



Allan "Corky" Cornell

September 27, 1934 - August 26, 2017

Allan "Corky" Cornell, 82-year-old resident of Swanville, MN passed away Saturday, August 26, 2017, at the Legacy of St. Michael in St. Michael, MN. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Thursday, August 31, 2017, at St. John's Catholic Church in Swanville, MN with Father Virgil Helmin officiating. Burial will be at the St. John's Parish Cemetery in Swanville.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 P.M. on Wednesday at St. John's Catholic Church in Swanville and one hour prior to the service on Tuesday at the church.

Parish Prayers will be at 7 PM. on Wednesday.

Allan "Corky" Cornell was born September 27, 1934 in Bertha, MN to the late Alvah and Esther (Nelson) Cornell. He graduated from Bertha High School in 1952 and then received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Music Education from St. Cloud State in 1956. After college, Corky began his career in Music Education at Swanville High School where he would work for the next 38 years until his retirement in the spring of 1994. While working in Swanville, Corky met and married Diane Loven on August 21st, 1971 at St. John's Catholic Church in Swanville.

As a teacher, Corky positively influenced hundreds of students over the years. He expected excellence and respect from all of his students while caring deeply about them as individuals and their performance. Over the years, his musical groups were held in high regard by colleagues, families, and the community. In 1997, he became one of the first educators outside the metro area inducted into the Minnesota Music Educators Hall of Fame for his

outstanding contributions to music education in the state.

Corky was a proud member of the Swanville community. He joined the Swanville Lions Club in 1957 holding a variety of positions including President, Bingo Chairman, and Pull-Tab Auditor. He received the Hearing Research Fellow Award in 2002 and was given the distinct honor of being a Lions Club Life-Time member. Corky used his musical talents to contribute to church mass playing organ and piano along with singing at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. Corky also attended many events and benefits throughout the community of Swanville over the years.

Corky displayed his passion for music by being involved in a variety of performance bands and built many lasting friendships through these groups. He loved to dance particularly to live music but would hit the dancefloor whenever given the opportunity. Ultimately, his greatest joy came from spending time with his family including time at his cabin on Long Lake and traveling, both with his wife Diane and their extended family.

Corky is survived by his wife of 46 years Diane Cornell of Swanville, MN; children, Brian (Tammy) Cornell of St. Cloud, MN and Keith (Erin) Cornell of St. Michael, MN; grandchildren, Blake Hansen, Tyler Hansen, Ethan Cornell, Briana Cornell, Abigail Cornell, and Brock Cornell; brother, Larry Cornell of Elburn, IL and sister, Kathy Pfeffer of Alexandria, MN; In-laws, Larry (Betty) Loven, Connie (Don) Olson, and Roxanne Thompson (Jim Molitor) all of Swanville, MN; many nieces and nephews. Corky was preceded in death by his parents; and In-laws, John and Irene Loven.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **30**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church - Swanville
12 First Street
Swanville, MN

Service

AUG **31**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church - Swanville
12 First Street
Swanville, MN

Tribute Wall



“ Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Allan "Corky" Cornell



Lemieur Funeral Homes - August 28, 2017 at 05:49 PM

BS

"Mr. Cornell" was such an inspration to me in many ways. I was blessed to have him in music, band and choir. May he Rest In Peace. God bless his family and friends and give them comfort and strength.

Becky Hanson Schmidt - August 28, 2017 at 09:02 PM

CC

I loved Mr. Cornell; he (thought) I was good enough to be in our Trio of Lila Thompson & Donna McMahon (RIP) & myself; It.. was an exciting time in my life; music was so important to him & he instilled that in all of His students, he was one of the best things that ever that ever happened to SHS... Carol Zarns Crawford...

Carol Zarns Crawford - August 28, 2017 at 09:13 PM



“ Allan "Corky" Cornell

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Allan "Corky" Cornell.*



August 30, 2017 at 02:54 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Allan "Corky" Cornell.*



August 30, 2017 at 01:53 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Allan "Corky" Cornell.*



August 30, 2017 at 11:14 AM



“ *STMA KNIGHTS BASEBALL purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Allan "Corky" Cornell.*



STMA KNIGHTS BASEBALL - August 30, 2017 at 08:57 AM

BE

“ Dear Mr. Cornell,
Our small town band and choir flourished because of your big town prowess as a Master Musician and Master Teacher.
Long will I remember the faith you instilled in our teenage minds, encouraging us to reach beyond our talents and dreams.
I feel it still, the adrenalin that surged - instead of anxiety - because you were there as we trembled on the bleachers at a State Choir Contest - competing against huge metro schools where their Directors had thousands of students to choose from.
Those contestants could not have known that “Your Vocalists” were also “Your Band Members”, nor could they have known of the pride you instilled in our hearts.
The stage was silent.
You bowed to the audience.
We held our breaths.
Like directing at New York City’s Radio Music Hall - you did a precision right hand swirl, stepped atop the director’s box and froze, except for your eyes.
You swept each of us with a look that said, “Your talent is equivalent to that of the Rockettes, so this will be easy.”
Then you winked.
As a group, we silently inhaled and exhaled.
You smiled.
Squared your shoulders.
Raised your baton.
And we were off to the races.
‘Soul’ never sounded so beautiful.
The last step to winning was having a Guest Director see how capable and pliable your Choir could be in the hands of a stranger.
Like birds swarming in the skies to divert an enemy, our voices Crescendomed to his open hands, hushed to his closed fingers.
Amazed, he nodded his acquiescence in awarding us the State’s First Place Award.
You, Mr. Cornell.
To you, we owe gratitude for our life-long love of all things musical.
P.S. Enjoy your hiatus because your retirement will soon be over.

*Slowly, we will follow.
Soon, we will fill the risers again.
And when you elevate your baton, oh, what a Heavenly Choir we shall be.
Until that time, Adoramus Te, Magister Corky.
Most Sincerely,
Blanche Evridge, Champlin, MN
One of Mr. Cornell's Choir, Band and Latin Students*

Blanche Evridge - August 29, 2017 at 09:48 PM

WW

“ *Wendy Waltman lit a candle in memory of Allan "Corky" Cornell*



Wendy Waltman - August 29, 2017 at 09:20 PM

JS

“ *My sincere condolences to Diane and your family at the passing of such a dear man. I know my years under his direction in Glee Club and Choir at Swanville High certainly made my love of music even greater! I will be forever grateful for his talents, patience and wonderful personality. May the many memories keep him forever close in your hearts. He is in the arms of Our Creator now.*

Josine Schneider Skenzich

Josine A Skenzich - August 29, 2017 at 02:41 PM



“ *A Full Life was purchased for the family of Allan "Corky" Cornell.*



August 29, 2017 at 10:29 AM



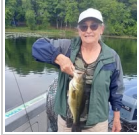
“ *You will lways be Mr. Cornell. I have so much respect for you and so many wonderful memories of my music years in high school. Excellence was the norm and it was achieved year after year. The heavenly choir has one heck of a director. My prayers to you Diane and boys.*

Carol Johnson. - August 28, 2017 at 08:07 PM



“ *Mr. Cornell, you were the very best teacher! I was in choir, girls glee club, band and stage band. I started playing the cornet in grade 5 or was it 6? Anyway, I was involved in music until I graduated from our beloved SHS, so I saw a lot of you over the years. You had a way of instilling music in each and every one of your students. And you taught for 38 years, so you touched many lives. Like the song says, "If you believe in forever, then life is just a one-night stand. If there's a rock and roll heaven, Well you know they've got a hell of a band." Mr. Cornell will be leading it! The family is in my prayers - Lynn (Nelson)Duxbury, Class of 1977*

Lynn Nelson Duxbury - August 28, 2017 at 06:30 PM



“ *Our sympathy to your family. May he Rest in Peace.*



Jayne Vanheel - August 28, 2017 at 05:42 PM



“ *53 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - August 28, 2017 at 04:43 PM



“ *STMA Football purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Allan "Corky" Cornell.*



STMA Football - August 28, 2017 at 02:38 PM



“ *Thoughts and Prayers to the Cornell Family. May you find peace in this time of sorrow. He will live on in all the lives he touched.*

Stacy Maciej - August 28, 2017 at 02:34 PM

BP

“ A true "Music Man", he touched so many lives!

Bruce Pederson - August 28, 2017 at 02:09 PM

Joan
Anderson

“ Mr Cornell instilled in me a love of music that I still have. I always enjoyed band & choir! May God bring comfort, strength, & peace to his family & friends.



Joan Anderson - August 28, 2017 at 09:42 AM

KG

“ Kathryn Gessell sent a virtual gift in memory of Allan "Corky" Cornell



Kathryn Gessell - August 28, 2017 at 09:37 AM

CW

“ Corky was a great musician and a great person. I joined the big band as a kid, and learned much! Great memories!

Chuck Wencil - August 28, 2017 at 08:34 AM

Courtney
Nuehring

“ So sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you and your family.



Courtney Nuehring - August 27, 2017 at 09:06 PM



“ *Brenda Baum lit a candle in memory of Allan "Corky" Cornell*



Brenda Baum - August 27, 2017 at 07:23 PM



“ *Sorry for your loss. Prayers and condolences*



jon strandberg - August 27, 2017 at 06:41 PM



“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Gene Retka - August 27, 2017 at 12:49 PM



Corky playing piano for the Musicians Party in 2014.

American Federation of Musicians - August 27, 2017 at 12:53 PM



American Federation of Musicians Local 536, St Cloud.

American Federation of Musicians - August 27, 2017 at 12:54 PM

NC

So sorry for your loss. He will be sadly missed by everyone

Norman & Ann Carlson - August 27, 2017 at 08:53 PM

RP

I remember playing for his birthday party at a supper club somewhere near Avon. He was a good drummer as well!

Rob and Deb Passavanti

Rob Passavanti - August 28, 2017 at 11:49 AM



"Mr. Cornell" tried so hard to find an appropriate place for me in the band and finally ended up beating the bass drum. I'm sure I was not very musically talented but he had patience with me. A few years later was lucky to have him join our "Loven" family. Rest in peace as you so deserve it.

Amber Loven-Brown - August 28, 2017 at 02:04 PM

CD

I have had the privilege of knowing and working with many music educators throughout my life I have heard their groups perform from school gyms to Carnegie Hall. I held no one in higher esteem and respect than Corky Cornell. He was a teacher's teacher. I considered him a close friend and wonderful neighbor. My deepest condolences to Diane and the boys.

Chris Dunshee - August 29, 2017 at 11:56 PM