



## Michael Oates

September 23, 1939 - April 7, 2009

Michael David Oates (1939 - 2009)

Cedar Falls - Michael David Oates (69) of Cedar Falls died at The Western Home on April 7 with his wife Maureen at his side. He was a loving and cherished son, brother, husband, father, and grandfather. He was born in Shelton, Connecticut on September 23, 1939 to John & Mary (Regan) Oates and married Maureen O'Leary on June 29, 1963. He is survived by his wife, his son John & wife Marcy of San Antonio, Texas, his daughter Cathy & husband Paul of Eden Prairie, Minnesota, and his six grandcherubs, JD, Phil, Brenna, Lara, Daniel, and Cody, his three brothers, Jack Oates & wife Alice, of Columbia, Maryland, Carroll Oates & wife Roberta of Vero Beach, Florida, and Patrick Oates & wife Kathy of Seymour, Connecticut, many beloved nieces and nephews, as well as innumerable friends and colleagues.

He graduated from Saint Joseph Parish School in Shelton, Fairfield Preparatory School and Fairfield University in Fairfield, Connecticut. He received his M.A. from Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts and his Ph. D. from Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

He taught at both Framingham and Malden High Schools in Massachusetts and Georgetown University. He and his family moved to Cedar Falls in 1967 to begin his career as a Professor of French at the University of Northern Iowa.

Mike & Maureen are members of Saint Patrick Parish in Cedar Falls. Ordained as a Deacon in 1978, his diaconate service included ministry in his local parish, the Archdiocese of Dubuque, and nationally with married couple retreats through Marriage Returno.

He co authored *Entre Amis* with Larbi Oukada, *Personnages* with Jacques Dubois, and *Earth Science Success: 50 Lesson Plans for Grades 6 - 9* with his daughter Catherine Oates-Bockenstedt.

He was President of the Iowa Foreign Language Association. He was honored as Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académique by the République Française Ministère de l'Education Nationale. In addition he was awarded with the Certificate of Merit by the State of Iowa Department of Education, the Nelson Brooks Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Culture from the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, the Distinguished Service Award from the Iowa Foreign Language Association, and the Outstanding Educator Award from the Iowa Foreign Language Association.

Mike tried to live by a Personal Mission Statement he created: "I aspire to live with a grateful heart, to grow more open to God's love and, strengthened by my marriage, family, and friends, to remain true to the long-range, eternal values I claim to be mine."

Richardson Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. The Visitation and Funeral Mass will take place in Saint Patrick Church, West 8th and Washington Streets. Visitation will begin on Monday, April 13 at 2:00 PM, with the Rosary at 4:00 PM and the Vigil Service at 7:00 PM. Visitation will occur again from 9:00 - 10:15 AM on Tuesday, April 14 followed by the Funeral Mass at 10:30 AM. Burial will take place in Massachusetts at a future date.

Memorials may be sent to: Saint Patrick Parish, Cedar Falls (with designated

distribution to the parish debt, Saint Vincent de Paul Society, Feed My Lambs, or Haiti Twinning Parish) or to the University of Northern Iowa Foundation for scholarships in Mike's name to students studying French.

# Tribute Wall



“ *I was greatly surprised and saddened to hear of Dr. Oates' passing. He was my mentor. I would not be where I am today if I had not met this wonderful teacher at UNI back in 1970. I am currently teaching French at Harvard-Westlake School, a private high school in North Hollywood CA. His teaching style inspired me and still does to this day. His love for his wife Maureen and children was evident whenever I saw them at events. I have so many wonderful memories of him. I actually shared some of them with my own students today.*

*Mes condolances a la famille.*

---

March 29, 2013 at 02:51 PM



“ *I was shocked and saddened to hear that Mike had passed. He was a frequent guitar player and song leader at St. Pats when I was a kid, both at Sunday and school masses. Also, he was the best French prof (at UNI) a person could have. I very much enjoyed his French classes and conversations during the years that followed.*

*God Bless!*

---

May 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Maureen,*

*I was saddened to hear about your loss. I know Mike will be missed by so many. You must have such wonderful memories of a fine husband. Take care and God Bless.*

---

April 15, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Maureen,  
We feel so honored to have known Mike. He was an incredibly wonderful and gifted person. Both of you always made us feel so welcome at First Tuesday, and we will be forever grateful for the times we spent together in our First Tuesday circle. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

---

April 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dr. Oates was truly an inspiration to many aspiring foreign language teachers. I graduated from UNI in 1974 and was fortunate to have Dr. Oates for several classes and be part of the study abroad program in Angers, France that he organized. He was always upbeat and encouraging. His sing alongs and pronunciation practices will be fondly remembered by those of us who admired his wonderful French accent. He was a life-long learner, always trying something new or developing better teaching strategies. He will be missed by the all his former college students whom he influenced with his innovative teaching methods and kind spirit.*

---

April 13, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Maureen and family--*

*I am so sorry that I was unable to attend any of the services, but I am recuperating from surgery. I will be keeping you in my thoughts and prayers. Please know that many share your loss, but rejoice in the chance to have known and been touched by Mike.*

---

April 13, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mike will be missed by many folks...he was a wonderful and caring man who brought so much good to others during his life on earth. My prayers are with the entire family. You will miss him tremendously, but remembering the fine husband, father, grandfather and man he was and the 'gifts' he gave so many will become more precious as each day passes.*

*Charlotte (Parmater) Brenning  
Decorah, IA*

---

April 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM