



Alan (& Loa) Murray

April 22, 1925 - September 29, 2014

Loa passed away Aug. 14, 2014 and Alan passed away Sept. 29, 2014, both in Briarwood Assisted Living. Loa was born Feb. 8, 1927 in Covert the daughter of Broadwell and Maudie (Cutler) Smith. Alan was born April 22, 1925 in Bloomingdale the son of Alton and Eunice (Loughlin) Murray and they have lived in the Bloomingdale area for the past 34 years. They were both members of the Bloomingdale Historical Society, and both were teachers for many years in West Branch, MI. For both the most important thing was their family. Survived by 4 children, JoAnn (Peter) VanOosten of Sierra Vista, AZ, Robert Murray of Ypsilanti, Jean (Mark) Witzke of Richmond, CA, Gail (Carl) Simpson of Bloomingdale; 13 grandchildren; 2 great grandchildren; Loa's brother, Gailen (Wendy) Smith of Aspen, CO; Alan's brother, Lloyd (Florence) Murray of Marcellus; and many nieces and nephews from both sides. Family who also have passed away: a son, Douglas Murray; a sister of Loa, Barbara Taylor; brother of Alan, James; and a sister of Alan, Donna Griffith. A memorial service for both will be held at 5:00 PM, Saturday, October 25, 2014, at the Bloomingdale United Methodist Church. Arrangements by the Bloomingdale Chapel, D. L. Miller Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT **25**. 5:00 PM (ET)

Bloomington United Methodist Church
203 Pine Street
Bloomington, MI

Tribute Wall

BW

“ Both my wife and I are saddened to hear of the deaths of Mr. Murray and Loa! We always called him Mr. whenever we met him no matter how long we were out of high school. At our reunion in 2013, several members of the class of 1953 were able to have our picture taken with him. He was our class adviser. I saw him in 2007 for the first time since graduating in 1953. I had had an email exchange with him earlier. He asked if I would be at the reunion for that year as I had not seen him for 54 years, I said I would be there "with bells on." When I saw him he excused himself and returned a short time later and gave me a small gold bell! That bell hangs on my rear view mirror to this day and everytime it rings I think of him. There will always be a special place in the hearts of the West Branch Alumni for them. They attended many of the WB reunions, even after getting on in years. We all knew that we were an important part of their lives and seeing them brought back many good memories of our school years.

Janet (Zettel) Wilkinson, class of 1956

Barry Wilkinson, class of 1953

barry wilkinson - October 17, 2014 at 09:31 AM

NG

“ I am so saddened to hear of the death of Al and Loa. Mr. Murray was one of my favorite teachers when he taught in West Branch and I always looked forward to seeing them both at the annual West Branch High School Alumni banquet, here in WB. We were disappointed to learn last year that they were unable to attend the annual banquet and were so hoping they would be able to come in 2015.

Mr. Murray did a special class for several of us 1958 graduates to allow us to take algebra II and also be able to play basketball. That was when athletics were during the school day and the times conflicted. He allowed us to come in during the noon hour or after school (on his time) so we could do both the algebra II and the bb. I have been forever grateful that he did that for us. We always called him "Sir", not Mr. Murray. My friend Evie Sheltroun and I sent him a slide rule tie clip our first year at MSU and last time I saw him, he said he still had it.

Al and Loa will be very much missed by their past students in West Branch.

Nancy (Rea) Griffin
Class of 1958

Nancy Griffin - October 14, 2014 at 03:48 PM