



## Max E. Heinz

November 2, 1946 - January 12, 2021

Max E. Heinz Jr., 74, passed away at 4:42 pm Tuesday January 12, 2021 at Alton Memorial Hospital.

He was born on November 2, 1946 in Decatur, IL, the son of Max Heinz Sr and Eileen (Deardorff) Heinz.

Max married Janet Thomas on August 17, 1968 in Madison, IL. She survives.

Max served the Alton School district for 35 years as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal, retiring in 2002. As a teacher, he was awarded the “Environmental Teacher of the Year in Madison County”. He was a member of St. Ambrose Catholic Church where he served as an usher and was a Fourth Degree member of the Godfrey Knights of Columbus. He also served many years on the Village of Godfrey Park Board, where he helped to facilitate projects benefitting area youth and the general community.

Max’s selflessness touched the lives of so many that knew him. He volunteered his time for countless events and causes. From Friday fish fries at the KC hall, to basketball free-throw contests for kids, to Marquette High School athletic fund-raisers, to week-long canoe trips with the school environmental club, he was there to lead or help. He spent many years coaching, particularly basketball at St. Ambrose and Marquette HS.

If you knew Max - even if only briefly - you probably at least smiled and enjoyed a good conversation.

He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, son, and friend. Max, affectionately known as ‘Butch’ to his parents and siblings, cherished his time with family and friends. He radiated excitement when planning family get-togethers at his home with Janet, especially for the largest of gatherings, bringing everyone together. He loved his time in the outdoors, fishing and duck hunting with his kids, family, and friends. This passion included more than 40 years of visits with his family to the boundary waters in northern Minnesota and Canada. Max’s love for everyone and everything in his life is an inspiration that will live on.

In addition to his wife, Janet; Max is also survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Jeffrey & Sue Heinz of Godfrey, Michael & Beth Heinz of Godfrey; a daughter and son-in-law, Ann & Jay Rakers of Godfrey; six grandchildren, Lauren and Rachel Heinz, Grant and Ava Heinz and Helen and Sophia Rakers, one sister and brother-in-law, Sandra & Richard

Bogle of Maroa, IL; and one brother and sister-in-law, Jeff & Connie Heinz, of Forsyth, IL; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Pam Thompson.

Due to COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions, a private family viewing will be held Sunday January 17, 2021 at Elias, Kallal and Schaaf Funeral Home in Godfrey. A life celebration for all to attend is being planned for later in 2021.

A Memorial Mass will be held at 10 am Monday January 18, 2021 at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Godfrey, following COVID-19 guidelines and regulations.

Inurnment will follow at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Godfrey.

Memorials may be made to St. Ambrose School in Godfrey.

# Cemetery

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# Events

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**St. Patrick Cemetery**

Godfrey, IL, 62035

**JAN  
18**

**Memorial Mass**

10:00AM - 11:00AM

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St Ambrose Catholic Church

820 W Homer M Adams Pkwy, Godfrey, IL, US, 62035

**JAN  
18**

**Interment** 11:30AM - 12:00PM

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St. Patrick Cemetery

Godfrey, IL, US, 62035

# Comments

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“ Dearest Janet and the family of my friend, Max. Just today (January 22) I was looking thru the Edglen website. Maybe 2 times a year I look at the site. As I scrolled down for some reason I just clicked on the obituaries and started to scroll down to see if any of my former teachers were there. My condolences to you, Janet, and family. I went to tell my wife of the loss of my friend and could not even tell on the first try. Even now it is "raining" in my eyes. I knew Max while we were together at North Middle, starting in 1985 until I retired in 2010. Max was my mentor. He loved teaching and loved his students, a quality that "rubbed" off on me. One year he asked my to join him and you, Janet's, in the Environmental Club. Boy, do we have some stories about our trips with 7th and 8th graders to the Boundary Waters. Of leaving at 7 pm at night, driving to all night with 6 students and arriving in Ely, Minnesota at noon. Driving thru rainstorms and more. Leaving from the outfitters and continuing our many adventures! Janet, I could spend hours reliving those interesting times with some of our "expert" campers. Because of Max and you, Janet, my wife and I made many adventures up to Ely and camped out in the wilderness. Soooooo many memories thanks to Max's invite to join you both in a life adventure. Thank you. Finally, while at North, it was my extreme honor and pleasure to work with Max. With Max there, and you, too, Janet, it was a PLEASURE and NOT work. So many good memories. It's probably not a good idea to leave my email here but here goes. Janet if you have any time to write or. Reminisce about our trips, please feel free to write. So endeth this long remembrance that could go on for many more pages. We love both you and Max and pray for Gods blessings and comfort and strength to you and your children. Gods peace.  
Tom Neuendank. ant1108@charter.net

