



John P. Estep

September 15, 1951 - October 19, 2021

John P. Estep, PhD, 70, passed away suddenly on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at his residence in Grayslake, IL. He was born September 15, 1951 in Oak Ridge, TN and always carried with him his fondness of his roots in Tennessee. John was a longtime Libertyville resident, living in Grayslake for the past 25 years. He received his degree in education from Illinois State University, his PhD from Northern Illinois University and had been a beloved History and Psychology teacher and varsity golf coach at Libertyville High School for 35 years. He had a proud positive influence on his student's lives. His passion for learning and teaching was in his soul. John was a former president and member of Northbrook Sports Club and was a Tennessee Volunteers and Chicago Bears football fan. He was an avid sailor in his younger days and after retirement he and his beloved wife, Claudia enjoyed gardening, bicycling, traveling and taking River Cruises together. Most of all, he adored spending time with his grandchildren and making special memories on their fishing trips. He will be dearly missed by his family and everyone who knew him. Surviving is his wife of 24 years, Claudia Estep; children, Michael (Amy) Estep, Amanda (Brian) Reising, Niccole (Bill) Hannemann, Lauren (Brian) Johnson and Adam (Tina) Da Silva; 10 grandchildren, Charlie, Leo, Zachery, Zoe, Rex, Ray, Piper, Matthew, Emerson and Rhea and by sisters, Anna Marie (Tom) Welch and Lee (Walter) Bilharz.

A visitation will be held from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. Monday, October 25, 2021 at Burnett-Dane Funeral Home, 120 W. Park Ave. in Libertyville. Funeral

services will be at 12:00 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Interment will follow to Lakeside Cemetery in Libertyville. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be made to Save-A-Pet, 31664 N. Fairfield Rd. Grayslake, IL 60030. For info: 847-362-3009 or share a memory at www.burnettdane.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **25**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Burnett-Dane Funeral Home
120 West Park Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048
(847) 362-3009

Funeral Service

OCT **26**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Burnett-Dane Funeral Home
120 West Park Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048
(847) 362-3009

Tribute Wall

SR

“*Dr. Estep was one of the best teachers I ever had, and for sure my favorite teacher at LHS. The way he engaged students combined with his lecture style teaching was phenomenal. He would sit back in a rocking chair and teach history as if he was narrating a story. The depth of his lectures and the details he had about any specific event or historical figure is what really made me appreciate him. His love of history and leaning in general really rubbed off on me. There are a few moments in life that cause a paradigm shift that truly shapes you or changes the way you think about life. For me as a 16 year old kid, I can trace one of these moments back to Dr. Estep's class. He had such a positive influence on my life and I just really want to say thank you. I still to this day use some of his one liners "You know what I mean Vern?" and "It was a big butt, a cracker-barrel butt".*

*Scott Rule
Senior Class president, 2008*

Scott Rule - November 02, 2022 at 04:32 PM

DG

“*Mr. Estep was a truly great teacher. He educated you while making it fun, too. His wit and wisdom came through in all his funny idioms (many of which I still use to this day). He came into my memory this morning, and I decided to look him up. So sorry to see he has passed. It is clear from the tribute wall he had a long and illustrious career, and had great meaning to so many students. A true original.*

Dave Grange, LHS Class of 1981

Dave Grange - February 10, 2022 at 09:04 AM

DP

“ So sorry that I don't have a newspaper coming anymore, & don't follow the obits. like I should, and didn't find out about Mr. Estep's passing until now.

I only had a handful of great, five star teachers throughout my time in the Libertyville school system, and John Estep was one of them. He taught history well. Much was expected of you in his classes. Term papers were to be typed and presented in a clear folder properly. He pointed out your mistakes and told you what you could do to improve.

His classes were very college-like, and I liked that. Estepardy, a take-off on Jeopardy, made learning fun.

One of the things he had in common with other teachers I admired was, he was a very student-friendly teacher, relating to students when I was there (1982-82), because he was still pretty young himself and knew what you were going through in life. If, however, anyone acted up, he could be a disciplinarian, (a good thing). There were no "class clowns" in his classes.

I had signed up for his Psychology class for senior year, but had absences due to illness, and got behind and had to drop out of the class, because I knew I wouldn't be able to keep up. We had a talk about it, and he really wanted me to stay.

When I saw him in the hallways at LHS, he always said hi to me by name.

My mother used to remember him as a tall, lanky kid walking to high school in front of our house on Garfield from McKinley.

We need more teachers and more people like John Estep in this world.

Rest in Peace, and may your family always have the happy memories of you that I do.

Doug Priebe (Class of 1983)

Doug Priebe - January 08, 2022 at 01:25 PM

CS

“ *Claudia and family,*

I was saddened upon my return from vacation to hear that John had passed away. I am truly sorry for your loss. Rest assured that the lives of anyone who met John are just a little bit fuller for having known him.

Chuck Swanson

Charles Swanson - November 04, 2021 at 10:02 AM

BW

“*"Doc" Estep's AP US History course at Libertyville High School, I believe, must have been one of the finest and most intellectually satisfying classes available to any high school student anywhere.*

One of his assignments each quarter was to have you write a "matrix" in which you looked to draw similarities and differences between 2 seemingly unrelated persons/events in US History. At the time, it felt impossible to write anything sensible at all about comparing and contrasting such different and unrelated and randomly-coupled things/persons.

Only later on in life did I realize, this ability to make an analogy or a differentiation well, is actually one of the most powerful and persuasive skills one can have in life: to convincingly parallel the obscure to the natural and intuitive, or to distinguish the near-similar from each other. And I firmly believe that I learned a lot of that from Estep's class.

We were lucky to go to such a school with such a class with such a fine educator as "Doc" Estep. He's made an impact on a lot of kids that walked those halls, myself firmly amongst them.

*Bin Wang
Class of '98*

B W - October 26, 2021 at 05:20 PM

KH

“ *The impact of Coach on my life cannot be overstated. He was a coach, teacher, and ultimately friend and confidant as I learned about the wonders of life. He taught far more than history or psychology; he taught empathy, passion, kindness, hard work and most importantly humor. The laughs we shared daily on the golf course for four years will never be forgotten. His impact on many of us will never be forgotten. Great man, great teacher.....To the entire Estep family, thank you for sharing him with all of us over all the years.*

Kevin Huber class of 86

kevin Huber - October 25, 2021 at 04:27 PM

JH

Couldn't agree more, Kevin. RIP Coach!

Jeff Heinzmann - March 19, 2022 at 02:19 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of John P. Estep.*



October 25, 2021 at 12:55 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John P. Estep.*



October 25, 2021 at 12:50 AM

DC

“ *Doc was an amazing teacher. I loved his class and thanks to him I know what I do about psychology. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family.*



Dawn Henderson Cloud - October 24, 2021 at 11:25 PM

SH

John Estep became my neighbor as a teen, my teacher when I was a teen, and simply just one of the best, most innovative teachers I've ever had. His family, including his mother, who served as a librarian at LHS, will always be a part of this great community and LHS family. He will be deeply missed. Rest In Peace

Scott Hornberger - October 25, 2021 at 02:47 PM

JA

“ *My condolences to the family. Doc Estep was one of my favorite high school teachers! He is the reason I continued on to take psychology in college, which led me towards the field of social work, where I've worked my entire career. He taught my two sisters as well, which I mention because he went to high school with our father. :) It was definitely fun hearing his stories of their time together at LHS. My thoughts are with his family now. - Jessica (Tischendorf) Augsburger, class of 1998 LHS*

Jessica Augsburger - October 24, 2021 at 08:41 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of John P. Estep.*



October 24, 2021 at 07:56 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of John P. Estep.



October 24, 2021 at 04:49 PM



“ *Ringed by Love* was purchased for the family of John P. Estep.



October 24, 2021 at 04:28 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket* was purchased for the family of John P. Estep.



October 23, 2021 at 06:39 PM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear about Dr. Estep's passing. He was my favorite teacher at LHS because he knew the material so well, and then expected that we would all know it too. He was the first teacher I had where it wasn't enough to just read and memorize, but he also demanded that we could understand and then explain it back concisely. He was the rare teacher who cared enough to set high expectations of us, and that I then never wanted to disappoint. I've carried those lessons with me ever since.*

Jason Alt - October 23, 2021 at 05:27 PM

SK

“ My deepest condolences to the Estep family. Dr. Estep was one of the finest teachers at LHS. His AP US History class was like no other class I had taken in high school. He was truly a masterful educator with his innovative and supportive teaching.

