



Benjamin K. Hirsh

April 2, 1945 - January 20, 2018

Benjamin Keisen Hirsh (72) of Chestertown, MD, died peacefully in his home on January 20, 2018.

Born in Hagerstown, MD on April 2, 1945, he was the son of the late Herman Frankel Hirsh Jr. and Sara Ellen Keisen Hirsh. A graduate of West Nottingham Academy, Ben earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Waynesburg College in 1969 and then went on to earn a Master of Arts Degree in 1973 from Washington College. Ben also earned a Doctorate in Education from University of Maryland in 1986.

For the past 50 years, Ben dedicated his life to helping both students and teachers learn and grow. He started his career working for Kent County Public Schools in 1969 and officially retired from KCPS in 2000. During his time with KCPS, Ben was best known as the principal for Rock Hall and Worton Elementary Schools and as the Supervisor of Special Education and Pupil Services. After a few years of retirement, Ben became bored of watching John Wayne movies and returned to the classroom, teaching Special Education Mathematics in Smyrna, DE, from 2003 until his second retirement in 2014. Most recently, after being bored by M*A*S*H reruns, Ben mentored new principals with KCPS over the past year.

Ben led a life full of many different passions. If he was not boating on the

Chester, he could be found riding his motorcycle across the Eastern Shore, or watching sunsets over the Bay in Rock Hall. While he loved Shore life, he also appreciated adventuring to other parts of the world, from jeeping in Colorado to exploring the Alaskan coastline, or visiting London and Paris to snorkeling in Hawaii. Ben was a member Chester Lodge #115 AF&AM for over 40 years. Most of all, he loved spending time with his family. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Diane "Dee" Souder Hirsh; his son, Bradley Hirsh of Allentown, PA; his daughter, Leslie Hirsh Archer; son-in-law, Charles; and grandson, Nathaniel of Lansdale, PA; his two brothers, Herman "Kelly" Hirsh III of Florida and Jason Hirsh of Cape May, NJ; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Services will be held on Saturday, January 27, 2018 at 11:00 AM at First United Methodist Church in Chestertown where relatives and friends may call one hour prior to the service between 10:00 AM and 11:00 AM.

In lieu of flowers, please send memorial donations to the Special Olympics of Maryland (www.somd.org).

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 27. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
Chestertown, MD

Service

JAN 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
Chestertown, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Benjamin K. Hirsh*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Benjamin K. Hirsh*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Benjamin K. Hirsh*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Aice Peterson lit a candle in memory of Benjamin K. Hirsh*



Aice Peterson - January 25, 2018 at 10:23 PM



“ *Ben hired me for my first job. It was out of my certification (fourth grade) but he had faith in me. One of the first questions he asked me was "So what do you know about ADHD?" He was a powerful advocate for all students and his belief that everyone could learn kept me going on those rough days. Thank you Ben for giving me, and so many others, wings. My heartfelt thoughts are with Dee and the family.*

Gayle Glendenning Gill - January 25, 2018 at 12:05 PM

A(

“ I remember, as a third or fourth grade student, I pretended to be sick so I could go home. I put the thermometer up to the light in the nurses station to make it seem like I had a fever. The nurse was not fooled. She sent me to see the principal. He didnt say anything negative to me, or take my recess away. He told me the story of the boy that cried wolf. That lesson has stayed with me my whole life. I thank him and think of him fondly when i remember that day.

Ashley Marsh (Blohm) - January 25, 2018 at 03:37 AM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Benjamin K. Hirsh.



January 24, 2018 at 09:51 AM

BR

“ I am very sad to learn that Ben has gone on to his reward in heaven. He was a great support to me in my years at Worton Elementary School. As a new teacher I needed his guidance and friendship which he was always ready to give. He was a pillar of the community and a wonderful man.

Love to Dee, Bradley, and Leslie

Billie-Lynne Roberts

Billie-Lynne Roberts - January 23, 2018 at 04:09 PM

JG

“ *Jeanne & Rick Geibel lit a candle in memory of Benjamin K. Hirsh*



Jeanne & Rick Geibel - January 23, 2018 at 02:56 PM

LT

“ *Lauria Turner purchased the Fruit Abounds for the family of Benjamin K. Hirsh.*



Lauria Turner - January 23, 2018 at 12:35 PM

KN

“ *Kelley Willoughby (SMS Nurse) lit a candle in memory of Benjamin K. Hirsh*



Kelley Willoughby (SMS Nurse) - January 23, 2018 at 07:23 AM

PW

“ I met Dr. Hirsh when I first started teaching about 12 years ago. I was new to the job, coming from a career in criminal justice, so teaching was a very different environment. The first thing he made clear was that I needed to relax. I was a little intense at first, unsure of my abilities, and I felt somewhat out of place, but Dr. Hirsh made me feel right at home. He was an awesome mentor and friend. He taught with me at Smyrna Middle School for about 10 years. We were a great team! When ever I would get too intense Dr. Hirsh would mellow the mood, always making our classroom feel comfortable and safe, thus creating an awesome learning enviroment. Oh ya, and after the first few months of calling him Dr. Hirsh, he kept reminding me his name was Ben (haha). Ben was an awesome support and sounding board with educational issues along with some personal stuff. Hearing his laugh first thing in the morning always made the day much better and would put a smile on my face. He was a much better morning person than me (haha). I feel like I could write on and on about our time together, so many funny and fond memories. Most importantly, I feel like God directed Ben to Smyrna Middle School for many reasons, but one was definitely for me to learn from him. Even after he retired from the middle school he was still a phone call away to chat with. I feel very blessed to have met Ben and thanks to him I'm a better teacher and person. We made plans to get lunch together during spring break, wish we had done it earlier. God Bless you Ben, you will be missed. God Bless the Hirsh Family, Ben was one in a million.

Philip Wandless - January 22, 2018 at 06:30 PM

AS

Amen! Peace Dr. Hirsh.

Angela Socorso - January 23, 2018 at 09:38 AM



“ 85 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - January 22, 2018 at 03:50 PM

CA

“ Cheryl Anderson lit a candle in memory of Benjamin K. Hirsh



Cheryl Anderson - January 22, 2018 at 02:07 PM

DV

“ Debe Churay Voshell lit a candle in memory of Benjamin K. Hirsh



Debe Churay Voshell - January 22, 2018 at 11:51 AM

SH

We send our sympathy and prayers to Dee, Brad, Leslie and the family love Sally & Pres Harding

sally harding - January 29, 2018 at 10:13 AM

KJ

“ Ben was a wonderful supervisor - a big teddy bear of a man who couldn't finish a sentence without that wonderful laugh. Rest in Peace Dr. Hirsch.

Kathy Jones - January 22, 2018 at 10:29 AM

TJ

I can hear it now!

Tina Johnson - January 23, 2018 at 08:47 AM

DJ

“ Denise Jones lit a candle in memory of Benjamin K. Hirsh



Denise Jones - January 22, 2018 at 09:56 AM

DJ

I remember Ben from the Worton days and I had the pleasure working with Ben this year at Rock Hall Elementary a very kind spirited man. I loved to hear him laugh as he sat in the break room and listen at all our stories. To the family you are in my thoughts and prayers. To his Grand kids he loved you he always shared stories about them. He will never be forgotten. So glad 3 weeks ago you joined the Worton bunch for dinner who would have thought it would be our last. May God bless your soul!

Denise Jones - January 22, 2018 at 10:02 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Benjamin K. Hirsh.*



January 22, 2018 at 08:34 AM



“ *Jeff & Donna Hollett lit a candle in memory of Benjamin K. Hirsh*



Jeff & Donna Hollett - January 22, 2018 at 08:28 AM



“ *Steve Smith lit a candle in memory of Benjamin K. Hirsh*



Steve Smith - January 22, 2018 at 08:03 AM



“ *I remember him when he stated at WES. A lot of the children were afraid of him because of his deep voice, but they soon found out he was as lovable as a teddy bear. Everybody loved him and will miss him. Hugs*

Judy Thrift Hollett - January 22, 2018 at 06:42 AM

KS

“ Ken And Louise Stonesifer lit a candle in memory of Benjamin K. Hirsh



Ken and Louise Stonesifer - January 21, 2018 at 09:13 PM



“ Such a lovely person. He mentored me during high school when I tutored at WES. Much love and prayers to his entire family. Xo



Pam Teat - January 21, 2018 at 09:08 PM

LF

“ Linda Fry lit a candle in memory of Benjamin K. Hirsh



Linda Fry - January 21, 2018 at 06:35 PM

TM

“ Terrence Moody lit a candle in memory of Benjamin K. Hirsh



Terrence Moody - January 21, 2018 at 06:25 PM

GW

“ *Ginnie Walls lit a candle in memory of Benjamin K. Hirsh*



Ginnie Walls - January 21, 2018 at 05:41 PM

SM

“ *Susan Martinez lit a candle in memory of Benjamin K. Hirsh*



Susan Martinez - January 21, 2018 at 02:57 PM

CP

“ *Cathy Perry-Strong lit a candle in memory of Benjamin K. Hirsh*



Cathy Perry-Strong - January 21, 2018 at 02:06 PM

DJ

“ I am so very sorry to hear of Ben's passing. Our condolences go out to Dee, Bradley and Leslie. You are all in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

Ben was my first boss at the Board of Education. I was so blessed to have such a great boss. He was a kind and generous man and he was so respected by everyone he met.

