



Walter J. Hertik

October 27, 2023

Our family has been rocked to its core with the loss of the love of our lives.

Walter J. Hertik, 81, of Mayfield NY went to be with his Father in Heaven on October 27, 2023, at Ellis Hospital with his loving family by his side. He was the son of the late Walter O. and Julia V. (Smrtic) Hertik.

He graduated from Johnstown High School in 1960 and SUNY Oswego in 1964. He began his outstanding teaching career at Mayfield Central School where he taught Driver's Ed, Industrial Arts and Technology. He retired in 1997 after 33 remarkable years. He loved all the students he had, was a "father" to many and has remained dear friends with so many of them. He enjoyed the faculty as well and made some cherished life-long friends. He was loved right back and was dedicated to the Wall of Fame at the school. He was very proud of his accomplishments there. He recently spoke of how proud he was that he and his class were involved in the design of the garage that stands over by the tennis courts.

Walt (being Walt) just couldn't "retire" so he began working at European Auto working on cars. He had such a passion for it and truly enjoyed his friendship with Nick, Dragon and the guys. He remained there for 19 years and then retired!

His whole heart went into his family and with that, he took us on many family

trips to Florida, especially Disney, Daytona and the Outer Banks. He also loved his visits to Turning Stone- he loved those slots- along with his daily visits to 'Louie's' (Fuel n Food) for his numbers, his special place at the table and talking with everyone there.

As soon as you met Walt, you were a friend. He would help anyone any time and would never expect or want anything in return. He poured his heart and soul into everything he did. He was a much-loved member of the community of Mayfield, and we know you are mourning with us.

Walt delighted in feeding the new duck family and looked forward to it every year. He was like the pied piper- they would follow him up to the feeder all in a row. Then he would cross momma duck and her babies across the street to the lake to safety. This went on for months!

He loved working on cars, helping the grandkids, building things for family, watching nascar races – especially when he was at Daytona – but most of all, just loving his family. There wasn't anything he couldn't do, and he perfected it all.

Walt was totally devoted to his family and so very proud of his grandchildren and great granddaughter. There was always a twinkle in his eye whenever he spoke of them. A greater man we'll never know and are missing him terribly. Our hearts are broken but his smile and his love will live on in our hearts forever.

Walt was predeceased by his parents, sister Jacqueline Wiltey, brother Wayne, sister Barbara Melita and daughter-in-law Candy Hertik. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Gloria (Paciolla). Sons, Walter, Jeffrey (Gayle), Gregory (Teresa) and daddy's little girl, "Connie Lyn" Brancato (Patrick Rubin). Eight grandchildren – Dr. Cassi Brancato (Andrew Miller),

Allison Brancato, Hannah & Luke, Justin & Ryan and Victoria & Brayden. Great-est granddaughter, apple of his eye, Ruby Lyn Butler. His Little Bro, Andy Paciolla, as well as many beloved nieces and nephews and his fur-babies Rylee, Misti & Stormi.

Thanks to everyone who was there for us and a special thanks to Connie Lyn, Jeffrey, Cindy & Allison Fratianni for all the help, love & support given to us during this difficult time.

Please join us for a memorial service for Walt to be held on Saturday, November 11th, 1pm at The Mayfield Central Presbyterian Church 22 N. Main St. Mayfield NY 12117. Arrangements through Amico Funeral Home Gloversville NY.

We are longing to hear the stories you have of him!

Please visit www.amicofuneralhome.com for details.

In Walt's memory, we ask that donations be made to Mountain Valley Hospice 108 Steele Avenue Gloversville NY 12078.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV 11. 1:00 PM (ET)

Mayfield Central Presbyterian Church
22 N. Main St.
Mayfield, NY 12117

Tribute Wall

RA

“ So sorry for your loss. Such a great man. One of a kind. It was nice to have the Hertiks as neighbors growing up on Priddle Point. Seemed like Mr Hertik was always building or fixing something for either himself or someone else with a smile on his face. In high school he helped me as I struggled with shop class and thought me to be a patient driver in drivers ed. I saw him about 5 years ago at house of pizza. It was nice to see him and talk for a few minutes.

Richard Ammerall - November 11, 2023 at 09:35 PM

JL

“ John LaRonca purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Walter J. Hertik.



John LaRonca - November 11, 2023 at 12:59 PM

GD

“ We share in your loss of such a wonderful teacher, a gentle man. I remember "Mr. Hertik" as one of the coolest teachers at Mayfield High (along with "Mr. Rich", of course ❤️). He let us go through the McDonalds drive thru while in drivers ed class 👍 We thought that was the bomb ❤️ . I know he was so very proud of his daughter, Connie, and her talented voice & acting ability in the Sound of Music, years ago(back in the good ole 1900's ❤️). My thoughts and prayers are with all his dear family & many friends at this sad time. Lovingly & sincerely, Gwen Collier-DeForte

Gwen M DeForte - November 11, 2023 at 10:33 AM

BB

*To Mr. Hertiks family, You a blessed live he had and you had with him. He was my driver Ed teacher as well. He never even flinched when I tipped a mailbox on one of our driving classes! I remember him as such a kind person. What wonderful memories you have of him. With thoughts, prayers and God's Grace will be with you at this time God bless,
Beth Collier-Brown*

Beth-Anne Brown - November 11, 2023 at 11:32 AM

BB

**What a blessed life he had*

Beth-Anne Brown - November 11, 2023 at 11:33 AM

DS

We are so sorry for your loss ,, when seeing him at Fuel N Food we had a chat about the casinos ,, god bless

Debbie Simonds - November 11, 2023 at 02:57 PM

SF

*So sorry hear of Walt's passing blessings to you and your family
Sharon Fiorello*

Sharon fiorello - November 17, 2023 at 12:11 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of
Walter J. Hertik.*



November 10, 2023 at 08:44 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Walter J. Hertik.*



November 10, 2023 at 08:28 AM



“ *Tim, Jessica, Cameron, Kendall & Rylan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Walter J. Hertik.*

Tim, Jessica, Cameron, Kendall & Rylan - November 10, 2023 at 08:28 AM



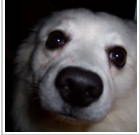
“ *Sending peace and love to his family and friends. He was a great teacher. Some of my fondest and funniest high school memories are from taking driver's ed over the summer with Mr. Hertik.*

Heather Shalhoub - November 09, 2023 at 10:21 AM



“ *Sorry for your loss. What was he gentle kind man. His smile was contagious. You always felt to peace around him. He will be greatly missed. When I drive by his house, mostly every day, he was outside, walking, his dog, gentle wave, and a quick smile you always knew Walt would make your day. My condolences to your family. Walt will be greatly missed.*

Linda Papa - November 09, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *Mr. Hertik was my shop and driver ed teacher. I had recently moved to Mayfield and was kind of a book worm so I didn't fit in well with the other students in his class. I wasn't very handy either which resulted in me earning my first non-'A' grade (a 'D' - crushing). Yet he was always supportive. When he assessed my sub-standard work, he had a way of making me feel better about myself. He seemed to know the right time to make you laugh. Now I am in my fifties, and I am proud to say that I am literally a handy man. Thank you for starting me out on the right foot, Mr. Hertik.*

David Noble - November 09, 2023 at 05:04 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Walter J. Hertik.*



November 08, 2023 at 07:11 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Walter J. Hertik.*



November 08, 2023 at 08:21 AM

WG

“ I was blessed to have worked with Walt during my time in the Mayfield Central School District. The students affectionately referred to Walt as McGiver because he could build anything, fix anything all with smile. He was pillar of the school for so many years and made MCS a special place for his students.

William Gokey - November 07, 2023 at 07:56 PM

JT

“ I bought your house on Priddle Pt in 1975 and remember how easy going Walt was and how easy the sale went. He also was an amazing auto mechanic and fixed my old Class C motor home which no body seemed to be able to do. We always saw him walking the dog along School St or Brower road and always had a smile and a wave. So sorry for your loss.

Joan Tootell - November 07, 2023 at 02:40 PM

MH

“ I will never forget taking driver's ed with Mr. Hertik and scaring him one time where he slammed his foot on his brake and looked at me with the funniest look - the brilliance of that moment is that he never once raised his voice or berated me, he actually made a joke of what had happened. He was a great guy! So sorry for your loss!- Michele

Michele Hill - November 07, 2023 at 01:25 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Walter J. Hertik.



November 07, 2023 at 08:32 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Walter J. Hertik.



November 06, 2023 at 04:41 PM

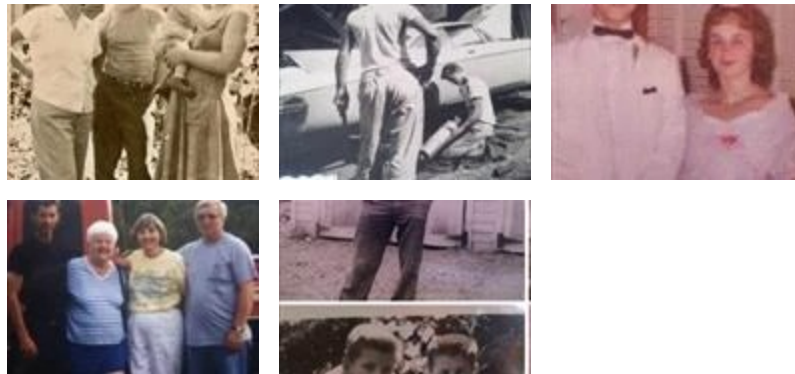


“ The Akey's planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Walter J. Hertik.

