



## Raymond W. Kuehl

May 1, 1919 - January 20, 2014

Dr. Ray Kuehl, noted Iowa educator who finished his career as Professor Emeritus of Education at the University of Northern Iowa, died on January 20, at Sartori Memorial Hospital in Cedar Falls. He was 94.

Ray influenced the education of thousands of Iowans in his position as Director of Student Field Experiences at UNI, a position from which he retired in 1988. Before joining UNI, Ray engineered the establishment of the Starmont Community Schools, a consolidation of schools from Strawberry Point, Arlington and Lamont in 1962. He served as Starmont's first Superintendent from 1962-1966.

Prior to serving as Superintendent of the Strawberry Point Consolidated School District from 1955-1962, Dr. Kuehl held increasingly responsible educational positions in Delhi (1946-1949), Traer (1949-1952) and Dundee (1952-1955).

As a teacher and administrator, Ray was fiercely dedicated to his students' success, and to the development of good teachers. Generations of students and teachers have paid tribute to his influence in their lives.

Dr. Kuehl received his Doctorate of Philosophy from the University of Iowa in 1973, and also holds a Master of Arts from Iowa and an Education Specialist Degree from Drake University. He did his undergraduate work at Upper Iowa University, where he starred on the university baseball team.

Ray was married to Frances Morgan Kuehl in 1943, and she survives him.

He is a veteran of the U.S. Army (1941-1945), where he achieved the rank of

First Sergeant.

In addition to his career in education, Ray held many leadership positions in the Lions Club, including President of the Cedar Falls Lions Club, as well as District and Regional positions, and received many Lions award and honors. Ray was a well-known figure in community service circles, participating enthusiastically in pancake breakfasts and as a neighborhood Santa Claus. He was also chairman at one time of Friends of Western Home Communities and was involved in the Cedar Falls Historical Society.

Ray was a faithful member of the Cedar Falls United Methodist Church, where he held numerous volunteer positions.

Raymond William Kuehl and Ralph Doyle Kuehl were born on May 1, 1919 on a farm near Elkport (Clayton County), Iowa, one of nine children of John and Clara Kuehl.

In addition to his wife of 70 years, Fran Kuehl, Ray is survived by a brother, Laverne Kuehl, of Elkader, son Craig (Jane Lucas) of New York City, daughter Vicki (Bruce) Smith of Bettendorf, grandsons Justin (Stephanie) and Ryan Smith of Ankeny and Arlington, Virginia, respectively; and two great grandchildren. Also surviving are numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister and six brothers.

He was a devoted and faithful husband and loving father, grandfather and great grandfather.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to First United Methodist Church, Western Home Communities or the UNI Foundation.

Memorial Services will be held 11:00 a.m. Tuesday at First United Methodist Church with burial in Greenwood Cemetery, both in Cedar Falls. Visitation for one hour prior to services Tuesday at the church. Richardson Funeral Service is in charge of arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

DA

“ Ray was superintendent at Strawberry point and Starmont when I attended there from 1957 until 1965. He was a big influence on me and one of the reasons I wanted to become a teacher. Though I never became a teacher I will always remember his fairness and patience when dealing with the problems I had when I was younger.

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**David** - February 06, 2014 at 05:13 PM

JO

“ Fran, Craig, and Vicki, Ray was a great educator. He did a lot for so many students at Strawberry Point High School. His influence got me into teaching as a career. Later in his job at UNI when he was in Cedar Rapids for student teaching responsibilities he would stop by my classroom to visit. He lived a good life and will be missed by so many people. Your friend. Jim O'Brien

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**James O'Brien** - February 06, 2014 at 05:13 PM

GD

“ Please accept my condolences on the loss of your loved one. He was a kind and gentle man. I can still see Mr. Kuehl sitting in his office in the new elementary wing of the building in Strawberry. I think he and my Mom tangled a couple of times over the way my brothers were dressed (something about patches on the knees of blue jeans). I also remember seeing him in Iowa City (must have been when he was working on his doctorate).  
My best to Mrs. Kuehl. She was a soft-spoken, respected, graceful lady. She was my second grade teacher. I owe it all to her.  
Craig and Vicki, may you be comforted by your many memories and the love that thrived in your home as you were growing up.