He touched so many in his life time and he will be missed by all that knew he.

Ben was an awesome person and I am honored and blessed to have known him.

Hugs to you, Dee, Bradley and Leslie.

Debbie Jefferson,

Debbie Jefferson - January 21, 2018 at 12:40 PM

DS

“ Dave And Donell Smith lit a candle in memory of Benjamin K. Hirsh



Dave and Donell Smith - January 21, 2018 at 11:30 AM

LB

“ Larry & Lee Beck lit a candle in memory of Benjamin K. Hirsh



Larry & Lee Beck - January 21, 2018 at 10:26 AM

LT

“ It is more than a theory that most men have few true and close friends which is what made the friendship of Ben Hirsh so special. Through more than forty-five years, I grew to know him as a kind, adventurous, and – until his final day on this earth – a happy and beloved man. Our two families are indebted to him as his hand of friendship helped tie us all together. A devoted and loving father, grandfather, and husband, Ben will be remembered by all of us in the best possible way. His hearty laugh and kind heart will not be forgotten. Carry on Ben, we will miss you, but only temporarily.
Lloyd Taylor

Lloyd Taylor - January 21, 2018 at 10:13 AM

TJ

“ Tina Johnson lit a candle in memory of Benjamin K. Hirsh



Tina Johnson - January 21, 2018 at 09:58 AM

NM

“ Nancy Mil;ler lit a candle in memory of Benjamin K. Hirsh



Nancy Mil;ler - January 21, 2018 at 09:55 AM

JU

“ You will be missed by Many.. you were my Principal in elementary school, you were such a nice person to all..

julie - January 21, 2018 at 09:25 AM

SC

“ Sharon Crew lit a candle in memory of Benjamin K. Hirsh



Sharon Crew - January 21, 2018 at 07:47 AM

JS

“ I am so sad to hear this. Ben and I started our careers at the same time, mine at Social Services, his in the school system. Although I didn't see him often in the later years, he always greeted me with that wonderful smile. Rest in peace my friend.



Jane Stanton - January 20, 2018 at 11:18 PM

AT

“ Dr. Hirsh was an amazing human being. He was very loved by his students, like me. I remember his big booming voice at W.E.S. It commanded respect and echoed compassion. We should all strive to be as committed to our children and community as he was. I'm so sorry for this Hirsh family loss. My love goes out to you.

Amanda (Hansen) Tisler - January 20, 2018 at 10:13 PM

SS

“ Dr. Hirsh was an amazing human being. I had the pleasure of him coming into our classroom every week. He was an excellent mentor. I will miss seeing him coming to Galena Elementary School. My deepest condolences to his family. My he Rest In Peace.

Sandy Stubbs - January 20, 2018 at 09:32 PM

NI

“ Ben was a great guy and an excellent principal. All the WES kids , staff, and parents loved him. He will be missed.



Nina - January 20, 2018 at 09:26 PM

LO

“ Leslie Owens lit a candle in memory of Benjamin K. Hirsh



Leslie Owens - January 20, 2018 at 07:03 PM

AH

“ Thoughts and prayers Mrs Dee, Ben and Leslie. My heart goes out to the entire family. Mr Hirsch was one of the greatest people I know. I have known him my whole life he worked with my mom and was my elementary school principal. I respect him so much. This year he was mentoring at Galena Elementary and I've seen him almost everyday....he met my son, Logan. I am so grateful he got to meet my son. I will always remember him and miss him deeply.



Amy Hayman - January 20, 2018 at 06:32 PM

AH

Bradley... not Ben. Im sorry for the mistype

Amy Hayman - January 20, 2018 at 07:20 PM

LK

I'm so saddened to hear this, I worked with Ben for many years at the Bd of Ed, he was a great guy, had the jolliest laugh. My condolences to Dee and the family.

Libby Knapp - January 21, 2018 at 09:00 AM