



## Mr. Richard A. Borsch of Elmwood Park

May 10, 1941 - June 14, 2020

Rich Borsch, 79 of Elmwood Park, entered into eternal life June 14, 2020.

Cherished husband and best friend of Karen, father and grandfather to many. As a member of Fenwick High School's faculty, Rich spent 52 years guiding, teaching, coaching and mentoring his students and athletes. He made an impact on many lives within the Fenwick community and beyond. His legacy and dedication will span generations and echo through the hallways of Fenwick for years to come. A memorial service will be announced at a later date. Interment will be private.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic concerns, the Borsch Family will be postponing setting a schedule for a celebration of life ceremony for Richard A. Borsch, when a schedule is set this information will be updated. The family has created this Life Tributes page to make it easy to share your memories, photos, and videos.

For further information please contact the Morizzo Funeral Directors at 847.752.6444. Arrangements entrusted to Morizzo Funeral Home and Cremation Services, at 2550 West Hassell Road, (Northeast corner at Barrington Road), Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60169.

For those of you that would have attended services and would like to express

your condolences to the Borsch family, please click on the link above and you can leave the family a message, with the share a memory link. If you wish to send a Sympathy Card to the Family, please feel free to send it to Morizzo Funeral Home, 2550 Hassell Road, Hoffman Estates, Illinois, 60169 c/o The Borsch Family. We will gladly forward it on.

# Tribute Wall

JB

“ *He was my uncle, and always a good role model, and a man I respected. Been years since I seen him, and will miss him.* ”

Jim Borsch - August 13, 2023 at 11:44 PM



“ *Mr. Richard A. Borsch of Elmwood Park* ”

November 04, 2022 at 06:54 PM

SR

“ *Sharon Raffaelli lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard A. Borsch of Elmwood Park* ”



Sharon Raffaelli - June 14, 2022 at 12:31 PM

SR

“ *So very missed* ” ❤️



Sharon Raffaelli - June 14, 2021 at 01:27 AM

SR

“ Sharon Raffaelli sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Richard A. Borsch of Elmwood Park



Sharon Raffaelli - December 15, 2020 at 08:20 PM

M'

“ I am sorry to hear about Mr. Borsch's passing especially during a time when the Fenwick community cannot gather together to celebrate his life. Mr. Borsch was the only teacher from Fenwick I had kept in touch with some 20+ years since graduating. His British Literature course introduced me to the works of Virigina Woolf-- a life-changing experience. I have fond memories of Mr. Borsch playing a Moody Blues album and screening clips from "2001 Space Odyssey" in his classroom in the basement of Fenwick. I am grateful for these memories and for the kindness Mr. Borsch demonstrated as a teacher-counselor. Sending much love to his family and frineds--

Mary '97 - November 11, 2020 at 04:30 PM

TH

“ Offering our deepest condolences during this difficult time.



Those of us at Morizzo Funeral Home - June 26, 2020 at 12:08 PM

SR

I hope you're at peace 🙏🙏❤️

sharon raffaelli - October 01, 2020 at 07:47 PM

PN

“ Coach Borsch had higher expectations for me than I had for myself, and helped me learn how to build the community and confidence to pursue those ambitions. Rich created the environment that kept me at Fenwick when I thought I wanted to leave, and got me into a college I thought was out of my reach. Both moments changed my life for the better forever. His belief in me helped me believe in myself. Forever grateful, I'll miss you Coach, but never forget.

*Peter Newell, '97*

---

**Peter Newell** - June 26, 2020 at 10:25 AM

PL

“ Very sorry for your loss. We grew up in a great neighborhood. Neighbors were family  
I remember Mr. Borsch building an ice rink in your back yard and a trip to Great America... my first time going.. very sweet to invited on a family trip

*Your dad had a great family and a successful career - very rewarding. Helping his students find their way in life. Truly an asset in this crazy life.*

*Would love to be apart of the celebttation of life ceremony at a later date.*

*Your dad is in your heart forever  
Xoxoxoxo*

---

**Pattie Clark Lambrakis** - June 24, 2020 at 01:24 PM

PL

*Pattie Clark*

---

**Pattie Clark Lambrakis** - June 24, 2020 at 01:27 PM

BW

*Thanks Pattie!!!*

---

**Beth West** - July 05, 2020 at 08:38 AM

HL

“ We were so sorry to hear about Mr. Borsch. So many fond memories of growing up with the Borsch family.....the summer baseball games & friendly competition between the Rockets & the Mohawks came to mind. He will be missed by all who knew & loved him. RIP Mr. Borsch. Pree, Rich, Yvette, Beth & the entire family are in our thoughts & prayers.  
Our Deepest Sympathy,  
The Clark Family

---

**Helen Clark LaBuda** - June 23, 2020 at 03:03 PM

CL

*To the Borsch family. As the good Father Brankin Once said, "home is where you hang your hat". We had a great HOME and Family In St Thomas More. I was very sad to hear the news of Mr Borsch passing. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.*

---

**Cindy Lambrakis** - June 24, 2020 at 09:24 PM

BW

*Thank you Helen & Cindy!  
Cindy do you still have my wedding video by chance? OMG*

---

**Beth West** - July 05, 2020 at 08:39 AM

MD

“ *Rich would be more than a little embarrassed to read these tributes. As a 40 year friend and professional colleague he was to me, simply and uniquely, the person who would be your friend forever after the first handshake or hug. Rest in peace, buddy...and don't beat your heavenly trivia challengers too often.*  
*Mike Dessimoz*

---

**Mike Dessimoz** - June 21, 2020 at 12:07 AM

RC

“ *Rich Borsch and his wonderful wife deserved and got my admiration and profound respect over some 40 years.... I was a weekend Mass celebrant at St Thomas More parish and the Principal of Mt. Carmel High School. I saw him on Sundays and special occasions. We would meet intermittently and talk shop and all - what a beautiful and happy person to do what he did with such finesse at Fenwick over the years! He personified the best in Catholic High School faculty and was a model professional precisely because he saw in each and every person something of value and dignity.*

*Fr. Robert Carroll, O.Carm.*

---

**Robert C Carroll** - June 20, 2020 at 11:04 AM

SR

“ *Sharon Raffaelli lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard A. Borsch of Elmwood Park*



---

**Sharon Raffaelli** - June 20, 2020 at 12:52 AM



“ *He was a singularly special person that characterized the fenwick experience. He ushered me and thousands of other Friars to good decisions, which probably wouldn't have been made had we been left to our own devices. He was really special and will be missed.*

---

**John Roche** - June 19, 2020 at 01:49 PM

JE

“ I made a choice to not go to a "normal" college. It freaked me out to make this decision, and Mr. Borsch very honestly supported me enough that it made me feel it was the right decision. It was. In a time when I didn't feel very supported for my weird choices, he came out of the blue. As a high school student, when many adults aren't being very honest with you, he truly was. I was so lucky we had that one conversation and I think of it often!

---

**Jenny** - June 18, 2020 at 11:33 PM

KH

“ God bless Mr. Borsch, an irreplaceable Fenwick Friar. Our prayers for his family - May you be consoled by the prayers and love of so many. May Mr. Borsch rest in the loving arms of God.  
*The Hillsman Family*

---

**Kathleen Hillsman** - June 18, 2020 at 06:26 PM

EC

“*Mr. Borsch was one of the sweetest people I had ever encountered at Fenwick. He always had time for you, to hear about your innermost thoughts and the daily drama that most high school students couldn't escape. Every time I would have a meeting with him, he would tell me he missed the last Hawks game and make me give him a recap. It always made my day. He made people feel like they mattered and their interests were important. He was made perfectly for the college counselor role.*

*I always give him credit for my decision to ultimately go to Bowling Green State University. He helped me do all the research and pushed me to go to a school I would know no one. He constantly encouraged me to do push myself outside of my usual comfort levels. It ended up being one of the best decisions in my life and some of the most amazing years.*

*He will be deeply missed among the Fenwick community. My sincere condolences to his wife, Karen, and the Borsch family.*

---

**Ellen Chlumecky** - June 18, 2020 at 04:10 PM

PC

“ During a college information session at Fenwick a couple of years ago, I interrupted Mr. Borsch while he was speaking with a representative from Notre Dame University. I asked if they were planning to change the name of the university since the word "dame" isn't politically correct. Mr. Borsch gave me a big pat on the back for that. So much so that my shoulder still hurts ! (A slight exaggeration.)

*Although I didn't have nearly as much interaction with Mr. Borsch as my mother believes would have been beneficial, I have no doubt that he kept everyone on the "straight and narrow", even me, a Fenwick parent who obviously never had the privilege to be a Fenwick student.*

*In The Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25, Christ said this of those who have been given responsibilities and faithfully accomplished their duties, "19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' "*

*Throughout his many years at Fenwick, Mr. Borsch took his God given talents and faithfully returned an investment thousands of times over by guiding young men and women on their paths in life. Although we are sad for the great loss caused by his departure, we should not be surprised that our Heavenly Father would call such a faithful and beloved son to be with Him forever just in time for Father's Day.*

*Sincerely,  
Peter A. Capron*

---

**Peter A. Capron** - June 18, 2020 at 09:08 AM

FR

“ When Mr. Borsch brought mimeographed pages of poetry into our English classroom in 1968, I looked down and saw that he had included a singer-songwriter that had mesmerized me the past year. He did to my studies of English, what Bob Dylan did to folk music: he electrified it and made me realize that the student of English literature did not have to be limited to what dead poets had written centuries earlier.

*At that time I had no idea of becoming an English teacher myself, and we never talked about it. But in retrospect, I have come to realize that it was moments like that, and many others at Fenwick, that helped shaped me into the career I have been enjoying for more than 45 years.*

*Bob Dylan went on to win a Nobel Prize for Literature. Who would have thought that could happen back then when Mr. Borsch went through the lyrics of “Subterranean Homesick Blues,” line by line to show us how something we loved could be poetry.*

*I never had the chance to thank him personally—something that I now know is like a spiritual annuity for teachers as they go through years of low pay and high demands on their time in this world. This will serve as my public expression of thanks, so that at least those who knew him can see how he helped to turn a stumbling high school student into a Distinguished Professor of English and Italian American Studies at Queens College in the City University of New York.*

*I know now that I couldn’t have done it without his opening my eyes to the poetry that was around me.*

*Dr. Fred L. Gardaphe*

---

Fred - June 18, 2020 at 06:17 AM

GA

*My wife and I met Richard Borsch when he coached our son Robert Aranha on the Freshman Football team. Later he became counselor to our son Matthew who later attended Notre Dame. He was always jovial, and one could see from talking to him that he was proud to be associated with Fenwick. Our grandson John Prabhu was hoping to get him as counselor in his senior year coming up. Alas it is not to be. Rich will be dearly missed.*

*Gerard and Rose Aranha*

---

**gerard aranha** - June 19, 2020 at 03:02 PM

WI

*Richard Borsch was an extremely competent man who was a gifted counselor and football coach. He balanced discipline with compassion and was always involved in the high school experience. He was very attentive to all his mentees. He helped me get through a tough time in my Sophomore year at Fenwick. Without him I do not think that I would have made it through the tough times that that year presented. He was always on duty and represented Fenwick well and was always there to counsel the student body on good sportsmanship. I miss him and it is very deep loss to the Friar community. He will be sorely missed as he taught by example. My deepest condolences to his extended family. May he Rest in Eternal Peace!*

*Bill Troyer Class of 1980*

---

**William Troyer III** - June 19, 2020 at 05:48 PM

AF

“ I remember so well my first encounter with Rich – speeding up Harlem Avenue for my first high school visit as an admissions counselor, covering Chicago for Notre Dame. Having misjudged trains, construction, and stoplights, I was late and had to phone him. He sounded rather stern so I was certain I had made a rocky first impression. (I believe there were tears!) How soon and often I would experience his kind mentorship and witness his complete dedication to Fenwick students. I learned so much from Rich during the 27 years I was fortunate to know and admire him. I will miss our weekly conversations, but always recall and incorporate his valued guidance. My sincere condolences to his wife, Karen, and the Borsch family.