Thomas Neuendank - January 22 at 09:36 AM

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“ My sincere condolences to the family of Max. He and I shared a rooming house at 505 East Walnut in Bloomington, Illinois, during several years of undergraduate work at Illinois State University in Normal. He had a neat blue 2-door Ford, which I envied as I looked at my old beater. That was 56 years ago. That was the last time I saw Max as we went our separate ways. He and I both attended Maroa-Forsyth High School in Maroa, Illinois, separated by one year. In reading his obituary, I was delighted to read of the very meaningful life of service and education that followed him through his life. I'm proud to have known him and of the impact he had during his lifetime.

Rich Stephenson  
Decatur, Illinois

Rich Stephenson - January 18 at 07:47 PM



“ I’m so sorry for your loss. Mr Heinz was the teacher that turned me around in school. He made me like science and learning and I couldn’t ever thank him enough. He was an amazing man.

**Amanda Hand** - January 18 at 01:07 PM

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“ I can't tell you how sorry I am for your loss. Max was such a special person. He was so kind and was seemingly constantly volunteering his time and talents to make this world a better place. I was so blessed to have worked with him. He'll always have a special place in my heart. You have all been in my thoughts and prayers. It's unfortunate that this is happening during the pandemic because so many people would have come to personally share their condolences -- which is so healing. Love and peace to all of you.

**Ruth Dwiggin** - January 18 at 11:57 AM

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“ We are so sorry for your loss. Mr. Heinz was a wonderful teacher and was such a positive influence on so many students. Kylie was in 5th grade and she won a math competition, so Mr. Heinz took her and another student to the pet store in Godfrey and they got to pick out a guinea pig for the classroom. On holidays they took turns taking the guinea pig home. I remember the guinea pig being noisy. lol it was a great teaching moment on responsibility. What a great memory! He was also loyal customer to King Air Conditioning & Heating over the years. May God comfort and give your family peace during this time. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

The Edwards Family  
King Air Conditioning & Heating

**Karen Edwards** - January 18 at 10:51 AM

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“ I enjoyed working with Max for several years when he coached at Marquette High School. He was such a gentleman and treated his payers with courtesy and respect. He was such a good role model. Prayers for his family.

**John Waters** - January 17 at 08:34 PM

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“ We r so sorry to hear of your loss! You will be in our prayers Our deepest sympathy Janet to you and your family ! May he Rest In Peace! Mary Kay and Larry Brown

Mary Kay Brown - January 17 at 08:29 PM

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“ I was privileged to have worked with Max in District 11. He was an outstanding teacher and administrator who impacted the lives of many students in his career. Max was a true gentleman and was a credit to his profession. My thoughts and prayers are with Janet and the family. RIP.  
Jim Baiter

Jim Baiter - January 17 at 04:36 PM

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“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Max E. Heinz.



January 16 at 06:17 PM

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“ 153 files added to the album LifeTributes



Elias, Kallal & Schaaf Funeral Home - January 16 at 04:12 PM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Max E. Heinz.



January 16 at 01:06 PM

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“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Max E. Heinz.



January 16 at 10:08 AM

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“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Max E. Heinz.



January 15 at 08:14 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Max E. Heinz.



January 15 at 01:59 PM

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“ I’ve known Max and his wonderful family for a good many years, and he was just the person his obituary read. Lots of good memories in the earlier days at St. Ambrose! Max will certainly be missed. Love, thoughts and prayers for Janet and family.

**Mary Dondanville** - January 15 at 11:35 AM



“ We have been away from Alton for thirty two years but still consider Max and Janet two of our extended family of friends. We have fond memories of St. Ambrose school and Marquette especially the football games. We didn’t get to see Max and Janet often but when we did it was a highlight of the trip to Alton. Max and Janet too were special, to friends and also their church and community. Our prayers are with Janet and family. Take care. John and Cindy Crivello

**John and Cindy Crivello** - January 15 at 02:20 PM



“ Janet, may God's promises give you great hope. Max was also a great potato chip salesman. A summer running chip routes that he excelled at and I hated. In those early days of teaching together, Max and I would meet the sun at Clover Leaf Golf course for nine before school. We ended up together at North Middle. A great guy that God blessed with a special person in Janet.

