

Max M. Fordyce

January 7, 1936 - October 1, 2024

Max Marland Fordyce died October 1, in Warren, IN. He was born on January 7, 1936, the son of Cecil and Agnes (Pond) Fordyce. An older brother, Robert, preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Phyllis (Burkhart) Fordyce.

Max graduated from Huntington High School in 1954. He attended Huntington University and went on to receive a Master's Degree from Ball State University in Science Education. He continued his education largely through the National Science Foundation attending summers at Indiana University, Michigan State, Northwestern, and Notre Dame.

One of the Indiana state finalists for the Challenger "Teacher in Space" program, he loved sharing his interest in all things science and math, first teaching at Clear Creek High School, then by teaching astronomy, chemistry, math, and physics at Huntington North High School for 35 years, retiring in the late 1990's. He was a member of the Huntington County Classroom Teachers and Indiana State Teachers, serving as a leader in both groups over the years. He enjoyed many activities associated with the students including his favorite, the Variety Show, "star parties", high school sports, and many other school related activities. He enjoyed signing with the Chain-O-Lakes barbershop chorus and quartet. He loved sailing his catamaran and fishing at Big Lake. He was a big country and gospel music fan. He volunteered at

United in Love food pantry after retirement. He was a Wabash-Erie canal history interpreter at the Historic Forks of the Wabash, especially enjoying dressing and playing the part to area 4th graders visiting the Forks and sharing his stories with 8th graders in his daughter's history classes. He and Phyllis also traveled the United States extensively, visiting all 50 states. His special hobby was reupholstering furniture. And, of course, he loved his IU basketball!

He lived his faith every day and was a member of Bethel United Methodist Church where they were married on August 3, 1958, and then Trinity Church in Huntington where he taught Sunday School, and was active in many outreach activities of the church in the community.

Max is survived by his loving wife, Phyllis, who stayed by his side until the end. He had three daughters, Cynthia (Edward) Welling of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Pamela (Thad) Perkins of Southport, North Carolina, and Julie (Jerry) Oliver of New Castle, Indiana. He was the proud grandpa to Kimberly (Steve) Hurth, Scott (Stacy) Oliver, Michael Welling, Aaron Perkins, Casey (Andy) Adams, Kathleen Welling, and Abby (Sakshay) Bhatnagar. He also had a nephew, Jesse Fordyce. He also had four great grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Monday, October 7, 2024, at Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 West Park Drive, Huntington, IN. Funeral services will be held at 12:00 pm Monday, October 7, 2024, at Bailey-Love Mortuary with Gearld Moreland officiating. Burial will be in Pilgrims Rest Cemetery in Huntington.

Preferred memorials to the United in Love Food Pantry, in care of Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 West Park Drive, Huntington, IN, 46750.

Please sign the online guest book at www.baileylove.com.

Bailey-Love Mortuary is honored to serve the family of Max M. Fordyce.

Cemetery Details

Pilgrims Rest Cemetery

4945 N. Jefferson St
Huntington, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 7. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary
35 West Park Drive
Huntington, IN 46750
(260) 356-1710
wecare@baileylove.com
<https://www.baileylove.com>

Service

OCT 7. 12:00 PM (ET)

Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary
35 West Park Drive
Huntington, IN 46750
(260) 356-1710
wecare@baileylove.com
<https://www.baileylove.com>

Burial

OCT 7 (ET)

Pilgrims Rest Cemetery
4945 N. Jefferson St
Huntington, IN

Tribute Wall



“ *Bailey-Love Mortuary has created this video tribute in memory of Max Fordyce.* ”

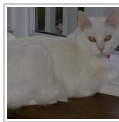


Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary - October 03, 2024 at 02:30 PM

RM

Great video ! Shows how special he was.He done so much for the community but always there for his wonderful family !!! Rick and Dawn Miller

Rick and Dawn Miller - October 04, 2024 at 01:59 AM



I loved this video. Even though I have not seen my cousin Max in a very long time, this was exactly how I remember him-- smiling and happy!

