



ABRAHAM WILLIAM GABRIEL

June 23, 1936 - February 5, 2021

Gabe, as he was known to his family, friends, and students, passed from this life from complications due to Covid. A beloved teacher, gymnastic coach, and devoted Syracuse University fan, Gabe was truly a one of a kind individual who lived life fully and made friends everywhere he went. Whether Gabe was cruising on his Harley, training a young gymnast, playing cards with the guys at the club, or cheering on the Orange there was no doubt about his passion for life. Gabe earned the rank of Lance Corporal in the US Marine Corps. He loved his country, was proud to serve and upheld the values of the Corps throughout his life. Gabe was a devoted Christian who loved God and prayed for his family unceasingly. He was generous to those in need and was always willing to lend a hand.

Gabe was a graduate of Central High School, received his Bachelor of Arts from LeMoyne College, and a Master of Arts from Syracuse University. Gabe spent over 30 years as a dedicated and inspirational teacher in the Syracuse City School District. Gabe loved teaching and studying history and was honored In Who's Who of American Teachers. Gabe was a life-long learner who took every day as an opportunity to understand the world around him. He was an accomplished US Gymnastic Federation judge and a phenomenal gymnastic coach at Grant Junior High School and for 43 years at the West Side Gymnastics School.

He is survived by his brothers, Phillip and Evelyn Gabriel (Camillus), Kenneth and Lynn Gabriel (Phoenix AZ), sister, Sharon and Richard Rossy (Montreal),

and sister-in-law, Jewell Gabriel (Dewitt). Children Ralph (Laura) Gabriel (Nashville TN), James (Trudy) Gabriel (Columbia TN), William (Merideth) Gabriel (Camillus), and Kimberly (Jackie) Gabriel (St. Petersburg FL), 12 grandchildren, and 15 great grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and hundreds of friends and thousands of students whose lives he touched. He was preceded in death by parents, William and Nettie Gabriel and brother, Charles Gabriel, nephew, Gabriel Rossy, and niece, Janna Lynch.

Funeral services and burial in Oakwood Cemetery were held privately. Visit Gabe's tribute page at www.bagozzitwins.com to view the recorded service. The family will have a public celebration of life event for Gabe later in the spring at a time to be announce at www.bagozzitwins.com.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made in his name to St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church, 4988 Onondaga Road, Syracuse, NY 13215.

BAGOZZI TWINS FUNERAL HOME has care of arrangements. Please share online memories and tributes at www.bagozzitwins.com.

***Our family would like to honor our father, your teacher, your coach, your coworker, and your friend Abraham "Gabe" Gabriel by creating a scholarship in his name at his beloved Syracuse University. We would like to help an aspiring education major fund their education at SU. In order to do that we will need a minimum of \$100,000 to create a lasting legacy for a man who poured his life into his students and athletes. Our father touched many thousands of people through his teaching and coaching. If you would consider giving back to help continue his work and bring his legacy to life we would greatly appreciate it. Please spread the word and reach out to those you know would want to say thank you to Gabe for all he has done for so many. PLEASE DONATE AT: <https://gofund.me/77f37ba1>

Previous Events

Private Funeral Services and Burial

FEB **9** (ET)

Oakwood Cemetery
940 Comstock Ave.
Syracuse
Syracuse, NY 13210

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

JUN **20**. 2:30 PM (ET)

RINALDI'S
6717 WINCHELL RD.
WARNERS, NY 13164

Tribute Wall



“ ABRAHAM WILLIAM GABRIEL

January 21, 2023 at 02:11 PM



“ *I was but a quick moment in your life, as I loved going to West Side as a kid in the 70's/80's. You were so patient and kind, and I hold you dear to my heart. You taught me so much (in between sips of coffee!) and will be remembered always. RIP dear Gabe.*

Tracey (Bianchine) Boudreau - May 12, 2021 at 08:55 AM



“ *Andre Faircloth sent a virtual gift in memory of ABRAHAM WILLIAM GABRIEL*



Andre Faircloth - April 07, 2021 at 04:30 PM



“ *I miss you my friend!*

Andre Faircloth - April 07, 2021 at 04:28 PM



“ *Gabe's passing leaves a hole in my heart. So much of what I've become as a man is directly related to the lessons Gabe taught me in the gym at both Grant Junior High and Henninger. Hard work, dedication, and compassion for others were a way of life for Gabe. He'll be sorely missed.*