George Van Voorhis

**George Van Voorhis** - January 17 at 08:22 PM



“ Janet, My deepest sympathy to you and your family. I worked with Max on the board at Marquette. Max was always so kind and nice to everyone. I enjoyed seeing him from time to time at Schnucks and chatting. The world has lost a wonderful man.

**Emily** - January 18 at 11:06 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Max E. Heinz.



January 15 at 11:23 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Max E. Heinz.



January 15 at 09:38 AM

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“ Max always had a smile. Loved his support of St. Ambrose. My girls remember him because of the spelling bee's and free throw contest at St. Ambrose school. Good hearted man and happy to have known him.

**Mary Jo Zykan** - January 15 at 09:30 AM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Max E. Heinz.



January 15 at 09:12 AM

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“ It is with sadden heart I hear of Max's passing. What a wonderful and caring individual. My prayers and thoughts are with Janet and her family. It was my pleasure working with Max at North Middle School. So many fond memories. May Max RIP.

**Darlene Jackson** - January 15 at 07:50 AM



“ Max was a good friend. I enjoyed working with him both at school and the fish fries. Our sympathy and prayers to Janet and her family. Bill & Ruth Albrecht

**Bill & Ruth Albrecht** - January 15 at 12:17 PM

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“ Mr. Heinz was a wonderful man and an amazing role model for so many. My heart goes out to his family.

**Kristin Claybaker** - January 15 at 07:11 AM

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“ We send our Deepest Condolences to you and your family. We are thinking of you and have you and your family in our prayers. We will all miss Max, such a Great guy. Max has done so much for St. Ambrose. Always worked the fish fry's, Scholarship program, Science Fair and many, many more activities. We will all miss him. We are so sorry but we are leaving tomorrow for trip to Florida . We will have you and the family in our thoughts and Prayers.  
May God Bless you.

**Larry and Judy Thompson** - January 14 at 11:21 PM

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“ God blessed me with his friendship... thank you Max you were such a shining example for us all. Peace be with you Sir Knight.

**Dale Krepel** - January 14 at 09:47 PM

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“ Janet and family, I am so very sorry for your loss. Keeping you in prayers.

**Judy Clark** - January 14 at 08:26 PM

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“ My memories of teaching middle school will always include Max, his kindness and sense of humor. He gave a nervous new teacher the confidence to excel. Thinking of your family during this time, and keeping you all in my prayers.

Nancy Coalson

nancy coalson - January 14 at 08:08 PM



“ I had the privilege of working very closely with Max at North Middle School. Max was infinitely kind, patient and fair at all times. He was loved and respected by the staff, students and parents. So sad to lose this guy. My sympathies to Janet and the entire family.

**Marcia Dodds** - January 15 at 03:37 PM



“ Janet I am so sorry for you and your kids. It seems God always takes the good ones. He sure picked one in Max.

**Joanne Kuebrich** - January 15 at 05:24 PM



“ Janet, Mike, Ann and family. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this very difficult time. Max always had a smile and would talk to anyone. Sending hugs.

**Ruthann HELLEMEYER** - January 15 at 07:59 PM

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“ Allen and Nancy Coalson purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Max E. Heinz.



Allen and Nancy Coalson - January 14 at 07:55 PM

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“ I will be forever grateful to Max for giving me a chance fresh out of college. He was always so kind and helpful to me and gave me grace when I needed it. My deepest condolences to all of you.

**Jill Tueth** - January 14 at 07:03 PM

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“ Our condolences to the entire Heinz and Bogle families.

**Sharon Woolum** - January 14 at 06:43 PM



“ Sorry for your loss. Remembering the times on Colonial and Village Dr. Rest In Peace Max.

**David Hicks** - January 14 at 06:34 PM

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“ Such a kind man and your words describe him well. My condolences to all of you.

**Steve and Cathy Forbes** - January 14 at 05:41 PM

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“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Max E. Heinz.



January 14 at 05:34 PM

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“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Max E. Heinz.



January 14 at 04:33 PM