



## Durbin LeRoy Wagner

September 6, 1937 - July 10, 2023

Durbin L. Wagner

July 10, 2023

Durbin LeRoy Wagner, 85, of Newport went to be with the Lord on Monday, July 10, 2023 in UPMC West Shore Hospital, Mechanicsburg, PA, following a lengthy illness.

Born September 6, 1937, in Tamaqua, he was the son of the late Paul LeRoy and Marguerite (Ott) Wagner.

After graduating from Tamaqua High School in 1955, Durbin entered the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1956, which he attended for one year. He went to on to serve in the U.S. Army from 1957-58. Durbin attended Wyoming Seminary for one year, and then transferred to Dickenson College in 1960, where he met his future wife, Judith, and earned his BA in 1962. He received his master's degree from Lehigh University, and PhD. of Education from Nova University and the University of Tucson. He began his teaching career in New Jersey in 1963, and became a beloved teacher and principal, highly regarded by his former students; known for his kindness, compassion and generosity with second chances. Durbin had a longtime love for athletics, coaching and officiating for various football, basketball and baseball teams. He started teaching in Tamaqua in 1964, and from there, went on to teach at Minersville,

where he was also Principal. He was Assistant Principal in Kutztown, going on to serve at West Perry as Assistant Principal, Principal, Assistant Superintendent and Athletic Director. He retired after serving as Superintendent in Phillipsburg from 1995 to 1996. Following his retirement, Durbin was a company representative for Everbind Books, Cram Maps, and Macmillan Publishers. He was a member of Newport American Legion Post 177, and Tamaqua/Mahanoy City Lodge 238 F&AM. He was an elder at the First United Presbyterian Church in Tamaqua, and a member of St. Samuel's Lutheran Church and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Newport.

Surviving is his wife of 59 years, Judith (Garland) Wagner of Newport, PA; Son S. Durbin Wagner and wife Yolanda of Tamaqua and daughter Jane Wagner of New Bloomfield; a brother, Rev. S. Bruce Wagner and wife Sylvia of New Jersey, and brother-in-law Frank Vido of Ohio; cousin Joan Wagner Camerini of Tamaqua, 9 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, and several nieces, nephews and cousins. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Paul Wagner, sister Lois and her husband LaVerne Etshman, and sister Fay Vido.

A service will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, July 19, 2023 in the Boyer Family Funeral Home, 101 W. Main Street, New Bloomfield, PA, with a viewing two hours (4-6 p.m.) prior to the service; and Thursday, July 20, 2023 at 1 p.m. in Zizelmann-Gulla Funeral Home, 500 E. Broad Street, Tamaqua, PA. A viewing will be held two hours (11 a.m.-1 p.m.) prior to the service. Interment is to be at Odd Fellows Cemetery in Tamaqua at the convenience of the family.

Masonic services will be held at 12 noon on Thursday, July 20, 2023 at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made, in Durbin's memory, to the West Perry

Athletic Department, West Perry School District, 2606 Shermans Valley Road,  
Elliottsburg, PA 17024.

The Boyer Family is honored to handle the arrangements for the Wagner  
Family

# Previous Events

## Viewing

JUL 19. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Boyer Family Funeral Home  
101 W. Main Street  
New Bloomfield, PA

*Another viewing will be held in Tamaqua on Thursday, 7/20/2023 at Zizelman Funeral Hme at 11 AM*

## Celebration of Life

JUL 19. 6:00 PM (ET)

Boyer Family Funeral Home  
101 W. Main Street  
New Bloomfield, PA

*A celebration of Life service will also be held at Zizelman Funeral Home in Tamaqua at 1 PM on 7/20/2023*

# Tribute Wall



“ Boyer Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Durbin LeRoy Wagner



Boyer Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Inc - July 18, 2023 at 03:55 PM

RL

“ I knew Mr. Wagner first as a teacher and coach at Tamaqua High School and I later worked for him when he served as Principal at Minersville High School. He was a wonderful, kind man and a fantastic mentor. Rhonda Jones Levy

Rhonda Jones Levy - April 29, 2025 at 04:14 PM

B(

“ Mr. Wagner was a kind principal. He showed by example what being a good human is all about. Years after I graduated he was never too busy to stop and talk when I would run into him in the grocery store. He will be so missed. I was blessed to know him.



Barbie Bronson (Bishop) - August 18, 2023 at 11:55 PM



“ 85 files added to the album LifeTributes



Boyer Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Inc - July 18, 2023 at 03:55 PM



“ Marilyn Shamonsky lit a candle in memory of Durbin LeRoy Wagner



Marilyn Shamonsky - July 17, 2023 at 03:59 PM



He was the Best at Tamaqua Area High School. Rest in Eternal Peace Mr. Wagner.

Marilyn Shamonsky - July 17, 2023 at 03:59 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Mr. Wagner's passing. He was a great teacher. I remember babysitting for his family a few times. Such a sweet man.

Doris Hollenbach Meneses - July 17, 2023 at 03:02 PM

DD

“ I was saddened to hear of Mr. Wagner's passing. He was my 11th grade World Culture teacher at Tamaqua High and very grateful I was in his class. If it weren't for his open book tests, I probably wouldn't have passed the course! I remember him as a kind, wonderful man who had a great smile. He also coached the Blue Raiders to a league championship in baseball in 1970. Sending my sincere sympathy to everyone in the Wagner family. May God be with you all and give you His peace.

*Debbie Meredith Delp  
Tamaqua*

---

**Debbie Meredith Delp** - July 17, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



---

**Boyer Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Inc** - July 17, 2023 at 10:16 AM

SL

“ *Shawn Liddick purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Durbin LeRoy Wagner.*



---

**Shawn Liddick** - July 12, 2023 at 09:49 PM

SL

“ Shawn Liddick planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Durbin LeRoy Wagner.

---

**Shawn Liddick** - July 12, 2023 at 09:49 PM