



Shabel Freije

November 25, 1933 - January 11, 2015

Shabel Freije Jr., 81, Steele, died January 11, 2015, at his home in Steele. Services will be held at 4:00 pm Friday, January 16, 2015, at Steele United Methodist Church, Steele, with Rev. Steve Behrens and Rev. Perry Schnabel officiating. Burial will be held in the spring at the Lakota Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm Thursday, January 15, at the Eastgate-Steele Memorial Chapel, in Steele, ND, where a prayer service will begin at 7:00 pm. Visitation will continue one hour prior to the service at the church. Shabel was born November 25, 1933, in Lawton, ND, the son of Shabel and Martha Munyer Freije of Lawton/Edmore, ND. He attended grade school in Lawton, ND, and high school in Edmore, and worked with his dad at the IH Implement Dealership in Edmore. He attended college at Mayville where he received a teaching degree followed by a Master's degree through NDSU. While at Mayville State, he played baseball under Al Meyer. Shabel married Phyllis Lee Strand of Brockett, ND, on November 23, 1955. He taught chemistry, physics, biology, and physical science in Steele for 35 years. Shabel became high school principal in 1966, coached high school baseball and refereed high school basketball games. During the summers he worked as a land surveyor and crop adjuster for 42 years. He was a member of Masonic and Elks Lodge. Shabel is survived by his children, Shabel Wayne and Barbara Freije, Rodney Allen, and Tracey Gardner Freije; his sisters and brothers, Evelyn Kusabud, Delores McCown, Devona Gray, John Freije, Howard Dean and Mary Ann Freije, and Arnie and Jeanie Freije; 11

grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; long-time friends and neighbors, Tom and Delores Moss; and many friends. He was preceded in death by his wife, Phyllis Strand Freije; his parents; five brothers and one sister.

Tribute Wall

DN

“ Dear Family of ShabelAm saddened to hear of the passing of Mr. Freije. He truly was a special man. I graduated from Steele in 1960 having had your father for a teacher in Chemistry and Physics. I recall well the fact that I could not understand the premise of Physics! At the end of the first 6 weeks, I had a failing grade. I approached Mr. Freije following that report card and said, "I have to stop this course as I do not understand it---it makes no sense to me". He said, "DyVonne, I will not let you quit. All of a sudden a light-bulb will come on and you will understand what it is all about." You know-----He was right and that encouragement has stayed with me through the years. Your Mother, too, was a lovely woman. Our Prayers are with you!

DyVonne Erickson Nelson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ I would just like to say thank you on behalf of our family for all the heartfelt comments about Dad. He continued to teach until his passing. I know Wayne and I will continue to learn as we follow the example he set in the love for his family, particularly mom. I would like to make a correction to the obituary. Dad was preceded in death by three sisters: Evonne, Sadie, and Gloria.

Rod Freije - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ED

“ Are you still in Fremont?

Ednafus - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

EN

“ *Shabel was the primary teacher and mentor that influenced my life. He was a role model who calmly let you know if you were on the right track or not. He was a great life and sports coach. I feel fortunate to have been able to visit several times with him in the past few years. He was a great person and I will miss him. My condolences to the entire Freije family. God Bless. Ed Nafus*

Ed Nafus - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *I was saddened by the news of Mr. Freije's passing. I had a tremendous respect for that man. He was so much more than a coach or a teacher. He was someone I always tried to make it a point to see when I made it back to Steele. When my two boys were growing up and got into baseball, I coached on their teams for a lot of years. They would hear about coach Freije all the time. I remember the first time my oldest son met Mr. Freije. Just to stand there and watch one of my mentors talk about baseball with my son was something I won't forget. Great man! Wayne and Rod, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your whole family.*

John Stolz - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ *My sympathies to Shabel's family on their loss. The entire community has lost a great teacher, inspiration, and example who influence students to stand for what's right and to do and be your best. His enthusiasm of science held the interest of all, and prepared us for college. He was one we will always remember and value what he brought to our lives.*

Julie Haakensonnee Truax - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ Wayne and Rod, Very fond memories of living in Steele from 1963 to 1967 in the same trailer court as you and your parents. My sister babysat you boys many times. That trailer court no longer exists but my vivid memories do. Reading the tributes below take me right back to those days and crossing paths with your father. My Freshman year I played on his baseball team and he gave me confidence in my limited abilities. I send my RESPECT for this great Educators career and his commitment to teaching. Hall of Fame !!!