Peter Mentz - March 05, 2021 at 08:24 PM

DT

“ Gabe coached our gymnastics team at Grant and Henninger from 1972 to 1978, leading us to perennial City, City-County and Section III championships, and a State champion title for myself. He was my social studies teacher, my role model and my friend when I needed one the most. He was the only teacher I ever had who could hold an iron cross on the still rings, surpass us at arm dips and tolerate having his glasses knocked off while trying to teach me a back handspring. He inspired the self-confidence, discipline and intestinal fortitude that have served me well my entire life, earning my eternal admiration, respect and gratitude. I am proud to call him Coach, and grateful for the opportunity to share this plane of existence with him. As Jimi sang: "Fly on my sweet angel - tomorrow we will be by your side." Please, save me a place at the chalk box in that Great Gym In the Sky. Peace, my friend.

Dan Troiano - February 21, 2021 at 02:08 PM

PM

Very well said my friend! Gabe was an incredible inspiration.

Peter Mentz - March 05, 2021 at 08:15 PM

RM

“ Our sympathy to the Gabriel family. Growing up, the Monsour family and the Gabriel family were close, and in later years, Abie was our daughter Martha's coach at West Side. He will be missed.

Ron Monsour - February 19, 2021 at 12:07 PM

KK

“ Gabe was my coach for five years at west side gymnastics. Every night he would teach me so much more than just gymnastics. I will never forget you, I will always think of you- you have touched my life in so many ways -thank you!

Kristi King - February 19, 2021 at 01:57 AM

BN

“ THE GABRIEL FAMILY OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF ABE GABRIEL.HE WAS A GREAT FRIEND FOR OVER 60 YEARS,HIGH SCHOOL,GEROSIAN,FOOTBALL,LEADERS CLUB,GYM-NASTICS,MARINE COLLEGEUE,WE HAVE KNOW RALPH-JIMMIE-KIMMIE-BILLIE- DAVID SINCE THE DAY THEY WERE BORN AND THEY HAD GROWN UP WITH OUR CHILDREN.IF WE CAN DO ANYTHING,TO HELP YOU THRU THIS TIME OF SORROW, PLEASE GIVE US A CALL @315-673-2383.WE CAN SHARE A LOT OF MEMMMORIES ABOUT GOOD OLD DAYS JOYCE-BILL NESFEDER LOVE-YA ALWAYS GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

BILL NESFEDER - February 18, 2021 at 11:32 AM

AN

“ *thank you for being the teacher that you were,, i will never forget you,, may you rest in peace*



annette - February 17, 2021 at 11:34 AM

PA

“ *Gabe, you always made welcomed!! You were the sweetest man to everyone you loved/liked. You have blessed so many. You will be missed greatly!! Heaven gained an awesome angel.*



Patty - February 17, 2021 at 08:35 AM

XT

“ Gabe, you were one of the most memorable teachers I’ve ever had! Thank you for your dedication to teaching. Something you’ve said to me that I’ll never forget is: “You never stop learning” RIP

X. Tran - February 15, 2021 at 05:56 PM

DD

“ I was at grant junior high in late 70’s and gabe was a great teacher. His students knew they could come to him about anything. He cared and it showed. My love and prayers to his family at this most difficult time..



Donna Hauck Depalma - February 15, 2021 at 04:50 PM

CM

“ My deepest condolences to your family. Carol Mone



Carol Mone - February 15, 2021 at 03:27 PM

SH

“ Gabe was an amazing human being. His ability to teach,lead and facilitate any classroom was truly a gift! You will be remembered forever in my heart Mr. Gabe!



Shelly - February 15, 2021 at 12:16 PM

LT

“ *Lloyd Todeschini lit a candle in memory of
ABRAHAM WILLIAM GABRIEL*



Lloyd Todeschini - February 15, 2021 at 10:46 AM

LT

Going to miss on the greens RIP.

