt condolences to his family friends and all that had the chance to meet him. My life is brighter having known him.

Mary Beth Marks - October 18, 2023 at 07:25 AM

TF

“ The NextGen RCM Family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Preston Michael "Mike" Jones.



The NextGen RCM Family - October 17, 2023 at 07:09 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Preston Michael "Mike" Jones.



October 17, 2023 at 04:27 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Preston Michael "Mike" Jones.

October 17, 2023 at 04:27 PM