Gregory Schwartzwalter - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Wanye and Rod, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Jerry Christiansen - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ We are sorry to hear of Shabel's passing. Shabel was one of my favorite teachers. He taught me science and chemistry in high school. Shabel, his wife Phyllis, my wife Mary and I had a friendly relationship. We would occasionally see them at Kirkwood Mall when we lived in Bismarck and it was not uncommon to stand and visit with them and catch up. Our thoughts are with Shabel's family during this difficult time. David and Mary Goeddertz

David and Mary Goeddertz - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ Correction on my comment it was Ed Nafus not Arlo

John Aurit - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ My condolences to Wayne and Rod and their families. Shabel was an inspiration and a mentor to all students at SHS. A great coach who let players play. He inspired a large number of students to become doctors and pharmacists to name a few John Hansen and Robert Arusell, Tom Janke, Mark Aurit, Tim Weippert, Kevin Izler and possibly others. He challenged his students to learn, not to be perfect but to be better. How good a teacher was he ? My two quarters of college chemistry at NDSU I had the similar notes of high school and it was like only taking a refresher course of my high school chemistry class. We all were uneasy in chemistry and physics classes that he taught, but he led us all through them. He was a great coach who brought out the best in many talented players from Larry Collins, the Argents. Ron Blotsky, Arlo Nafus, John Lippert, Tom Morton, Rick Walbaum, Mark Aurit, and all the others that made up the baseball teams he coached. He loved what he did and the people he touched. From a former student and baseball player but most importantly his friend--John Aurit

John Aurit - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TJ

“ Wayne and Rod, your father was the reason that I became a pharmacist. He inspired me to do the best that I could be. Your dad was an awesome teacher and inspiration. So sorry for your loss. Tom Janke, Steele High School, Class of 1967. NDSU graduate College of Pharmacy, 1972.

Tom Janke - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Condolences to Wayne, Rod, and the entire Freije family. Please take comfort in knowing that your father had a positive influence on thousands of students. Mr. Freije was an enthusiastic and excellent teacher and his classes prepared us very well for college.

David Svingen - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ I was saddened to hear of the death of Shabel Freije. I graduated from Steele High School in 1964 and took every science class available with Mr. Freije as my teacher. I have said many times over the years that Mr. Freije was my all-time favorite teacher ever. I admired and respected him. My condolences to his family.

Jean Abbott Schirber - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Shabel taught us to do what is right, although it took some of us a little longer to understand this than others. I am proud to be a small part of his story. He was a master of the fungo.

Colin Schmidt - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LO

“ I was a student when Shabel was the principal, the students respected and admired him for what he stood for. There are many stories from that time and when told there is always a smile remembering Shabel. God bless him and his family.

Lori - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Shabel was my favorite teacher, coach when in high school. A great mentor, with a great sense of humor but also when he spoke, we listened. No horsing around. I remember the card I received from him at graduation in 1967, saying I should keep my sense of humor,. I remember telling him jokes when in highschool and when I came home from bootcamp in the Marine Corps. I could see him flush a little, and sometimes shake his head. My dear mentor and friend, may you now join your wife Phyllis in heaven. Donny

Don Hockhalter - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ Three summers ago I bumped into Shabel at the Steele post office. Neither one of us recognized the other. He had lost weight & I had gained it I watched as he got into his car and it was a Buick. I thought well that can't be Shabel, he drives Honda's. When I walked back to me parents house I asked my dad what kind of color is Shabel's car. My dad said he drives a red Buick. Of course now I knew it was Shabel. Shabel's house was just a few blocks from my parents. So I took a walk over to his house. When he answered the door he said "I thought that was you at the Post Office, but you are much bigger than I remember" He invited me in and I swear to God we sat and watched a MN Twins game, it just couldn't get any better than that. In between pitches we talked and caught up with each other. When I heard that he had passed Thank You Bob Schnabel I got a pit in my stomach, between baseball and his science classes I really respected and enjoyed Shabel.

Rick Wolbaum - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KA

“ Al and I are deeply saddened. What a precious man he was. May all the memories of him be a comfort at this sad time. God bless. Al and Carmen Kary.

Karys - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

VR

“ I am saddened to learn of the death of Shabel Frieje. I was a coworker with him at the Steele School for many years. He was a tough principal. Students didn't look forward to being sent to his office for discipline that is for sure. He was all business as a teacher too. He would begin class as soon as the bell rang and would continue until time was up. He was the kind of teacher students appreciated AFTER they graduated as they found he had them totally prepared for their future endeavors. He was less concerned with being their friend and focused instead on fostering their success. I am sure many many students will agree with the statements made by Mr. Thorsness below. I am honored that I got to be his coworker and friend.

Vance Rekdal - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ My condolences to the entire family, especially to Wayne and Rod. Shabel was the best teacher I ever had and I respected his opinion. He pointed me in the right direction after high school and convinced me to go to college when I thought the Navy was for me. Because of his mentoring I became a teacher. My life would have been totally different without Mr. Freije It was very sad to hear of his passing. May he rest in peace. Bob Thorsness, Steele Class of '67 Galena, Illinois

Bob Thorsness - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM