



Walter Schley Fitch

August 2, 1938 - March 13, 2025

Walter (Wally) Schley Fitch, 86, of Anderson, Indiana passed away on March 13, 2025, at Rawlins House Assisted Living. He was born on August 2, 1938 in Wellsville, New York.

As a teen, Wally's family moved to Valparaiso, IN where he graduated from Valparaiso High School in 1956. He went on to earn both a bachelor's and a master's degree in secondary education from Ball State University, where he also was a member of Theta Chi fraternity.

He taught and coached at Gary Emerson High School and worked at US Steel before moving to Anderson, where he resided most of his life. He served as assistant manager for Anderson City Utilities before restarting his teaching career. Wally taught Social Studies and English for Anderson Community Schools at Northside, Southside, Highland, Anderson, and Madison Heights, where he retired in 1997.

Beyond the classroom, Wally was involved in his community serving as a member of the Anderson school board, the Madison County Federal Credit Union board, and was a National Representative for the American Federation of Teachers. He was also a member of the Rooster Club and the Tenderloin Club, where he forged lasting relationships.

He enjoyed spending many summers in Minnesota fishing with friends. He was an avid cyclist, enjoyed working out at the gym, or walking the trails at Mounds State Park. In addition, he was a voracious reader and a Harry Potter fan.

Wally is survived by his sister, Lee Elliott of Valparaiso, IN; nieces and nephews, Susan Freeman and Chad Elliott of Valparaiso, IN; Deb Thompson of Phoenix, AZ, Pam Meents of Bellevue, OH, Christine Zimmerman of Dora, MO, Bradley Zimmerman of Bradley, IL, Todd Peters of Germantown, MD, Laurie Peters of Richmond, VA, Mindy Peters of North Chesterfield, VA; and special friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ephriam and Irene (Holaday) Fitch McClure; sisters, Claire Zimmerman and Rev. Sharon Peters; niece, Cynthia Zimmerman; and nephew, Michael Zimmerman.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Madison County Humane Society or the Animal Protection League.

Cremation will take place and a celebration of Wally's life will be held at a later date.

www.loosecares.com.

Tribute Wall

JD

“ I’m so sorry to hear of Mr Fitch’s passing... Mr Fitch was a colleague and friend of my parents, retired ACS teachers Sandy and the late Jim Dillmon. I remember many times Mr Fitch coming to our house for gatherings and teacher’s union work when we lived behind Highland High School. My sympathies to Mr Fitch’s family at this time. He was an extraordinary man putting others first. — Joe Dillmon, Anderson

Joe Dillmon - April 05, 2025 at 02:55 PM

CZ

“ It was nice to read the comments about Uncle Wally and VERY comforting to read the obituary about his well lived life. My sister Cindy kept track of family better than any of us. She had a couple loved conversations with him a couple years ago and shared them with us later for which we're all grateful. I've often wished our family had stayed closer but like Cindy wrote, "the tides, and times of circumstance... families drift apart...". He lived well for which I'm grateful. I'm glad he had a rich and full life. And in my memories, he'll always look like that smiling "Uncle Wally" of my childhood, on the front porch in Valparaiso, talking fishing with my Dad and Grandpa Fitch.

Christine zimmerman - March 28, 2025 at 07:51 PM

JG

“ My sincere condolences to Mr. Fitch's family at this time. He was my high school coach in football and baseball at Emerson high school in the mid 60's. I really enjoyed playing for him and the effort he made for me in getting me scouted for professional baseball. I turned down the offers and got married and went to work in the steel mill. I should have listened to him. He helped so many of us and was such a good man. Wish I could have seen and thanked him one more time. Rest in peace Mr. Fitch.

John Grasham - March 28, 2025 at 01:53 PM

SS

“ My first encounter with Mr. Fitch was back in 1962 as his student in 7th grade. The subjects he taught us were English and Social Studies, but we learned a lot more than that. Whether he realized it or not, he also instilled in us values such as empathy, fairness, and self respect. As a young teacher, he may not have had the experience of those grand ladies who taught at EHS at the time, nevertheless, he too was a great teacher. He cared about his students and we knew it. Many of us still kept in touch with him through the years. “Mr. Fitch” became “Wally” to most of us. It was always a joy to read his posts and witty comments on Fb.

*It is with great sadness to learn of your passing. May you rest in peace, dear Wally, and be assured you will not be forgotten.
Condolences to the family.*

Suzanne Tsakyris Stefanoudakis - March 28, 2025 at 09:37 AM

BW

It is with great sadness to hear about my baseball coach passing he was a great friend of mine.before he passed we would go to breakfast in castle for several years I will miss him very much

Benjamin woods - November 27, 2025 at 11:03 AM

JM

“ *Mr. Fitch was an incredible human being. He was instrumental in the direction I took in my life; he made me believe in me, as he did for many others. He will be sorely missed by all those who knew him.*

John Mazur - March 27, 2025 at 07:57 PM

SH

Loved Mr. Fitch. He was a great teacher. Very caring and inspiring. Always had a smile.

Susan Nedberg Hall - March 28, 2025 at 05:40 AM

DM

My condolences to Mr. Fitch's family! I graduated in 1970 from Emerson. He was always very pleasant! We had lunch quite a few years ago at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis when he was in town for an appointment at St. Vincent Heart Hospital. It was nice to catch up.

Diane morris - March 28, 2025 at 08:08 AM

LL

Fitch was a funny but serious educator. Enjoyed being his colleague & school house neighbor. Always ready with a joke but also ready to comfort, challenge, encourage, and push his students to be & do their best!

Linda Loker - March 28, 2025 at 09:58 AM