Sudhi Kurup - October 23, 2021 at 05:01 PM

SB

“ My condolences to the Estep family. Graduated from LHS in '97. I had Doc as teacher and played golf for him. He was a great guy and had a positive impact on my life.

Scott Brighton - October 23, 2021 at 12:12 PM

SK

“ I am very sad to hear of Dr. Estep's passing. He was one of my very favorite teachers. He made a real impact on my life and I often think of him and that AP History class very fondly. May he rest in peace.

Samantha (McCarthy) Kunio - October 23, 2021 at 06:05 AM



“ Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of John P. Estep.



October 22, 2021 at 11:02 AM

IB

“ I am heartbroken to hear of Dr. Estep’s passing.

I learned so much from him—not just about US History, but also how to approach subjects with a more complex and holistic vantage point. His matrix reports rewired my brain and taught me to always look for the connecting themes. He also taught our class about the importance of study groups and collaboration. His passion for knowledge and analysis was infectious. The fact that he was pursuing his PhD while teaching us was beyond inspiring. He was a master teacher and a paradigm of a lifelong learner.

Deepest condolences to Senora Estep and the family. May his memory always be for a blessing.

*With sympathy and respect,
Rabbi Ilana Greenfield Baden, LHS Class of 1990*

Ilana Greenfield Baden - October 22, 2021 at 09:25 AM

EG

“ I send my deepest condolences to the Estep family. “Doc” was such a major part of the privilege of attending LHS. His gifts as a thinker, educator, and role model are ones that continue to give in my own life and in so many others. I join our community from afar in grieving this loss and celebrating his life. I send special regards to “Senora,” whose talents as a teacher also made such a strong impression on me. My thoughts are with you and your beloveds.

Emily Greenfield - October 22, 2021 at 05:13 AM

RB

“ John was a very good friend of mine in high school. He was smart, funny, and knew how to connect with people in a way that was meaningful to them. I think that was why he was such a great teacher to so many of his students over the years. I feel fortunate to have been able to spend several days with him and several others from our high school circle a few years ago and see, among other things, his Northbrook Sports Club which he was very proud to show us. I am also thankful that I was able to chat with him for a bit at our high school 50th reunion two years ago. I have John, his friends, students, and family in my thoughts as I know John's passing must be a stunning loss to them who spent so much time in his and their lives. A great man has left us.

Rich Blum LHS Class of '69

Rich Blum - October 22, 2021 at 12:46 AM

TM

“ Claudia, so sorry to hear about John's sudden passing. I will never forget our Sunday morning breakfast meetings, followed by sporting clays and finished off a good cigar with friends. Since living in TN for 2+ years now I have thought about John many times. Please know that you and family are in our thoughts at this difficult time.

Terry McLaughlin

Terry McLaughlin - October 21, 2021 at 07:44 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of John P. Estep.



October 21, 2021 at 05:17 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of John P. Estep.



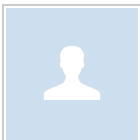
October 21, 2021 at 04:39 PM



“ *Mr. Estep changed my life! When I was a student at LHS, I was struggling in U.S. History and really all of my classes. I had moved there my junior year and hadn't mastered good study habits. One day after class, he asked me what was going on-"no one fails in my class". He talked to me about my study habits, being organized and using my time better with studying for tests. Every day I checked in with him after class-he would answer any questions I had or needed help with. I ended up being on the honor roll that semester for the first time in my life! His compassion and guidance literally changed the course of how I work and focus. He was the most influential teacher I ever had-EVER!!!*

*Laura Fredriksson Rash
Class of '82*

Laura Fredriksson Rash - October 21, 2021 at 03:31 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of John P. Estep.



October 21, 2021 at 02:21 PM

FN

“ *From your friends at Northbrook purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of John P. Estep.*



From your friends at Northbrook - October 21, 2021 at 02:05 PM