Lloyd Todeschini - February 15, 2021 at 10:48 AM

DJ

“ *Gabe was phenomenal in every aspect of life. I had the honor of working with him at West Side Gymnastics. He was truly the heart and soul of the sport of gymnastics. He will be greatly missed. Thank you for your outstanding service to the community and to our country.*

Dawn Johnson - February 15, 2021 at 09:21 AM

CB

“ *Gabe had a kind gentle soul, he was an amazing teacher and mentor. I had the privilege to work closely with him and his classes. Everyone that had the opportunity to spend time with Mr. Gabe was a better person for it. Thank you for all the lives you have made such a positive impact with. You will be greatly missed.*

Cathy Bunce - February 14, 2021 at 11:49 PM

EN

“ I met Gabe about 12 years ago at the Adelphi Club. Although I didn't know him long, he became a genuine friend, even taking me to a couple SU games with him. I hadnt seen him in years and was very saddened to have read this but am happy and fortunate that Gabe became a part of my life!

Edward Neubauer - February 14, 2021 at 10:42 PM

EW

“ Gabe was always my favorite teacher. My father taught with him at Grant Middle School and both my sister and I had him as a teacher. Not a day would go by that he didn't say hi and ask how my family was. Really great man, taught me a lot of life lessons. This has hit me hard and I'm honored to have known him and been taught by him. I'm so sorry for the family's loss.



Erica Wentworth - February 14, 2021 at 08:46 PM

DD

“ Gabe, You were Grant's "To Sir With Love". Thank you for caring and understanding and help your students. Students who really needed someone to care for them, especially those dealing with family issues. I am deeply appreciative for you being there when I was going through a troubling time in my life and going out of your way to give me a ride to Nottingham to attend night school.



God speed.

Debra (Mathews) Dolasinski

Debra (Mathews) Dolasinski - February 14, 2021 at 08:25 PM

LW

“ *To the legend ❤️
Sleep in heavenly peace Gabe*

lisa west - February 14, 2021 at 08:13 PM

RB

“ *Very sadden to see this and my condolences to his family. I sat next to Gabe for years at Syracuse football games and shared a few beers with him. He was extremely friendly to me and my family. We will miss him. Thoughts and prayers with his family.*

Ron Benderski - February 14, 2021 at 08:10 PM

RF

“ *Rose Ferraro lit a candle in memory of
ABRAHAM WILLIAM GABRIEL*



Rose Ferraro - February 14, 2021 at 04:54 PM

SL

“ *Gabe was an amazing teacher and person! I may if not had the honor of being one of his students. But due to good friends and his kindness of letting anyone from the 7th grade teams come visit him during lunch. I was able to get to know him. My father who was a student of Gabe will miss you as well. From my father (who isn't tech sappy so I am typing this for him and is a fellow Marine) Semper Fi one last time! Our condolences goes out to his family.*



Shannon Lumia - February 14, 2021 at 01:44 PM

GV

“ Gabe, one of the greatest teachers I ever had. He was so much more than a teacher, he was a friend and my favorite person to talk sports with. Thank you for everything babe, you will be truly missed.

Gina Vecchio - February 14, 2021 at 01:00 PM

KA

“ Kathy sent a virtual gift in memory of
ABRAHAM WILLIAM GABRIEL



Kathy - February 14, 2021 at 11:12 AM

SU

“ Susan lit a candle in memory of ABRAHAM
WILLIAM GABRIEL



Susan - February 13, 2021 at 03:22 PM

SU

He as awesome teacher, RIP Gabe , You will be missed, give my brother a hug, You no him Joe, he was in your class to, also my brother Mike.

Susan - February 13, 2021 at 03:25 PM

ES

“ I knew when I didn't receive a text message back from Gabe on 2/5 that it was not a good thing. Gabe and I worked at Camp Goodwill together. We had been in regular phone and text contact during this past year of Covid. I hope our conversations made him feel less isolated and that he knew that I cared along with others whose lives he touched.