The Akey's - November 06, 2023 at 04:41 PM



“ Many special and heartfelt memories of my Uncle Walt. Love and hugs to my Aunt Gloria and my cousins💕🙏🙏



Pammie - November 05, 2023 at 10:50 PM



Thanks for the memories Pam💕💕

Gloria Hertik - November 06, 2023 at 08:13 PM

LB

“ Our heartfelt sympathies go out to Gloria, Connie, Wally, Jeff, Greg and the entire family as they mourn the loss of Walt. Walt was truly a remarkable man who leaves behind so many wonderful memories. He was a kind man who had a smile that would light up the room. He will be missed by so many because he touched our lives in countless ways. May his family find comfort in their memories of him.

Linda & Ted Bubniak - November 05, 2023 at 02:55 PM

GH



Gloria Hertik - November 06, 2023 at 08:07 PM

GH

Thank you so much Linda and Ted We appreciate your kind words and condolences ❤️

Gayle Hertik - November 07, 2023 at 08:01 PM

DZ

“ Walt Hertik was not only a fabulous teacher but an incredible man. He could fix your snowmobile in the morning, build a gun case by noon and paint your car later that night! He was the kind of guy that you wished you had for a dad. Walt was a great family man who raised 4 awesome kids and took great care of his wife Gloria. (Who is the other half of the dynamic duo). As I matured, I realized how much impact he had on my life as a man and a role model. I only wish that I had been able to share with him how much I loved him and respected him and his family.

Dave Zap - November 04, 2023 at 07:41 PM

GH

He loved you all Dave ❤️❤️

Gloria Hertik - November 06, 2023 at 08:10 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Walter J. Hertik.*



November 04, 2023 at 01:00 PM

TA

“ *Mr. Hertik was a gift. He was a truly kind and compassionate teacher and made you feel like you were important and made a difference. My favorite memory from drivers ed was when we were heading towards Ernst's farm and I slowed down. He was turned backwards talking to the other students and asked what i was doing. I said "there is a pig in the road" he said Miss Akey we do not refer to law enforcement as pigs. I asked him to look ahead and he started laughing and said "it is a pig". He told me "you got me kid" and we laughed all the way back to School. The world will be less brighter without hm. Much love to your Family.*

Tammy - November 02, 2023 at 09:49 PM

GH

Thank you Dave

Gloria Hertik - November 06, 2023 at 08:02 PM

JC

“Walt Hertik will be missed by everyone who knew him, that's for sure. He was truly a friend to all, and someone loved by his students. Walt made Mayfield a better place by what he did and all he was. One great guy. My sincere condolences to Gloria and the whole family. He will surely be missed.

Ernie Clapper

joan clapper - November 02, 2023 at 08:43 PM

MK

“Deepest sympathy to Walt's family. What a wonderful man and I only knew him from Gayle and family and European Auto. I'm so impressed with his background information noted in the obituary. Such a positive force in this world, we will miss him.

Matthew Kearney - November 02, 2023 at 01:57 PM

GH

Thank you so much! He was one of a kind and we will miss him dearly. We so appreciate your kind words and condolences ❤️

Gayle Hertik - November 02, 2023 at 07:45 PM

MJ

“I met Walt when I was a small child. Walt was working for Andy Anderson at Sacandaga Marina.

Walt was a very kind man who will be missed by all who knew him. He touched many lives, and made them better.

My sincere sympathy goes out to his family and friends. RIP my friend.



Marj Jones - November 01, 2023 at 07:52 PM

MJ

Andy's last name was Andrews

marj Jones - November 01, 2023 at 08:23 PM

MP

“ *Mardette Boffa & Family in Doylestown PA purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Walter J. Hertik.*



Mardette Boffa & Family in Doylestown PA - November 01, 2023 at 06:43 PM

SS

“ *Sending our sincere condolences to the Hertik family. Walt was a guy you could look up to and have great respect for. He was an inspiration to many students at Mayfield. RIP Walt.*

Steve and Jen Shwajlyk - November 01, 2023 at 06:02 PM

DI

“ *It was always Mr. Hertik to me. I took Driver's Ed with him, and he left me with the knowledge I needed to receive my license. He also left me with fond memories of the fun we would have...especially when he, myself and a classmate would take a car out! I'm so very sorry for the family's loss.*

Diane (Gifford) McGahan

Diane - November 01, 2023 at 04:38 PM

IF

“ Our deepest condolences to the family. What great man he was, he had touched so many people. Everyone who knew him loved him. Such a kind soul to everyone. He will be sadly missed by all.

