



Adrian R. Sowada

August 9, 1935 - July 14, 2020

Adrian R. Sowada, 84 year old resident of Little Falls, MN passed away Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at Chateau Waters Assisted Living in Sartell, MN.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Friday, July 24, 2020 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Little Falls, MN with Father Ben Kociemba officiating.

Visitation will be held Thursday, July 23, 2020, at the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls, from 3:30 PM until 6:30 PM.

The family would like to reserve the first hour Thursday evening, from 3:30-4:30 P.M, for senior guests as well as those who are disabled or underlying health concerns.

There will also be a visitation one hour before mass, from 1:00-2:00 P.M, on Friday, July 24, 2020 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Little Falls, MN.

MDH Guidelines limiting capacities and requiring social distancing, will be followed.

Funeral arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls, MN.

Adrian had a long and distinguished career in the teaching field, that extended over 37 years. Beginning with eight years at country school, District number 25 (1191), then as a teacher and principal in Rice, Minnesota. Adrian rounded out his life long career with 28 years at Lincoln Elementary School in Little Falls, Minnesota. Adrian had many passions that included spending time with his grandchildren, working with his local township, hunting, fishing, woodworking, playing cards, etc. But none were as deeply and widely rooted, as his love for music! Adrian began playing music early in life. His passion started while yet in high school, playing in a polka band. This love continued on for over 60+ years; playing with the likes of: Dave Willie Orchestra, The Polka Beats, Country Polkateers, Deutschmeisters, LaVerne and the Starlites, and many more. Adrian touched many people in his almost 85 years of life. His infectious laugh; his ability and skill to tell a great joke and his practical joking nature, will be greatly missed... by all.

Adrian is survived by wife, Joann Sowada of Little Falls, MN; son, Keith (Mary Ellen) Sowada of Rice, MN; siblings, Marlene (Dr. John) Mulrooney of Winona, MN, Ramona Sowada of Addison, IL, RoseAnn (David) Munsch of Poway, CA, Lenore (Michael) Leigh of Green Valley, AZ, Dennis (Janice) Sowada of Rice, MN and Terese (Richard) Athman of Hamilton, MT; grandchildren, Cole and Elka Sowada.

Adrian was preceded in death by parents, Alphonse and Monica Sowada and brother, Bishop Alphonse Sowada O.S.C.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery - Little Falls

14637 138th Street
Little Falls, MN 56345

Previous Events

Gathering

JUL 23. 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

LeMieur Funeral Home of Little Falls
214 2nd Street SE
Little Falls, MN

Gathering

JUL 24. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church - Little Falls
305 4th Street SE
Little Falls, MN

Funeral Service

JUL 24. 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church - Little Falls
305 4th Street SE
Little Falls, MN

Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Adrian R. Sowada*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - July 22, 2020 at 11:42 AM



“ *Adrian R. Sowada*

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *Romana and the other cousins, so sorry to just hear about the death of your brother. I will offer mass today for the repose of his soul and the intentions of his family.*

Fr Matt Jozefiak, C.P.P.S.

Fr Matt Jozefiak - August 18, 2020 at 04:40 PM

LL

“ When I think about growing up as Adrian’s younger sister, the memory that supercedes all others is when he was an elementary teacher and was still living at home. One evening he asked my sister and I if we wanted to go get an ice cream cone. We were delighted , living in the country , we never had the opportunity to go into town to get ice cream. He drove us into Little Falls and bought each of us a huge Dairy Queen cone. It was the biggest cone I had ever seen. I’m sure it was at least eight inches tall. That was so special for him to share with us. While living at home and observing his mother having to hang the laundry on the line in the winter, he surprised her one day with an electric clothes dryer. He loved to make others happy and will be dearly missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family who, I’m sure, have many fond memories of Adrian’s love for others. Lenore

Lenore Leigh - July 23, 2020 at 09:59 PM

TA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Terese (Teresa) Athman - July 23, 2020 at 12:33 PM

TA

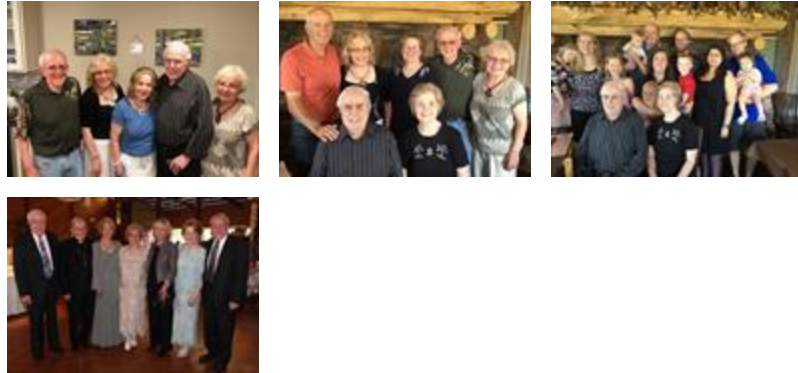
“ 1 file added to the album Life Tributes



Terese (Teresa) Athman - July 23, 2020 at 12:27 PM

TA

“ 4 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Terese (Teresa) Athman - July 22, 2020 at 06:01 PM

TA

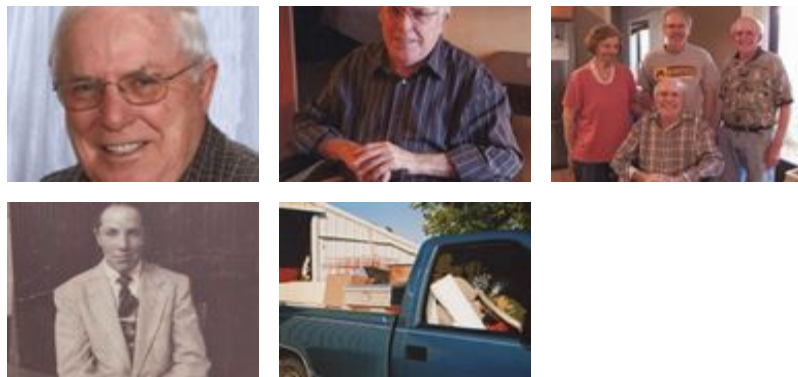
“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Terese (Teresa) Athman - July 22, 2020 at 05:40 PM



“ 51 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - July 22, 2020 at 11:41 AM

SN

“ *Sandy Nelson lit a candle in memory of Adrian R. Sowada*



Sandy Nelson - July 21, 2020 at 10:10 PM

TW

“ *The Wochnick Family, Richard Wochnick, Rosie Peka, Sharon Prokott, Ron Wochnick purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Adrian R. Sowada.*



The Wochnick Family, Richard Wochnick, Rosie Peka, Sharon Prokott, Ron Wochnick - July 20, 2020 at 02:42 PM

RS

“ *As a young boy playing in the Starlite band my wonderful memories of Adrian are many. One of my fondest memories is watching Adrian dance with people on the dance floor while playing with his saxophone. I will always remember him as a fun loving wonderful man. My deepest sympathy to family. Ron Schmidt*

Ronald Schmidt - July 19, 2020 at 06:56 PM

KG

“ *Kathryn Gessell lit a candle in memory of Adrian R. Sowada*



Kathryn Gessell - July 17, 2020 at 01:07 AM

ES

“ *Very sorry to hear about Uncle Adrian. Sending hugs and prayers to you Joann and Keith. Will keep you in our thoughts. Love, Erin schulte and family*

Erin Schulte - July 16, 2020 at 06:49 PM

RW

“ *Richard, Wochnick lit a candle in memory of Adrian R. Sowada*



richard, wochnick - July 16, 2020 at 03:46 PM

RW

Adrian,-was, good,,-man, teacher at-country-school-Dist=25- He, was- interestid-In your- well, being-family,-members,I, was-His- student-For-six- Years?-May- God, Bless, You--Richard, Diona- wochnick

richard, wochnick - July 16, 2020 at 03:57 PM

BK

“ *Ben And Donna Kuklock lit a candle in memory of Adrian R. Sowada*



Ben and Donna Kuklock - July 16, 2020 at 01:32 PM

RL

“ So sad to hear about uncle Adrian’s passing. Our family’s thoughts and prayers go out to Joann and Keith in this difficult time. Wishing all stay healthy and safe into the future.

From the Leigh Family.

Ryan Leigh - July 16, 2020 at 09:41 AM

DH

“ Another member of the Dave-Willie Orchestra was called to heaven. Sincere sympathy to Joann and son Keith and family. Yes, even my oldest child had Adrian as a student, a very good teacher. He will be missed by many.

God Bless you. Adrian you could round up a few of the musicians in heaven as the band is almost complete up there. Sweet music for Jesus.



Debbie Jelinski Harakel - July 16, 2020 at 12:05 AM

MS

“ Mark And Pam Savage lit a candle in memory of Adrian R. Sowada



Mark and Pam Savage - July 15, 2020 at 11:03 PM

JW

“ *Jim And Carol Wielinski sent a virtual gift in memory of Adrian R. Sowada*



Jim and Carol Wielinski - July 15, 2020 at 09:28 PM

DP

“ *Deb Pederson lit a candle in memory of Adrian R. Sowada*



Deb Pederson - July 15, 2020 at 09:01 PM

MR

“ *Mary Jo Retka lit a candle in memory of Adrian R. Sowada*



Mary Jo Retka - July 15, 2020 at 08:39 PM

PD

“ *Phyllis Dobis lit a candle in memory of Adrian R. Sowada*



Phyllis Dobis - July 15, 2020 at 02:16 PM

PD

Adrian was a kind, special man. He taught me through all 8 years of grade school. He also taught 2 of my children at Lincoln school in Little Falls. He was a great teacher.

Managing grades 1--8 at one time was a challenge--but not for him he was only 19 when I was in 1st grade!

He was able to teach & discipline--very tactfully.

Sometimes I think he could read our minds.

Rest in peace Adrian. You gave many children a great start.

My sympathy to your family.

Phyllis Dobis - July 15, 2020 at 02:31 PM

JA

A good classmate at Upsala High School Class of '53.

Janet Albrecht - July 15, 2020 at 10:05 PM

CH

Mr. Sowada was a good teacher who always connected me with my Grandpa. As an adult, He always knew who I was. Sending prayers to you all. As my mom said above, He and the rest of the band are playing for jesus.

Chris Harakel - July 16, 2020 at 08:29 AM

ML

Words are not adequate at a time like this. He was a fun-loving talented Husband, Father, and Friend. His teaching creds are legendary. Musical talent admired. He was a supportive brother in law and would always have a joke readily at hand. He is now at peace and playing music with his pal's. When the sorrow passes. You will always have a smile on your face when if you think of this kind man. Rest In Peace old friend.

Mike Leigh

Michael E Leigh - July 19, 2020 at 02:00 PM

TA

*We are so grateful for all of the summer opportunities to be together, although that time together seems so minimal now!
Your smile can now join that of the angels for all eternity.
Our prayers and support go out to Joanne, Keith, Mary Ellen, Cole and Elka. We know he will be missed, but never forgotten.
God's Peace and Blessings upon all of you. Dick & Terese Athman*

Terese (Teresa) Athman - July 22, 2020 at 06:16 PM