



Walter M Lechten

FEB 12, 1929 - MAY 24, 2020



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LECHTEN, Walter M. Age 91, of Lake Worth, Fl., and formerly of Newton, Ma., passed on May 24, 2020 after an heroic battle with pancreatic cancer. He was the beloved husband of 65 years to Charlotte Becker Lechten. He was born on February 12, 1929 in Boston, Massachusetts to Abraham and Anna Lechten. He attended Roxbury Memorial High School for Boys and graduated Boston University with several masters degrees. He spent most of his career teaching Physical Education and coaching at Devotion School in Brookline, Ma., and was also the principal of Temple Sinaii religious school. In addition to his loving wife, Walter is survived by his children: Amy Portney and her husband Alan of Boynton Beach, Fl., Susan Satter and husband Stewart of Manalapan, Fl., Tracy Kenney and her husband Tim of Holliston, Ma., and Heidi Potts and her husband Rick of Rogers, Ar.; grandchildren: Shayna and her husband Mat Wolfson, David and Benjamin Portney, Ilyssa Satter and her partner Joe Campanale and Joshua Satter, Emma and Sara Kenney, and Michael and Bobby Potts; and great granddaughter Mikayla Wolfson. Walter was a devoted husband and a wonderful father. He was soft spoken, kind, patient and



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always put the desires of his family first. He worked hard to support his beloved family, even sometimes juggling two or three jobs at a time. Walter was well loved by all who knew him.

Walter loved sports particularly his favorite team, the Boston Red Sox. His passion for baseball

was lifelong from when he was a child, to his position as a pitcher for the New York Giants farm

team, and continued long after his retirement when he played softball. He was naturally gifted

at sports and thoroughly enjoyed sharing his passion with others through his years of being an

adored and respected coach. He was also an avid bowler.

Walter is a veteran of the Korean War. He served honorably in the Air Force for four years.

Due to the unprecedented circumstances during the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be a private

graveside service. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Pancreatic Cancer Action

Network at 1500 Rosecrans Ave., Suite 200, Manhattan Beach, CA, 90266 or use the following

link www.pancan.org/donate.



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EL

Eric Langenthal posted:

Very saddened to hear of Mr. Lechten's passing. He was my role model and I recently retired after a forty-two year career as a PE teacher and coach. I decided on that career path in 7th grade totally from Walter Lechten's influence. A very righteous man, Rest In Peace.

February 16 at 10:51 PM

AP

Amy Portney June 5 at 6:10 PM

Just reading this for the first time. Thank you for the kind words about my Dad. He was very special and I'm thrilled that you realized it, as well. Congrats on your retirement. Amy Lechten Portney

SP

Stuart Piltch posted:

Growing up he was always Mr. Lechten. He carried himself with dignity and taught as well as lived the lesson of respect. He did not care how good you were at a sport or activity but rather your effort and conduct. A very special educator who taught boys how to be men

May 31 at 6:51 PM



Mac Estelle posted:

He was a very caring man who gave his all TO all of his students. Many thanks for pushing us all in the right direction. Rest In Peace Wally.

May 31 at 11:56 AM

CC

Christopher Cook posted:

As a former student from 40 years ago, I still remember "Wally," Mr. Lechten, as a kind and understanding and dedicated gym teacher who gave everyone a chance no matter their ability. He had a way of making us all feel equally valued, as I recall. My condolences to the family and close friends. Wally clearly lived a rich and full life, and will be remembered fondly by so many.

May 29 at 10:31 PM

SP

Steve Piltch October 27 at 7:08 PM

Mr. Lechten was the single best and most important educator of my and many others' elementary school years at the Devotion School. Forever grateful to him for the lessons he taught us. He made us all better people. May he Rest In Peace.



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Bob Novack posted:

A great gym teacher and greater person. So many fond memories from those after-school intramural games. I think we learned more of life in those sessions than in any of the other classes during the school day. Bob Novack Devotion '65

May 29 at 1:01 PM



Josph Reitman posted:

I happened to be back in Brookline and visiting Devotion school the day Mr. Lechten was retiring and was asked to get on stage and say a few words. It was that day I realized how much he had shaped my life. Mr. Lechten taught me how to be an athlete. Taught me about sports and competition. As a gym teacher those things are obvious. But more importantly he taught me how to be a gracious winner and loser. He taught me how to constantly challenge myself. To do one more pull up or run a little faster. That I could always be a little better if I worked at it every day. When I got cocky hitting his fastball at batting practice he would throw me a curve ball to remind me I had more to learn. He taught me to believe in myself. To rise up to the occasion. How to be a hero....and always let me know when I should be proud. And that I could if I put my mind to it....do anything. Without him I would not have had the tools I needed to play high school sports. I would not have become a college football player later. I am not sure I would have had the confidence to pursue my dreams or be a leader when I'm working. He planted the seeds for all those things. Without knowing it Mr. Lechten was one of the most important figures to help shape my future. He was a great and kind man and will be missed.

May 29 at 8:08 AM



Amy Portney September 27 at 4:29 PM

Mr. Reitman, I am Wally's daughter, Amy. I am reading your comments for the first time 2 years after his passing. I'm not sure if you will ever read my post but I want to thank you for the most touching words about my Dad. You really knew him. I miss him, terribly. He is very special and I am so lucky to have "Wally" as MY Dad. ❤️❤️



Catherine posted:

A former student 40 years ago... We never forget the great teachers that made an impact. Thank you Mr Lechten.

May 29 at 4:59 AM



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PK

Phyllis Katz posted:

We have many fond memories of Walter and Charlotte as neighbors on Columbine Road in Newton, Massachusetts. They were wonderful years watching our children grow up and sharing many life events. How blessed we were.....Phyllis and Raanan Katz

May 28 at 5:04 PM

KM

Katy McGraw posted:

Mr. Lechten was my all time favorite PE teacher. As pre-teens and young teens, he fostered a sense of competence and power in our physical abilities in my friends and me. This was unusual for girls at that time. He taught me to throw a football, pitch a softball, and be fiercely competitive in a kind way. The confidence and commitment to fitness that he instilled in us helped us to become the strong people we are today. May his memory be a blessing to all who knew him. Katy O'Reilly
McGrawDevotion School Class of 1983

May 28 at 11:10 AM

NH

Nessim Habif posted:

He was a Great gym teacher and a wonderful person

May 28 at 8:57 AM



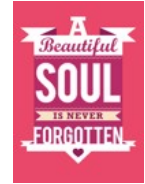
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Anonymous sent a sympathy card to the Lechten family.



May 26 at 6:21 PM



David Counts May 29 at 7:42 AM

There was never much that distinguished me athletically. I was small and scrawny. Mr. Lechten must have identified something about me when administering the President's Physical Fitness test, and he started taking me out of P.E. for the last several minutes of each class (he would let a student teacher finish the class) to run timed laps around the field outside. When the Brookline track meets came around I did well, and it became a big part of my life. I ran at Brookline High and in college. I met my wife through the college track team, and spent 17 years as a coach myself. He was so much more than a great teacher and role model. He sought to bring out the best in each of us as individuals.



Al Lewis May 29 at 6:47 AM

Best Gym Teacher I've had, RIP Mr. Lechten



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Walter by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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