Valerie Brown - October 04, 2024 at 02:26 PM

D1

He was the consummate science teacher at HNHS.

Douglas Price, class of 1973 - October 05, 2024 at 01:20 PM

Jl

What a great physics teacher.

Jill - October 13, 2024 at 05:53 PM

BF

“ Max was my student teaching mentor in the summer of 1969. It was a chemistry class at the old Huntington High School building on Guilford Street. Max introduced me to the spirit duplicator machine. I remember a field trip to a glass factory over in Hartford City and a cook-out in Max and Phyllis' backyard for the students. In 1982, we were together again at Huntington North High School on McGahn Street. Max had a big hand in making sure that Huntington North was one of the best equipped and up-to-date science labs in the state of Indiana. A great friend. Thank you Max. Love to all.

Bob Flora - October 19, 2024 at 02:11 PM

SM

“ Max used to be our neighbor. Our kids were little and loved running across the yard to visit both Max and Phyllis. They went there often. Max and Phyllis were part of our family. Love you guys.

Shannon Miller - October 07, 2024 at 07:27 PM

NL

“ I had the privilege of student teaching chemistry under Mr. Fordyce starting in January 1979 at Huntington North. He was one of three teachers (including Mr. Betterly and Mr. Diffenbaugh) I taught under that semester. He was very nice and helpful. His students enjoyed his class, and I learned a lot from him. I truly enjoyed student teaching and appreciate his willingness to mentor me. Praying for his family.

Nancy Lamport

Nancy Lamport - October 06, 2024 at 09:33 PM



“ *Mr. Fordyce taught me geometry and algebra at Huntington High in the early '60's. He gave me a lifelong love of the methods of geometry, the nature of layered proofs arising out of axioms and previously proven hypotheses. He was less successful in winning me over to algebra. That was my fault, though, not his. He was a gifted teacher and a gentle soul, a model for many generations of students. Together with Bob Diffenbaugh, he was the class sponsor for the Class of 1965, and we had great fun. He and Bob convinced us to use our class earnings to buy a photocopier for the school office as our class gift. Xeroxing came to Huntington in 1965, way ahead of its time! Warm memories. Sincere condolences to all who loved him and whom he loved. Tom Hochstettler, Portland, OR*

Thomas Hochstettler - October 04, 2024 at 06:42 PM

FJ

“ My condolences and sympathy go out to the Fordyce family during this time of separation, grief, and loss. While I can't fully grasp what you are going through, I, too, grieve and I would like to share with you a bit of why I feel this way.

Mr. Fordyce began teaching at Clear Creek High School in the fall of my freshman year, so I was blessed to be one of his students in math (and Chemistry) for three wonderful years. He was my favorite teacher at CCHS for a number of reasons. He was tough, enthusiastic, funny, and caring in class and out, and he taught in such a way that he inspired me to want to learn and to master the material. It is no exaggeration to say that he turned my life around and made me love a subject that I had long disliked. When I entered CCHS, I wasn't a very serious student and I didn't much care for math, but somehow after a few weeks in his Algebra I class, I was eager to study and learn the material, not just in his class but in others. I was shocked to find that I understood the math and actually enjoyed it—math was fun! Mr. Fordyce was always easy to talk to and took a personal interest in his students. He even sent me a graduation card although he wasn't at Clear Creek High School for my senior year. I still have that card.

Mr. Fordyce inspired me to major in math in college and set me on a path that included two graduate degrees in mathematics and becoming a math professor at the same college where both he and I graduated. Whenever I was teaching, I tried to follow his example of lively, caring interaction with the students.

I was very fond of him not only while he taught me but during all the years since then. I will miss him greatly. Rest in Peace, Mr. Fordyce; teacher, mentor, and friend.

Francis Jones, Clear Creek High School, 1962.