Inkeri DeRobertis and family - November 01, 2023 at 12:08 PM

AP

“ I'm at a loss of words. An absolutely amazing person. So proud to call him my uncle. He was the best. Always positive, cheerful and his humor always made me smile & laugh. He will be missed is an understatement. God Bless you Uncle Walt. 🙏. My sincere condolences to my Aunt Gloria and my cousins. Love you all.

Andrew Paciolla - November 01, 2023 at 08:02 AM

GH

Love you Godson & Nephew

Gloria Hertik - November 06, 2023 at 08:03 PM

MM

“Melissa you need to slow down those telephone poles look like a picket fence. “ You helped me enjoy going to school as well as enriching my love for drawing by designing homes in architectural drawing. You were a wonderful teacher and a great man. Rest easy Mr Hertik. My condolences to his friends and family he will be missed.

Melissa Mehan - October 31, 2023 at 08:19 PM

KS

“ I recall visiting the Hertik family, Wally or Jeff...and Mr Hertik would greet me with a warm smile and tell me stories of his driver students. Such a great person to hang out with. Thank you Hertik family for the great memories.



Keith Salvione - October 31, 2023 at 05:58 PM

KW

“ Mr Hertick was one of the nicest people and a wonderful teacher. I was probably one of his most terrified (and terrifying 😊) drivers ed students but he was always so kind and encouraging and kept his sense of humor. A very sad loss, much love to all his family and friends ❤️

Kristin Vega Warner - October 31, 2023 at 04:14 PM

JH

“ So sorry for all of you. Walt, Mr. Hertik was a great teacher and his students truly loved him. He will be missed. Connie, Jeff, Walt Jr and Mrs Hertik my heart goes out to all of you. Will be praying for you all. RIP Mr. Hertik

Jhusain - October 31, 2023 at 12:35 PM



“ Have known him and the family for years. My thoughts are with all of you. He was a very special man!



Debbi Johnson - October 31, 2023 at 12:10 PM

LS

“ *Liz Sweet lit a candle in memory of Walter J. Hertik*



Liz Sweet - October 31, 2023 at 11:14 AM

KA

“ *Kathy lit a candle in memory of Walter J. Hertik*



Kathy - October 31, 2023 at 10:39 AM

ED

“ *We had the pleasure of knowing Walt for many years, sharing in family functions. He always had a smile on his face and a positive word to say to everyone. Our deepest sympathy and our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire family. Walt was a great man that we will all miss but never forget.*
Erny and Diane Davis

Ernest Davis - October 31, 2023 at 10:02 AM

GH

Thanks so much Diane and Erny. He always loved Erny's cakes!!❤️.
Gayle

Gayle Hertik - October 31, 2023 at 12:28 PM

MB

“ My heart goes out to Walt's family during this difficult time. Walt was a wonderful man, loved by many. I'm so glad I got to see him my last visit home.

Maxine Bellows - October 31, 2023 at 09:58 AM

GH



Gloria Hertik - November 06, 2023 at 08:07 PM

BF

“ So very sorry for the tremendous loss of such a wonderful man! I graduated from Mayfield in 1976 and Walt "The Fonz" Hertick was one of my most favorite teachers! So many great memories of high school include him. Thanks to him we made it thru driver's ed in one piece! We had some scary moments while learning to drive but he always stayed calmed and made us laugh. Such a great guy - I will remember him always and smile.

Barbara Ann (Baker) Ferraro - October 31, 2023 at 09:49 AM

SL

“ Suzanne Izzo Louer lit a candle in memory of Walter J. Hertik



Suzanne Izzo Louer - October 31, 2023 at 09:22 AM

SL

“ This is such a great loss to all of us. To the Hertick family my thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. God bless 🙏

Suzanne Izzo Louer - October 31, 2023 at 09:21 AM

DB

“ 10 o'clock, 2 o'clock will forever be ingrained in my head. I have actually past that on to my own kids. The best story I have of Mr. Hertik is from Driver's Ed. I was driving down Rt 30 and out of nowhere, he punches me in the arm. "Punch bug red!" he yells. I look at him and he has the biggest grin on his face and everyone in the car was laughing. He just knew how to connect with the kids. especially the ones that were not straight A students. If not for him, these kids may have been overlooked or had no one...but they had Mr. Hertik. I truly don't remember all of my teachers, but I will never forget "Hertik". A true testament to what an educator should be.