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**Gregory Dunn** - February 06, 2014 at 05:12 PM

JH

“ Dear Fran, My memories of Ray are of our decades of service at UNI, where I taught in Communicative Disorders and all of our students had school internships. Ray's humor was abundant, particularly when he would appear as Santa at our Speech and Hearing Clinic. And then there were years together as Emeriti. I am grateful to have known Ray. My deep sympathy to you and your family, Judith Harrington

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**Judith Harrington** - February 06, 2014 at 05:12 PM

DS

“ Ray and I shared similar positions in our professional lives. I always enjoyed meeting with him. He was a gentleman and a fine colleague. I'm sure there are many positive ripple effects from his work at UNI. His pleasant demeanor always helped set a productive tone for our joint meetings.

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**Dick Shepardson** - February 06, 2014 at 05:12 PM

TH

“ May God be with you, Fran and family, as you treasure the legacy left by such a strong and compassionate leader. Those who were touched by his dedication and commitment to excellence number in the thousands. I feel so blessed to be in that number.

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**Tim Houts** - February 06, 2014 at 05:12 PM

RB

“ Dear Mrs. Kuehl, Craig and Vicki, It will soon be 50 years since the consolidation of Starmont Schools and the motto that Mr. Kuehl created then, "In pursuit of excellence in education", speaks well of the life that he lived and the passion he had for education. I remember visiting with him at the Class of 1966 Class Reunion a few years ago. Just a very kind and interested person. My parents always spoke highly of Mr. Kuehl. You have our sincere sympathy.  
Russ & Jan Breitsprecher, Arlington, Ia.

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**Russell & Janis Breitsprecher** - February 06, 2014 at 05:12 PM

DD

“ It was always a high point of our day when Ray stopped by our office. He always brought with him a great positive influence which brightened everyone's day. Ray will be remembered and missed by all!  
Dick Dobson, Sr  
Investors Professional Services

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**Dick Dobson** - February 06, 2014 at 05:11 PM

DF

“ Dear Mrs. Kuehl and Family:  
Shirley and I are so sorry for your loss. Ray was superintendent when I was at Strawberry Point High School. He always greeted people with a smile and called all the students by first name. Most important Ray cared for the students well being. He always set a good example for students and community. I feel proud to have know Ray and the Kuehl Family.  
Don and Shirley Foley

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**Don and Shirley Foley** - February 06, 2014 at 05:11 PM

LH

“ *Fran, Craig and Vicki*  
*Sorry to hear of Ray's departure. He gave both June and I a great start in education.*  
*Les and June*

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**Les Huth** - February 06, 2014 at 05:11 PM

JE

“ *In all my years of knowing Dr. Kuehl since 1976, I never heard him say a bad word against anyone. He was the epitome of a college professor—filled with integrity, professionalism and open mindedness. UNI was very fortunate to have Ray as a faculty member and I was very fortunate to have Ray as a mentor for all of these many years. I try to live up to his standards but I think he set the bar a bit too high for me.*  
*Education has lost an excellent teacher. Thank you, Ray, for all that you taught me. I will miss you.*

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**John Eggers** - February 06, 2014 at 05:11 PM

MP

“ *John and I want to extend our sympathy to the entire Kuehl family. SPHS days were very special when Mr. Kuehl was our Superintendent of Schools. We have just returned from Strawberry Point and the funeral of our dear mother, Berdina Putzier, who died on January 2. Mom served as a school secretary for Mr. Kuehl and she always spoke so fondly of those days.*  
*John and Marla Peterson*  
*Knoxville, TN*

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**Marla Putzier Peterson** - February 06, 2014 at 05:10 PM