*And until we meet again, may God hold you in the hollow of His hand...*

*Alisa Fisher  
Enrollment Division/Notre Dame*

---

**Alisa M Fisher** - June 17, 2020 at 11:46 PM

PC

*Are you the person who I ask about the name change described above?*

---

**Peter A. Capron** - June 19, 2020 at 11:12 AM

CS

“ *Mr. Borsch was is an embodiment of a true Fenwick Friar. Whenever an opportunity to praise Fenwick presented itself, Mr. Borsch made sure to sing his praises. As a previous student, Mr. Borsch taught me to never give up on my goals but the most valuable lesson he taught me was to survey all opportunities. I have tremendous respect for Mr. Borsch and wish to thank him for the lessons he taught not only me, but to all who was blessed to cross paths with him. Mr. Borsch and his family will forever be in our hearts and will always be remembered as one of Fenwick's greats.*

---

**Carlos Soto** - June 17, 2020 at 10:39 PM

AG

“ It was in April 2010 when Mr. Borsh called me to tell me that my son who was in the waiting list had been accepted. In that instant HE opened not a door but a building full of opportunities to my sons and myself.

*Sir, wherever you are, I thank you very much for not only taking us out from the darkness but to become free. Free of hunger, free of poverty, free “*

*God’s word says “When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?” “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”*

*Matthew 25:38-40 NIV*

*GOD BLESS YOUR SOUL!!! In Jesus name*

*A M E N!!!!!!* 

*Carlos and JonCarlo Soto.*

---

**Aurora Garcia** - June 17, 2020 at 10:37 PM

BF

“ As a Fenwick parent, Mr. Borsch was a light in the darkness for college admissions when our oldest was in the college process. I was reminded again how absolutely amazing he was, when my daughter went through college admissions last year. His in depth knowledge, his reassuring certainty, his empathy for what students faced left an indelible mark on our lives and that of our children. The world was a better place with him in it, it will be worse off without him. Fenwick will never be the same. Our only solace is that our loss is heaven's gain. He is probably already explaining the effect of SAT scores to the angels! Godspeed Mr. Borsch.

---

**Brian Farrar** - June 17, 2020 at 05:40 PM

BG

“ I'd like to offer my sincerest condolences to the Borsch family.

*Coach Borsch was one of the first people I met when I arrived at Fenwick - freshman football "doubles." His energy, passion and humor made those sweaty practices bearable, even fun...ish. I still quote some of his "helpful motivational sayings" today. ("Glascott, if you were walking through the desert alone, and there was one pile of dog shit in the whole desert, you'd step in it."). But he always gave me another chance to get it right. And I didn't ever want to let him down.*

*He was always "Coach" to me but the meaning of that went well beyond football. For four years Coach was always there to support, push and, when (frequently) needed, put me back on track. When senior year came around, I still vividly remember him calling me into his office to go over the college recommendation he'd written for me. I remember thinking about how he found the time to write such long, thoughtful and personal missives for so many kids. It touched me deeply then and I still get chills today recalling him reading those effusive words. I have no doubt that I wouldn't have had the options I did back then were it not for his passionate edorsement. He so meaningfully influenced the course of my life. I owe him so much. Rest easy, Coach. I'll keep watching my step.*

---

**Bill Glascott** - June 17, 2020 at 04:45 PM

AD

“ Back before freshman year Mr. Borsch chatted with my now soon to be senior son on the amazing reasons why he should attend Fenwick. It was a great convo neither of us will forget. He said, “It feels weird putting the hard sell on a 15 year old, but you need to come to school here. It will be the best decision you make.” He was right...Thank you so much for taking the time to meet with Hayden that day. ❤️

---

**Alison Dondlinger** - June 17, 2020 at 04:07 PM

PD

“ Coach Borsch spent over 50 years at Fenwick High School. He was a rare kind of educator, that interacts with each student who goes through this high school, one on one no less. He has helped countless students in his career. In the past few days, I have seen so many of his players say "He taught me to be a man". We will never be able to grasp the immense impact Coach had on generations of Friars.