*Gloria, Walt, Jeff, Connie, Greg and family, no words will ever be able to mend your heart, but please know our small community mourns with you and we send all our love and strength to you.
~Darlene(Beach) and Andy Bornt*

Darlene Bornt - October 31, 2023 at 09:06 AM

GH

*Thank you so much Andy and Darlene for the beautiful memories and sharing your thoughts. It made me smile and cry to read your post.
Gayle , Jeff , Justin and Ryan*

Gayle Hertik - October 31, 2023 at 12:25 PM

GH



Gloria Hertik - November 06, 2023 at 08:06 PM

DJ

“ Such a wonderful human being. I enjoyed listening to his stories when he would come into the office at school, or when we would just run into each other somewhere I wouldn't be the driver I am today without his expertise Driver Ed training. Always told him how so many drivers these days would have benefited from that. My condolences to Gloria and the family. I am sorry I will be out of town November 11, but I will be thinking of him, and the family, with such fondness. Debra Javarone

Debra Javarone - October 31, 2023 at 08:11 AM

SF

“ I am so very sorry for your tremendous loss of this truly remarkable man. He touched so many lives in such positive ways. Of course, I had him for Drivers Ed (class of 1970). I will never forget the first time I drove. Mr. Hertik pulled the car over by Ernst's farm and he said ok Sandy drive...what?! He always stayed so calm and collected, but I'm sure there were times the young drivers truly scared him, but he never showed it! Keep your wonderful memories close. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Sandy Walker Bornt Fagiani

Sandra Walker Fagiani - October 31, 2023 at 07:37 AM

AP

“ I had the privilege of having him as my Driver's Ed teacher over the summer. He was always so patient and kind. He would take us to get ice cream-which we all loved! He was an amazing teacher!

Angela Pagano - October 31, 2023 at 07:00 AM

FC

“ My condolences to the family. He was such a caring man ,always had a smile on on his face. Thoughts and prayers to all. 🙏

Francine Cast - October 31, 2023 at 05:54 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Amico Funeral Home - October 30, 2023 at 08:51 PM

CO

Best Daddy Ever 💙

Connie - October 30, 2023 at 10:44 PM



“ I'll love you forever...this is so hard we have never been apart in 64 years whatever will I do now? Please God help me through this .

Gloria Hertik - October 30, 2023 at 08:41 PM

CO

We will do it together as the beautiful, loving family that you and dad raised. We love you, Mom. You're never alone. 💙🙏

Connie - October 30, 2023 at 10:45 PM

GF

I am so deeply sorry for the passing of your dad. Thank you for sharing him with so many of us. May your wonderful memories bring you peace.

Greta Frasier - October 31, 2023 at 05:31 AM

MQ

There truly are no words. Mayfield will never be the same. God bless you and the entire family always.

Michelle Quinn - October 31, 2023 at 09:18 AM

EW

Thinking of all of you with sincere sympathy. Sending my thoughts and love. Walt was a great man. Always enjoyed seeing him and working with him.

Eileen Wrightsman

Eileen Wrightsman - October 31, 2023 at 09:44 AM

DH

“ *I first met Mr Hertik as my Driver's Ed instructor. I never had my license taken away, so obviously he did a great job. Many years later, running into him at Louie's, he always remembered me, and ALWAYS had a smile. Mayfield has suffered a great loss. Farewell Walt til we meet again.*

Daniel Harney - October 30, 2023 at 08:38 PM

CO

Thank you, Dan for the precious memories and for the laugh 💙

Connie - October 30, 2023 at 10:47 PM

BG

I was a second generation drivers ed student. I have many fond memories of driving lessons especially learning controlled spinning (aka donuts in the parking lot). Condolences to the Hertik family.

Barb Garrigan - October 31, 2023 at 05:45 AM

CO

“ *Connie lit a candle in memory of Walter J. Hertik*



Connie - October 30, 2023 at 08:38 PM

CO

“ *My life will never be the same without you Daddy 🥺💔 our hearts are shattered. Love you forever and some day we'll be together again. Love your little girl, Connie Lyn*

Connie - October 30, 2023 at 08:24 PM

SM

Mr.Hertik was one of the best ...one of the good guys, God bless him and his family

Steve Manzer - October 31, 2023 at 03:38 PM