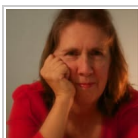
Francis Jones - October 04, 2024 at 09:45 AM

NF

“ *Natalie Fouts lit a candle in memory of Max Fordyce*



Natalie Fouts - October 03, 2024 at 06:12 PM



“ *I had Mr. Fordyce for Chemistry (which I barely passed). Oddly enough, the thing that stands out from his class is when a kid walked into class with a "pocket" calculator (the size of a paperback book) that had cost him \$200.00! Mr. Fordyce said, "Don't buy one now. The price will come down. Technology always comes down in price. The day will probably come when they are giving calculators away." That seemed impossible to me, but he turned out to be right!*

Marcia Woodard - October 03, 2024 at 07:38 AM

DF

“ *Mr. Fordyce was one of my best teachers, ever. I took astronomy at Huntington North and got to use the planetarium, which he was especially proud of. He helped get the planetarium for the school in which I believe not too many high schools had.*

Dave Foster - October 03, 2024 at 12:20 AM

JK

“ *He was a wonderful teacher that we remember fondly. Our sympathy to the family. Joanna (Bingham) and Art Kline*

Joanna Kline - October 02, 2024 at 09:59 PM

JL

“ Max was my inspiration to making a career as a Physics and Chemistry teacher. I was fortunate to have him for Chemistry, Astronomy and Physics. He made me fall in love with those subjects. I was also lucky enough to do my student teaching under Max. He added so much color to my learning. I could not imagine wanting to do anything different after I had him for class. I often wondered if there was anything he didn't know. I worked harder at being a teacher so my students could have a similar experience like he gave me. I am indebted to him and will miss him. Jon Lippe

Jon Lippe - October 02, 2024 at 06:14 PM

LS

“ Mr. Fordyce made physics class interesting and fun although challenging! But I had the privilege of working in the science department during study hall and he was so personable, funny, and truly a caring teacher. He was definitely one of the best!

Laura Smart - October 02, 2024 at 06:11 PM

DF

“ Max was my astronomy teacher at Huntington North. He was very nice but tough. Back then it was ok for the teachers to be tough. It was the attitude that really mattered. You could tell when the teachers liked their job and the students. Things have really changed today. He will be missed.

dan fisher - October 02, 2024 at 06:05 PM

DF

“ You probably don't know me, but my name is Danielle Fordyce. I am the youngest daughter of Jesse Fordyce. You may or may not know my dad passed away back in May. I didn't know Max very well. I can only recall meeting him a handful of times when I was little. One time was out at Big Lake where he took me out on his sailboat while my dad watched us from shore. That was probably the last time I saw great uncle Max. When I started high school at Huntington North I found it funny how many people asked me if I was related to Max Fordyce upon them hearing my last name was also Fordyce. Keep in mind I was in high school in the late 2000s so Max had been retired for about 10 years! My condolences for his passing. Losing a loved one is never easy. I pray God brings you comfort during this difficult time.

Danielle Fordyce - October 02, 2024 at 10:37 AM

MB

Danielle I went to school with your dad he was a good guy. Sorry you lost him . I was shocked when I read this I didn't realize he was sick.

mag brennan-Siders - October 03, 2024 at 02:31 AM

GG

“ Math was a favorite subject of mine. Max was my Geometry teacher at Clear Creek High School. We had a huge class so 7 of us were able to meet at a different period which made the class even more special with lots of participation. All these years later, it dawned on me, that Mr. Fordyce probably gave up his Prep Period for our class. What a good guy and good teacher. He has brought back lots of memories from long ago

Genie Howenstine Gard CCHS Class of 1967

Genie Howenstine Gard - October 02, 2024 at 03:06 AM

NY

I was blessed to have had Max as my brother-in-law. I was 13 years old when Phyllis brought Max home to introduce him to our family. From then on, Max was a big part of my life. I have so many cherished memories from making home made ice cream to wonderful family reunions at Big Lake and the list goes on. In my heart Max will always be remembered as a special person to me.

*Love,
Nelda*

Nelda Yavorsky - October 03, 2024 at 12:55 AM

JV

“ I am so sorry to hear this! He was such a special man and so kind! He touched so many lives over the years, especially mine! I am keeping you all in my prayers and hoping you can find peace in the days ahead. With Deepest Sympathy and much love!



Jane Hale Varney - October 01, 2024 at 07:07 PM