*Personally- Coach Borsch was the person who put me on to Illinois Wesleyan. I had never heard of the school before. I met my best friends at that school. I met my wife there. I pursued my dreams at IWU, and without Coach, I don't even know that I would even know that IWU existed. I owe so much to this man.*

*In these last two years, I was lucky enough to count Coach as a colleague. What this man did for the students on a daily basis, made me appreciate him even more.*

*I hope this man's selflessness and care for young people's futures inspires everyone who knew him.*

*Peter Durkin '03*

---

**Peter Durkin** - June 17, 2020 at 02:59 PM

MM

“ It is sad when we loss people in our lives, especially when they have had such a big impact in who we are and who we become. There are not many moments bigger than the time you enter high school, Mr. Borsch was one the first person I met when coming to Fenwick as I walked into the first day of Freshman Football practice. Anyone who played for him probably saw at least a few clip boards being broken by him. I have many memories of those days at practice and those that followed the next 4 years as he helped influence my thoughts around where I would go to college. After graduation, each time I came to visit, or saw him at a football game, he always took the time to see how I was doing. He was always so proud of the students he had come to know through the year and continued to give advice, what an incredible legacy he leave behind. I'm glad 3 of my children have had the opportunity to meet Mr. Borsch & share some of the same sentiment I have for him. My thoughts and prayers are with his family & many thanks for his time with us at Fenwick.

---

**Michael S. Manchen** - June 17, 2020 at 01:37 PM

TP

“ Mr. Borsch was a true professional and a great man. Before I graduated from Fenwick I applied to three colleges with no success. He called me after graduation and asked where I was going to school. I told him I started working at the local White Hen Pantry and currently put thoughts of college aside (Mr. Borsch was not impressed). He jumped into action. He asked me if I could pick any college which would it be? I said Marquette. Within in a few days, Mr. Borsch called me to say that I would be accepted to Marquette if I attended the summer school program that began the following Monday. I said thank you very much, packed my bags, and went to Marquette! He clearly changed my life. I am forever grateful to a man who reached out, encouraged, motivated, and set me on my life's path. Thank you and rest in peace.

Tony Pierotti ('81)

---

**Tony Pierotti** - June 17, 2020 at 01:03 PM

CM

“ I am truly saddened by the loss of Dr. Borsch and send my condolences to his family. Dr. Borsch introduced me to my college of attendance where I flourished and met my husband. My life would literally not be what it is today without this man. I am grateful for his years of devotion to Fenwick students and their futures.

---

**Christina Mermigas** - June 17, 2020 at 12:52 PM

M(

“ I’m very sorry to hear about the passing of Rich Borsch. Rich was obviously known for his patience and guidance for thousands or Fenwick students. He was also known for his dedication and enthusiasm for Fenwick Football and the many players that he helped and coached. Did you know that he was a swim coach as well?

*I graduated from Fenwick in 1979. My brother Tim and I spent a few of our college summer breaks as the swimming coach for Riverside Golf Club. Rich was the pool manager during the time. The first week of practice, he watched our coaching style which was generally very involved and enthusiastic. Rich got tired of just watching and asked if he could help coach some of the kids. I put him in charge of the 8 and under group which consisted of 20+ girls and boys. Everyday, as the new leader of the 8 and under swimmers, Rich enthusiastically marched up and down the deck of the 25 yard pool encouraging, negotiating and inspiring his team for 60 minutes everyday. I remember him commenting after coaching a practice, that he feels like he just finished a five mile run. RGC won the conference that year for the first time in many years. As I look back, I smile and think about the enthusiasm Rich brought with him to whatever sports team or organization that he was involved with. Rest in peace...*

*Mike Barron ('79)*

---

**Mike Barron ('79)** - June 17, 2020 at 12:06 PM

KM

“ *Some people come into our lives and just as quickly go . Others stay for awhile and leave footprints on our souls . And forever , we are never ever , the very same again .” These words truly reflect the man that Rich Borsch was . The innumerable young men and women and their families whose lives he touched , affected , changed , directed , and helped are indeed limitless . The world we all live in , no matter how uncertain and indefinable it is now , is a better place because of Rich Borsch . I , like all of you , will miss the times we could have spent together but are blessed for the times that we did . Thank you , Rich , for all you did for all of us . God Bless you and your Family , and may you rest in the peaceful hands of the Lord .*

- Kevin Moore

---

**Kevin Moore** - June 17, 2020 at 12:05 PM

KK

“ *I am heart broken over the passing of Rich. I met Rich back in 2008 when my first child started at Fenwick and we developed a very close relationship over the last decade. Rich just had a way of making my kids feel that everything would be okay. He went to bat for them and he was their biggest advocate. He was so good and passionate about Fenwick and the work that he devoted the majority of his life to. Importantly, he was my friend. I could call upon Rich for anything and he was always there for me; I experienced the father-like side of Rich. He was so gentle, kind, and caring and he had the biggest heart of them all. My family and I will miss him immeasurably.*

---

**Kathy Kelleher** - June 17, 2020 at 12:03 PM

RC

“ I was actually only the second freshmen football coach in Fenwick history.

*Mr. Daniel J. O'Brien being the first.As I moved on Dick Borsch succeeded me.I could not have been prouder. I absolutely loved watching him coach the freshmen.He and that assignment were made for each other.He loved giving me a bad time.And I loved it. He knew the importance of a young Friar getting off to a good start in football.Much of the success that the varsity had was a direct reflection of the freshmen program under Coach Borsch.We spoke a week ago. He was at his post.He had just completed an ongoing effort for a new Fenwick grad in regard to an admissions process....what else ?*

*My heart goes out to Rich's family. Especially to his son Richie...a hero..a Chicago Fire Fighter.*

*I know Dick was welcomed on that Fenwick cloud in heaven by Anthony R. Lawless.*

*"Freshmen coach are y'a Rich?"*

*Bob Chmiel '64*

---

**Robert Chmiel** - June 17, 2020 at 11:31 AM

TT

“ Thank you for being a great teacher, counselor and friend, who during his career at Fenwick helped so many students successfully bridge the transition to college. We thank God for your life, and remember you and your family in our prayers.

---

**Tom Tirpak** - June 17, 2020 at 11:28 AM

JL

“ Rich was not just my college counselor but also my boss at Riverside Golf Club where he was the pool manager and I was a lifeguard. I'll never forget how supportive yet firm he was in both his roles. He taught me many life lessons but none so great as compassion. He will be missed and hard to replace for many reasons, not the least of which will be passion and empathy. May God welcome you his incoming class. Deepest sympathy to his family.

---

**Jim Lillig** - June 17, 2020 at 11:22 AM

MH

“ As a senior in high school I went to Marquette to conduct my admissions interview along with my cousin who was a straight "A" student, president of the student council and had a few pages of extracurricular activities and achievements to her credit. We walked in and I introduced myself and my cousin. The admissions advisor looked at me and said "Dick Borsch called me about you. You are in". He then listened to all my cousins achievements and looked her straight in the face and said "You are going to have to go to summer school". That was the kind of power and relationships Mr Borsch maintained. He was kind of person he who would go out of his way to make sure every kid had a chance at the school that was right for them, not just where they wanted to go. I am sorry my youngest two children will not get the benefit of his experience and expertise. He will be sorely missed