~ Eileen Soika

Eileen Soika - February 13, 2021 at 11:34 AM

CW

“ Carol Desimone Whipple lit a candle in memory of ABRAHAM WILLIAM GABRIEL



Carol Desimone Whipple - February 13, 2021 at 08:43 AM

AD

“ Gabe, thanks for making our awkward teenage years more bearable. We learned alot from you. Thanks for the stuffed grape leaves your mom made us. RIP and God Bless Anita DeMarchi

Anita DeMarchi - February 12, 2021 at 09:30 PM

KM

“ I student taught with Gabe back in the early '90's. He taught me so much, but what stuck with me the most was his respect for the craft and his students. A trait he made sure I understood and emulated. We remained friends to the very end. The worlds loss is heavens gain. I'm sure he's up there telling St Peter & Co a few things.

kenzie miller - February 12, 2021 at 08:06 PM

AN

“ Gabe was my gymnastics coach over 40 years ago at Grant Jr. High. Every Saturday he picked us up in his maroon van and took us to West Side Gymnastics. He wasn't my social studies teacher - but he was certainly my teacher in life. I hope his family finds comfort in knowing how he helped to define and shape the lives of so many of his "students". May you rest in peace knowing that you left this earth making a positive impact on so many.

Annette - February 12, 2021 at 03:27 PM

NS

My name is Nick Stefanovski I'm a former student of Gabe's. 7th grade 1973. I was also one of his gymnasts that year. He was a life long friend and inspiration. I truly feel blessed to have known him. I am glad that him and I conversed over the years by phone and feel especially lucky to have had breakfast before the Syracuse vs Notre Dame basketball game last January. I never thought that it would be the last time we would meet. A truly remarkable man. My son told me he understood why I praised him as I did after meeting him that day. My prayers to his family. Hope to make it for the spring memotis!

Nick Stefanovski - February 12, 2021 at 07:32 PM



“ Susan Burns Sheley lit a candle in memory of
ABRAHAM WILLIAM GABRIEL



Susan Burns Sheley - February 12, 2021 at 01:27 PM

Andrea Leigh

“ To the family of Gabe, my condolences to you all. Gabe was an amazing teacher and mentor he will forever be in my heart. Rest Easy Gabe



Andrea Leigh - February 12, 2021 at 12:36 PM

SH

“ Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Gabe. What an amazing man he was. We had the honor and pleasure of knowing Gabe through Gymnastics, he was our daughters teacher, coach and friend. One of our many memories was Gabe taking Sara to an out of town meet we could not attend. Gabe pulled up bright and early with his music blasting, Sara ran out to the car without hesitation and hopped in. Ten hours later he deliver her home safe and sound and singing all songs by Pink Floyd. Her informative years were better with Gabe being part of it. RIP Gabe you will be missed
The Hanyak Family

susan hanyak - February 12, 2021 at 08:46 AM

SH

“ Susan Hanyak lit a candle in memory of
ABRAHAM WILLIAM GABRIEL



susan hanyak - February 12, 2021 at 08:37 AM

CF

“ God only takes the best!- Former Grant Jr high Student -.He was the best teacher a student could ask for. Thank you to his Family for sharing his kindness with us!

*We are blessed to have known This beautiful Soul .
Cheri Falter*

cheri falter - February 11, 2021 at 03:01 PM

TC

“ I am so sad to hear of Gabe's passing. He was such a kind person and we loved having him at his Le Moyne College 50th reunion. I will never forget him and his generous spirit. May your memories give you peace and comfort during this difficult time.

Tracy Caryl (Le Moyne College) - February 11, 2021 at 01:55 PM

KG

“ I am so sad to hear the news of Gabe's passing. He attended his 50th reunion at Le Moyne in May of 2019 and was just a joy to be around. He came to every event, wore his Marine Corps hat with pride, and was kind to everyone. Abe followed up by purchasing gift cards for our staff as a thank you for the weekend he enjoyed. It was not necessary but greatly appreciated. We were truly touched. It's not often that people go above and beyond to show their appreciation. Gabe was one of a kind and truly special. Rest in peace, Gabe.

*Kasha Godleski
Le Moyne College Alumni Director*

Kasha Godleski - February 11, 2021 at 01:52 PM

J(

“ *Such a great man! Middle school gymnastics at Grant was 30 years ago and I have never forgotten about you. You were always so supportive of your students and treated us like your family. RIP*

Jennifer Hester (Ranger) - February 11, 2021 at 12:15 PM

RG

I left Grant Jr high in 1973 to attend CBA. Gabe was one of the most loved teachers at Grant and he turned many of my friends into wonderful gymnasts. I was extra lucky though as I got to spend four years in high school with his son Ralph, who was and is an exceptional man. We were both lucky to have fathers that were US Marines!

Rim Giarrusso - February 14, 2021 at 07:40 PM

LC

“ *Please accept the most heartfelt sympathies of Le Moyne College. We hope the love and memories you will forever hold in your heart bring you peace and comfort during this difficult time.*

Le Moyne College - February 11, 2021 at 09:17 AM

SW

“ *Dear Gabe you were one of a kind. I met you at the ADELPHIA Club years ago and immediately like you. You were always, gracious, and kind to me. A true gentlemen. MAY YOUR MEMORY BE ETERNAL. Phia Wales*

Sophia Wales - February 11, 2021 at 08:05 AM

KB

“ My condolences to Gabe's family in these unprecedented times trying to say goodbye to our love ones. He was loved and respected by everyone and just had that knack at least with me to put me at ease and feel comfortable at school or in life that he so much enjoyed on a daily basis. Rest in Power AG..... You will be missed.
Kevin B

Kevin Burgess - February 11, 2021 at 06:28 AM

RC

“ To Gabe's Family:
I am sorry for what you are going through right now.

I knew Gabe when he was a student teacher at the old Blodgett Middle School. He has always been charismatic and liked by all. We will all miss him.

Ron Cocciole - February 10, 2021 at 06:35 PM

JK


“ We were honored to get to know Gabe through the Adelphi Club. Soon realized what a great individual he was. Shared many cigars, SU sporting events, a few drinks, and volunteering activities with Gabe. He loved "the Club" and spent countless volunteer hours there. RIP my friend. John Kinsella

John Kinsella - February 10, 2021 at 06:00 PM

DF

“ Sorry to all family members . I know Gabe from high school gymnastics. He was a very kind and thoughtful person . Donna Franzen

Donna Franzen - February 10, 2021 at 05:04 PM

 Denise Zappala

“ I was heartbroken to hear about Gabe. He was certainly one of a kind and one of the best. I taught Reading in the room next to his, 1997-2000 and learned so much about Middle School students (and SU sports!) He was a great teacher and friend and I will miss him terribly. Denise (Nelson)

Denise Zappala - February 10, 2021 at 02:46 PM

AG

“ One of the most kind hearted, with a true love for life individuals I have ever met! I knew Gabe for 40 years, since I was a child. Thanks for all the wonderful memories Gabe! I am truly blessed you were a part of my life!

Aaron Gaffney - February 10, 2021 at 01:04 PM

LM

“ Gabe was my social studies teacher at Grant Junior High School many years ago. One of the very best teachers that I ever had. He was also a friend of the family and attended High School graduation party as well as my sister's 16th party. He was always more than just a teacher he was always a friend to anyone he met. Rest in peace Gabe. Know that you taught many life lessons to those that really needed it.

Laurie Hall Morse - February 10, 2021 at 12:31 PM

SB

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Stephen Bagozzi - February 10, 2021 at 11:49 AM

JK

“ *What an awesome person, and as a teacher the light of many students life.
I hope he knew.
RIP Gabe.*

John Kelly - February 10, 2021 at 11:37 AM

DD

“ *Gabe, was definitely one of a kind. A very special person that touched so many lives. He will be missed by so many of us from his Grant family. My condolences.*

Don DeJohn - February 10, 2021 at 11:20 AM

DV

“ *My condolences to the family of Abraham Gabriel. Gabe has been a friend and acquaintance of mine for over 50 years. We taught together for 30. He was a unique individual. Here are a couple pictures from his early years as a teacher and gymnastic coach.*



Donald Varn - February 10, 2021 at 10:51 AM

RH

“ *You will be missed by so many people! Thank you for being the best Teacher, coach, mentor and friend to everyone you met. My condolences to the family,*



Robin Hirsh - February 10, 2021 at 10:08 AM

PC

“ *A pleasure to have worked with and a privilege to have known Gabe. A true American. We are all better people for having him in our lives.*

Pat Casullo - February 10, 2021 at 09:21 AM

JJ

“ *Jimmy lit a candle in memory of ABRAHAM WILLIAM GABRIEL*



Jimmy - February 10, 2021 at 07:00 AM

AC

“ *Have great memories of this man !!! He was my homeroom teacher at grant jr high 73 - 75 . He was also my social studies teacher !!! He made us laugh but also taught us to be who we were. Room 205 was the best room at school !!! Had a chance to hang with him a few times after graduation . He will be missed by many friends /family and prior students. One of a kind !!! RIP Gabe !!!*

Anthony Cavallo - February 09, 2021 at 10:33 PM

HI

“ This just hit me like a ton of bricks 😞
He was the best teacher I ever had. He was the best coach I ever had. What this Man brought to so many kids was amazing! He taught me gymnastics every summer in grammar school, and all through Junior high. He let us try his chewing tobacco in 8th grade just to teach us how yucky it was! I never chewed again. He always texted me on the holidays.
RIP Gabe, I'm so sad.
Heather Harrington-Isabell

Heather Isabell - February 09, 2021 at 10:22 PM

TB

“ "Gabe" as we called him back in the day at Grant school, had him as a social studies teacher, BEST TEACHER ever. My older brother, sister and a Niece had him as well. I know some of the girls had a crush on him back then (including me) .always thought of him over the years. He was truly a kind and sweet person. He has truly left his mark on this world and many, many students. Prayers and condolences to his Family and Friends.

Tammy Szymanski Biro - February 09, 2021 at 10:11 PM

CK

“ A graduate in 1998, Gabe was more than a teacher at Grant circa 1991 ish for me. He was more than a coach.. He was someone who sincerely cared about each of his students lives and well beings... He offered support, advice, a shoulder to lean on.....but what will always be felt in my heart was his ability to make you feel special, to make you reach down deep inside yourself and find courage, strength and pride to be the best you could be, no matter what you were doing. I have kept him active in my thoughts and heart all of these years, rather he made such an impact there and there are very few people that such a mark in your life that they earn a place in your heart and help shape you to be who who are.... He was one of those people!

Candis L Kordek - February 09, 2021 at 09:49 PM

SP

“ It's been many years since I've seen Abe but I remember some wonderful times during our high school days at Central....Abe was a great guy and a good friend and I am sadden to read of his passing. To his family I send my deepest sympathy. Those who have brought you joy, made you laugh, and shown you love have given you the lasting gifts of a beautiful life and blessed your memories forever.
God Bless, Shelly Polge



shelly polge - February 09, 2021 at 09:30 PM

TG

“ Gabe and I worked at Grant Jr. High together for 32 years, many of those years on the same team. He was a loyal friend and mentor who always had my back when I needed it. His gruff exterior only disguised a heart of gold. He taught me so much about being a caring educator as we shared many of the same students, him teaching social studies and me science. He had a great sense of humor and always said exactly what he meant. Such a giving person, whenever he made taboulie he would always bring me a bowl because he knew how much I loved it. After we both retired he even came over my house and showed me how to make it according to his mother’s recipe. Gabe was truly a “one of a kind”. Love you brother!

Tom Gardner - February 09, 2021 at 09:12 PM

TV

“ Oh this just broke my heart ! Mr. Gabe was my social studies teacher and he always had the best advice and was so nice to me and all the other students. I’m just glad that he lived a long prosperous life. Always a legend !

Tiasha Vallejo - February 09, 2021 at 09:00 PM

BH

“ Gabe was my social studies teacher my gymnastics coach i was a vaulter mentor friend great man Northside original legendary i love you coach never forget you



Bruce hunt - February 09, 2021 at 07:53 PM

CS

“ To the family of Gabe Abraham
I am a member of ladies auxiliary at tyrol club
It was always a pleasure and a laugh no
doubt when Gabe talked to me and b4 my
mom died in 2016,. A kind gentle soul who
was devout Christian. I will and hear him tell me after each talk
"saying....."God Bless".
His spirit I know will remain with guys at tyrol club. Say hi to all club
members above as well as Coach Mac.....
Cathy Savo
Secretary, tyrol club auxiliary



Cathy savo - February 09, 2021 at 12:31 PM