---

**Michael Halfpenny** - June 17, 2020 at 11:20 AM

GD

“ As a student (Fenwick Class of 2008), I knew for absolute certain that Rich wanted the best for everyone with whom he worked. When I came back to Fenwick to work, Rich was my first boss in my position in Student Services. He had a common-sense approach to education and counseling. He was tactful, fair, and always knew the right thing to do or say. He never grew tired of answering my questions. When a situation became stressful for me, he calmed me down and helped me come up with a solution. Over the last year, he allowed me to take the lead in a few meetings; what an honor and privilege. He is likely the greatest mentor I will ever have and I feel incredibly blessed to have worked with him over the last three years. He is truly irreplaceable and one of a kind. I pray he rests in peace and that God watches over his family now, and always.

Grace (Lilek) David - June 17, 2020 at 11:13 AM

J1

“ As a member of the Fenwick Class of 1973, I can honestly say that without the guidance and the occasional “correction” from Rich Borsch, a few of us would not have graduated or gained college admission. He was an amazing man who did more than his share to keep me on course. The lessons he taught me about myself, and the sage advice walks with me throughout life. I will never forget the day that he sat with my parents and I, telling them that I should be a musician and if pushing me too hard to attend college would pull me out of music, then maybe I shouldn’t go to college. Well Rich, I started college, left after two years and had a very successful career in the music business! Thanks you more than I can express! I will never forget you Sir!

John Nasshan 1973 - June 17, 2020 at 11:07 AM

JN

John Nasshan - Class of 1973

John Nasshan - June 17, 2020 at 11:09 AM

BM

*Mr. Borsch made such a difference in the lives of students, families, and colleagues at Fenwick! He always tried to find the best fit for his students with their college process. Beyond his tough exterior, lies a person of care, respect, and service. He always remained positive and optimistic. I always appreciated his example as my counseling moderator for my practicum and internship and as a fellow educator. Mr. Borsch stands as one of the most influential people in the history of Fenwick! My condolences to his family. God bless you, Sir!*

*Bill Milano-Class of 1985  
School Counselor-Maine South High School*

---

**BILL MILANO** - June 17, 2020 at 12:07 PM

KK

*“Mr. Borsch was the one who stopped my tears during a bad day sophomore year, and he wasn't even my assigned counselor, just a guy who wanted to help. He reassured me I was in the right place and things would get better. He was right. A few years later, Mr. Borsch was the one that told me I got the Providence Scholarship in his office. This time, the tears were happy! I will never forget that moment and how truly happy he was for my family and me.*

*He was an unforgettable man who made Fenwick an unforgettable place. The Borsch family is in our prayers. Friar for life.*

*Katie Kages, 2012*

---

**Katie Kages** - June 17, 2020 at 11:00 AM

DC

“ *RIP Rich Borsch*

*Rich was my football coach at St. Thomas More grade school on the Southside of Chicago in the 1960s before he moved on to his remarkable career at Fenwick HS.*

*You will always be remembered Coach.*

*Dan Cleary*

*St. Thomas More Class of 1970*

---

**Dan Cleary** - June 16, 2020 at 07:03 PM

Leo  
Latz

*As a teacher and as Fenwick's college counselor for 50 years and freshman football coach for 41 years, Mr. Borsch impacted the lives of more than 12,500 Friars. He made the college dreams come true for me and for all of us, as literally every college application would be delivered with an additional and personalized recommendation from Mr. Borsch, almost always making the difference between acceptance and rejection. Fenwick was incredibly blessed to have a man of his commitment and dedication. There is no doubt he will be joining the litany of Fenwick saints in heaven including, but not limited to Tony Lawless, Dan O'Brien, Bill Shay, Fr. Malachy Dooley, Fr. Bill Bernacki, Fr. Joe Hren, Johnny Lattner and the many others I haven't listed here. May God bless Rich and his extended family.*

*Leo Latz Fenwick '76*

---

**Leo Latz** - June 17, 2020 at 06:27 PM

DM

“ Rich Borsch is one of the biggest reasons why I got into college admissions and counseling. From my days at Fenwick where he encouraged us to always do the right thing, showed us tough love, and advocated for us at every turn. After I started in admissions, I loved coming back to Fenwick to visit with him. My visits back to Fenwick lasted a lot longer than a typical college visit. We talked, laughed, walked the building, and just told stories. He mentored me throughout my career. He showed me what it is to a compassionate, advocate for your students. After I became a college counselor, even though I was in Connecticut and now Tennessee, we connected often but most especially on May 1 each year to share how our kids did with college choices. I know Fenwick is an excellent school and the students work hard but literally generations of students have Mr. Borsch to thank for their college decisions. The loss to the Borsch family, Fenwick, college admissions and college counseling is huge. I am blessed to have known Rich, been taught, counseled, and coached by him. May he Rest In Peace.

---

Dan Monahan - June 16, 2020 at 05:01 PM

TL

“ It was an honor to coach against and become friends with Rich. Our Sunday phone calls to exchange notes were priceless. Love you Coach.

Tim Lyons  
Brother Rice

---

Tim Lyons - June 16, 2020 at 04:18 PM

DS

“ Rich will be missed by family, friends, colleagues, and the huge number of former students that he guided in his many years as a counselor and coach. Rich was always a calming voice as a professional who enjoyed working with kids. His love and commitment to kids was always sensed by the kids which why they loved and respected him. His excitement to serve the kids was always true even when a kid would not listen or disagree. A kids best interest was always in Rich's heart!!! It was always fun to watch Rich coach football players especially pre-game because his intensity level was infectious!!!

*Sleep well my friend. You and your family are in our prayers.*

*Don, Donna, Mike, and Kristi Sebestyen*

---

**Don Sebestyen** - June 16, 2020 at 02:53 PM



“ We often say when someone dies that the world is a better place because they had lived. Indeed, the thousands of lives touched by Rich Borsch have truly changed the world. It's highly possible you have visited a Fenwick doctor, consulted with a Fenwick lawyer, used a Fenwick accountant, or used the services of a small or large business owner who went to Fenwick, that person was deeply, deeply influenced by Rich. He was truly a great man in the very finest sense. May God hold him in the palm of His hand.

---

**Robert Dixon** - June 15, 2020 at 11:28 PM

JL

“ My name is Juliana Panagas Lamblin ('03), and I was lucky enough to have Mr. Borsch as a college counselor. As for many, high school for me was a time of many great memories and experiences, but also a time of a lot of angst about the future and self-doubt. Mr. Borsch supported and encouraged to me take a risk (though a well-informed one!) with my college experience, and that one decision has made all the difference in my life and only for the better. For that, I'll forever be grateful for him. I wish his family and dear friends comfort and solace, as they mourn a loved one who made a big difference in the lives of many. Rest in peace and contentment, Mr. Borsch.

---

**Juliana Panagas Lamblin** - June 15, 2020 at 04:52 PM

BM

“ I attended St. Kilian grade school with Rich. I went on to Mt. Carmel & college out of state. I heard again about Mr. Borsch when my grandson, Charlie Emmons, started at Fenwick. He hit a rough spot and Mr. Borsch came to the rescue. My thoughts and prayers are with his family in this trying time.  
Bill McMahan, St. Paul, MN.

---

**Bill McMahan** - June 15, 2020 at 04:21 PM

TT

“ Mr. Borsch changed the trajectory of so many young lives. He will be deeply missed by the Fenwick Family. — T.N. Tyszka

---

**T.N. Tyszka** - June 15, 2020 at 09:46 AM

TG

“ *Eternal rest my dear friend. May the angels lead you into Paradise...*

*Thomas D. Grusecki  
Park Ridge, Illinois*

---

**Thomas D. Grusecki** - June 15, 2020 at 05:32 AM

TO

*To adequately relate what Rich meant to so many and the direct-positive impact he had is something for which I lack the capacity to express right now.*

*Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h'anam - May his soul be seated on God's right hand*

---

**Terrence K. O'Rourke** - June 17, 2020 at 02:17 PM