



Don Alan Vogt

December 5, 1946 - February 10, 2025

Don Alan Vogt February 10, 2025 | Age 78 | Plymouth, MI Don Alan Vogt, age 78, of Plymouth, passed away on February 10, 2025. A devoted husband, brother, uncle, educator, and mentor, Don touched countless lives through his dedication to family, faith, and education. His warmth, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to his community will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Don was the beloved husband of Nancy (née DiFazio) and the dear brother of Nancy (Paul) Trinklein. He was a cherished uncle to Amy (Jon) Bernhardt, Erin (Mark) Hoehner, Deidre (Robert) Megargle, and Stefanie (Jessica) Volpe, as well as a loving great-uncle to Hannah (Matthew) Brooks, Grace Bernhardt, Madelyn Bernhardt, Micah Hoehner, Isaiah Hoehner, and Asher Hoehner. He is also survived by his siblings-in-law, Ralph (Mary) DiFazio and Linda (David) Volpe. And Bower too. Don was preceded in death by his parents, Edwin and Jane (née Griesman).

A lifelong educator and mentor, Don dedicated his career to shaping young minds. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Education from Concordia College in Nebraska and later obtained a Master's Degree in Education from Eastern Michigan University. His teaching career began at Mt. Calvary in Detroit, where he taught for eight years before moving to Lutheran High East, where he spent 18 years as a teacher, athletic director, assistant principal, and eventually principal. He later served as Dean of Students at Concordia College in Ann Arbor for seven years before becoming the high school principal at Hazel Park, where he remained until his retirement in 2015.

Beyond the classroom, Don had a deep love for athletics. He was a dedicated official for both basketball and football for more than 50 years, officiating at the MHSAA and intercollegiate levels. His contributions to high school sports were recognized with his induction into the Catholic High School League Hall of Fame. As an athlete, Don played minor league baseball after college and continued competing in softball for many years, traveling the country and proudly recalling the many fields where he had played. He was an avid golfer and a lifelong St. Louis Cardinals fan. He also had a deep passion for University of Michigan football, holding season tickets for 50 years.

Visitation will be held on Friday, February 14, from 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Road West, Plymouth, MI. The funeral service will take place on Saturday, February 15, at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 3003 Hannan Road, Wayne, Michigan at 11:00 AM. Don will lie in state beginning at 10:00 AM at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to:

- Catholic High School League, with funds directed to “Officials Development” (12 State Street, Detroit, MI 48226)
 - Shriners Children’s, Processing Center, Post Office Box 947765. Atlanta, Georgia 30395-7765
 - Lutheran Hour Ministries, <https://give.lhm.org/give/424158/#!/donation/check> out or via mail to 660 Mason Ridge Center Drive. St. Louis, Missouri, 63141
- Don’s legacy of leadership, sportsmanship, and kindness will continue to inspire those who had the privilege of knowing him. To share a memory, please use the share a memory tab on this webpage.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **14**. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

Time of Sharing

FEB **14**. 7:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

In state

FEB **15**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Michael Lutheran Church
3003 Hannan Road
Wayne, MI 48184

Funeral Service

FEB **15**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Michael Lutheran Church
3003 Hannan Road
Wayne, MI 48184

Tribute Wall

KJ

“ *A great teacher at LHE, one of the best.*

Kevin L Jones - April 21 at 01:09 AM

SH

“ *Mr. Vogt was a tremendous leader at LHE. He was sharp, and saw everything. He was kind and respectful. He cared deeply for us students. His tolerance level seemed endless, but it was great to see him get riled up from the constant shenanigans - and you didn't want to be caught in his crosshairs. Yet even then, he ruled with his heart. He must have touched the lives of thousands and thousands of youth over the years. We are the lucky ones. Rest in peace, Mr. Vogt.*

Shelley - March 07, 2025 at 09:52 PM

ZC

“ *I attended Hazel park high around 2001 and Mr Vogt was a staple and a solid mentor for the troubled youth. He saw something in us that other adults didn't and would always share kindness and lend support before reprimanding because he knew that's what we needed. We will forever remember his kind heart.*

Zoe Compton - February 20, 2025 at 06:28 AM

BS

“ I knew Don back in the 70s and 80s when I taught at Trinity, Clinton Twp and also officiated in the metro Detroit area. Then I had moved to the Hale area up north and needed a reference for a girls basketball job at Whittemore HS. Don gave me a great reference when he was at CCAA and when I coached men’s bb at CCAA from 93-95 Don always treated me and others with Christian concern and care. God’ prayers with the family. Bill Scheiwe 2/17

Bill Scheiwe - February 17, 2025 at 10:53 AM

PC

“ I was blessed to have had the opportunity to have Mr. Vogt as a “Human Relations” teacher and a faculty advisor for our cheerleading squad at LHE. (The later of which I’m sure he didn’t relish). He was one of those rare teachers who could make learning fun while still demanding respect, and he sits at the top of my list of favorite teachers.

Later, he became my mother’s boss as she was a secretary at Lutheran East, and he was gracious enough to officiate her funeral for us. Which he did superbly, by the way. I will always be grateful for that.

My sincere condolences to the family.

Hopefully it helps to know how many lives he touched and positively influenced. A bit of his legacy lives on in everyone of us.

The world has lost a truly good man but heaven has gained a “good and faithful servant”

Pam Gillians Campbell - February 15, 2025 at 11:15 PM

TM

“ I was in Mr. Vogt’s class at Mt. Calvary his first year he taught. As others have mentioned I vividly recall the 1968 World Series with the Tigers and the Cardinals. He had such a positive influence on me not only at Mt Calvary but later in life as well. Always had the time to talk and genuinely cared. He was one of a kind and will be truly missed.

Thomas Muszall - February 15, 2025 at 09:38 PM

DM

“ My condolences to the family.

I am a high school basketball coach. Whenever I saw Don walk into a gym I knew it would be a well-called game. He was easy to talk to and enjoyed the work. Reading the tributes here, I see that Don brought the same passion and professionalism to everything in his life. Clearly, a great man.

Dave Mann

Dave Mann - February 15, 2025 at 06:11 PM

ML

“ Don Vogt was a tremendous person.
We officiated many games together and he was a great partner.
Tremendous sense of humor and a deep sense of humility.

Sad for the loss. Happiest for the result. Rest in peace my man, job well done.

Mark Larson

mark larson - February 15, 2025 at 12:42 PM

J(

“ Lucky to have had him as a principal for 4 years (1990-1993). He was the best. Thank you for making those years memorable, Mr. Vogt.

Jacklyn Donahue (Scherz) - February 15, 2025 at 12:09 PM

TL

“ I officiated with Don for a least a dozen intercollegiate basketball games through the years. A wonderful man, on and off the floor. I had no idea of his expanded background until I read his obituary, he was a pretty humble man. His respect for the game, players, coaches and fellow officials will be what I remember the most on the floor. His friendship was genuine, I'll always have that.

Tim Lynch
Port Huron, MI

Tim Lynch - February 15, 2025 at 10:10 AM

SR

“ The world lost a great one! RIP Mr. Vogt-I'll never forget you-Sherri

Sherri Roman-Altavena - February 15, 2025 at 03:01 AM

PL

“ I had the honor of Mr Vogt being an educator at My Calvary and LHE. He was such a great teacher and really made a huge difference in many lives. Always a fun guy and great Christian. Impeccably dressed with perfect hair at all times! You left a great legacy. We're all better for knowing you. Prayers to your family.

Patricia Duffer '82 LHE - February 14, 2025 at 09:36 PM

CM

“ Sending prayers for the family. I had Mr Vogt as a teacher when the Tigers beat his beloved Cardinals in the 1968 World Series. He was a great teacher and made school much more fun. RIP Mr Vogt.

Christine Martens - February 14, 2025 at 09:18 PM

ST

“ I had the pleasure of having gMr. Vogt as a teacher at LHE. He was a true mentor who made a difference in the lives of many people. I was lucky to connect with him in the field of education over the years. He was always wonderful to talk to. Fly high Mr. Vogt. Well done! Condolences and prayers to the family and those that new him. Susan Horton Townsend



Susan Townsend - February 14, 2025 at 05:05 PM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Don Alan Vogt.

February 14, 2025 at 04:58 PM

VV

“ He was such a big part of our family. Always joining in and being there for others he will be missed.
Virgil J. Volpe

Virgil J. Volpe - February 14, 2025 at 12:21 PM

MK

“ I was a student at LHE 1989-1992. Mr. Vogt made a profound difference in my life. I remember trying to be more “edgy” with our student newspaper and he allowed me a lot of freedom in that department and he encouraged my writing (I am now a HS English teacher and published writer). But the biggest memory is that I had a terrible incident my senior year. He protected me at the school. He told me that I shouldn’t have to worry at school and he made me feel SAFE. Never will forget that. He was one of the good ones. My condolences to his family and friends from South Carolina.

Margaret (Maggie) Koller - February 14, 2025 at 11:25 AM

RS

“ Richard S. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Don Alan Vogt.

Richard S. - February 14, 2025 at 10:59 AM

RS

“ I had the honor and privilege to assist Don with his medical care for over 25 years. From the moment we met after Linda’s referral, I looked forward to Don’s visits, as he imparted an element of his energy and enthusiasm with whom all he interacted. Don’s continued optimism was truly contagious.

My deepest sympathy is extended to Nancy, family, and friends. Go Blue!

Rick Schubatis



Richard Schubatis - February 14, 2025 at 10:56 AM

BT

“ Don and I were high school friends and college roommates all 4 years, even student taught together. So many great memories on and off the basketball court and baseball field. He was a great guy in so many ways! My life was enhanced by the time we spent together! He will be missed. Bob and Eunice Timm

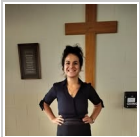
Bob Timm - February 14, 2025 at 10:27 AM

HC

“ I remember attending Hazel Park High for a short time back in 2004, during one of the most difficult moments of my life when my father passed away. In that time of grief, Mr. Vogt gave me the kindest and most comforting words that truly helped me get through the pain. I will always remember him as a caring and compassionate person, always wearing a warm smile. Honestly, he was the best Principal I ever had! My heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones. May he rest in peace—he will never be forgotten.



Heather Cuevas(Ferrans) - February 14, 2025 at 09:33 AM



“ He was a very nice printable, I think he always greeted me. And when I visited the school years after graduation he still remembered me. I feel it's a loss that he is no longer with us. He was a cheerful guy and a very kind soul. He wasn't one to let us get away with stuff, he model for us great behavior!

Amber Waid - February 14, 2025 at 09:01 AM

SM

“ He was loved.

Sue Mondo - February 14, 2025 at 08:19 AM

MH

“ Matt Herring lit a candle in memory of Don Alan Vogt



Matt Herring - February 14, 2025 at 01:50 AM

CS

“ I first saw Don at Concordia Nebraska when he was playing basketball and baseball. I was just a little kid but I was a big fan. He had no idea who I was, but I knew who he was, the athlete I wanted to become. We moved to Detroit in 1968 and my first day at a new school, Mt. Calvary, was Don's first day there as well. When I walked into the 7th grade room there he was at the front of the room. He would become my teacher and basketball coach. He was without question the coolest teacher in our school. He made learning so much fun.

Some twenty years later when Don became the principal of Lutheran East, I was his assistant principal. I never had so much fun. I knew nothing about administration and Don had years of experience. He allowed me to fail at times, but more importantly, he taught me how to succeed. His passion for ministry and the individual student went unmatched. While he would often scowl at students, and almost always at me, he would follow that up with a funny line or a big smile. His passion for life was contagious.

I thank God that He put Don in my life because Don became a huge inspiration in my career and my life. I know the angels are laughing in heaven because Don is telling them stories. He was the funniest person I ever met. Thanks for being my teacher, coach, mentor, and friend. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Cary Stelmachowicz - February 14, 2025 at 01:49 AM

DS

“ Dr. Cary and Carla Stelmachowicz purchased the *Enduring Grace* for the family of Don Alan Vogt.



Dr. Cary and Carla Stelmachowicz - February 14, 2025 at 01:14 AM

DS

“ Dr. Cary and Carla Stelmachowicz planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Don Alan Vogt.

Dr. Cary and Carla Stelmachowicz - February 14, 2025 at 01:14 AM

RF

“ Roslyn Gerds, Jenna, Beth, Caitlin & fam purchased the *Serene Retreat* for the family of Don Alan Vogt.



Roslyn Gerds, Jenna, Beth, Caitlin & fam - February 13, 2025 at 06:46 PM

RF

“ Roslyn Gerds, Jenna, Beth, Caitlin & fam planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Don Alan Vogt.

Roslyn Gerds, Jenna, Beth, Caitlin & fam - February 13, 2025 at 06:46 PM

GP

“ My heart is sadden hearing this news. I knew Don as an official & was always happy to see him walk into the arena to officiate our game. He was a true gentleman in every way. Don made the world a better place. RIP my friend

Garth Pleasant

garth pleasant - February 13, 2025 at 04:35 PM

SW

“ Too many great memroies to list here. Always enjoyed listening to his stories, and no one could tell a story like Don.

Rest in peace my friend!

Shawn Waterman - February 13, 2025 at 04:34 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Don Alan Vogt.



February 13, 2025 at 03:29 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Don Alan Vogt.

February 13, 2025 at 03:29 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Don Alan Vogt.

February 13, 2025 at 11:12 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Don Alan Vogt.



February 13, 2025 at 11:12 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Don Alan Vogt.



February 13, 2025 at 09:26 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Don Alan Vogt.

February 13, 2025 at 09:12 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Don Alan Vogt.



February 13, 2025 at 09:12 AM

LM

“ Mr. Vogt was one of coolest adults I knew growing up at HPHS. He was the principal when I attended and he was one of those principal’s that really cared about his student. I was one of the lucky ones that was able to just hang out and talk to him in his office after school some times or during the senior-all-nighters that I would volunteer for. His job was tough and he dealt with a lot of kids that were troublemakers, I knew some personally, but he never gave up on them. He was truly a good person. My last memory of him was running into him at a resort in Cancun. It was great because him, my friend who was also one of his students, and I were able to hang out have a drink together as adults and reminisce about old days. He was one of my favorite people growing up in Hazel Park, he will be missed.

Lucas Muccino - February 13, 2025 at 08:04 AM

SM

Upon returning from Cancun, he shared that story of running into you guys, at one of our Professional Development days. It got quite a laugh, especially the way he told it. Glad to recall it was you. One of my many favorite stories I heard him share.

Steve Morton - February 13, 2025 at 02:17 PM

CO

“ He was the principle for me and my sisters at hazel park high school and he was a great man taught and cared for everyone he came across n contact with and him and me Christina use to sit me down and any time I would get in trouble and they would tell me I’m calling your mom cause my mom and them were good friends too but yeah really sad to hear he’s gone I hope his family the best in healing and rip me Vogt

colleen - February 13, 2025 at 07:52 AM

BC

“ *Bubba Colvin lit a candle in memory of Don Alan Vogt*



Bubba colvin - February 12, 2025 at 11:22 PM

TS

“ *The girls at Paige Ryan Salon purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Don Alan Vogt.*



The girls at Paige Ryan Salon - February 12, 2025 at 09:16 PM



“ *Mr. Vogt was my principal and later both my siblings' principal. He was so compassionate and caring as we struggled with the loss of both of my parents. I was so touched and surprised in 9th grade when my principal came to my mother's funeral. He was a great man and a role model for me when I later became an educator.*

Jean Danic - February 12, 2025 at 06:46 PM

MA

“ *Metro Detroit Officials Association purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Don Alan Vogt.*



Metro Detroit Officials Association - February 12, 2025 at 06:06 PM

KS

“ Mr. Vogt was one of my favorite teachers at Mt. Calvary. He was an awesome youth director. He became a friend after high school and then after college. He did chapel for me while I taught at St. John and then visited my middle school class in the public school. He loved my folks and they loved him. I'm very saddened by his passing but there is no doubt where he's living now.

kathy fritz schurig - February 12, 2025 at 05:39 PM

AN

“ He was by far the best teacher I ever had! His kindness and love of teaching to his students shown through like a shining light.

anonymous - February 12, 2025 at 04:53 PM

JR

“ This is such sad news. Don and I were 1964 graduates of LHSC. He had a beautiful voice. I am a member of Mark and Erin Hoehner's church. May your family have comfort and peace. God is good.

Judy Ross - February 12, 2025 at 04:39 PM

LP

“ I had the privilege of knowing Don Vogt through his years at LHE. He was always smiling, gave the BEST chapel sermons, and made a difference in the lives of so many students through the years. Heaven gained an angel!

Laurie (Mertz) Pokas

Laura Pokas - February 12, 2025 at 03:19 PM

CO

“ Nothing but great memories of Mr. Vogt. More than once I was sent to his office in the locker room for swats. He'd always laugh after I explained why I was in trouble, and then gave me my swats! Since the swats were given with love instead of anger, I never minded his swats! Plus, he didn't swat hard! 🤔🙏❤️✝️

Chris Orton - February 12, 2025 at 02:49 PM

CO

Class of 81.

Chris Orton - February 12, 2025 at 02:50 PM

PR

“ Mr. Vogt was my DB coach at LHE. He was a great coach- someone you played hard for. He was also a great vice principle. I was sent to his office many times and we almost always just talked about stuff and then he'd send me on my way. He didn't scold, guilt, or yell. We would just talk. He was a model leader. I liked him a lot and he made an impact on many of us. I still remember this total blue coaching shorts he would wear to practice. I think he had a red pair too. And when I'd ask him why he wrapped his chewing tobacco in double bubble, he'd wink and say he didn't want to set a bad example for us kids.

He was a treasure!

Rest in peace Mr. Vogt. Job well done!

All my best

Paul Reppenhagen

Paul Reppenhagen - February 12, 2025 at 02:41 PM

KT

“ One of my best memories of Mr. Vogt was at Mt. Calvary. 1968 world series St Louis Cardinals vs. Detroit Tigers. I think it was 4th grade, he brought in a small black- white TV and set it up in the library in the back behind the bookshelves , then every day of the series he snuck our class into the library to watch the game. We all sat on the floor watching intently , with Mr Vogt and his Cardinals baseball cap on explaining the game of baseball to us. I will always remember Mr. Vogt as one of the best teachers I ever had in life. Mr Vogt RIP you will be greatly missed.

Kimberly Scheiterlein Tiseo - February 12, 2025 at 02:34 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Don Alan Vogt.

February 12, 2025 at 01:40 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Don Alan Vogt.



February 12, 2025 at 01:40 PM

RH

“ One of the kindest people that I have ever met. Enjoyed his company dozens of times officiating high school/college hoops and on the golf course over the years. Always a gentleman and a fun loving guy! You could always count on Don for a good story... Gonna miss Vogter!

Randy Hutton - February 12, 2025 at 12:39 PM

AV

“ He was my brothers bestest friend but I called him Uncle Don. He’s definitely one of the best men I’ve ever known. I am so lucky to have known him. I will miss him. I will always think of the time he’d come over with Nancy, Linda and David and Stef to my parents house every summer for dads surf and turf bbq extravaganza and the men would all sit out in front of dads garage drinking Budweisers listening to the tiger game on the garage radio gabbing all day while the women were in the house prepping in the kitchen. My mom and dad loved him so very much.



Anne Volpe - February 12, 2025 at 12:36 PM

BW

“ I originally met Don, through officiating over 50 years ago when i started myself. We became good friends over the years. Not only working the games but the car travels to and from and of course the after game cocktail hour!!. He was a down to earth human being that had compassion for everyone. He always had a good word for everyone and if he didn't you would never know it because he never wanted to hurt anyone. We couldn't wait from week to week to hear Don's week adventure as being Principle at the "Park". His stories were always humorous, at least from our point of view, and of course we would always poke the bear to keep him talking and keep us in stiches. He handled the games with such professionalism even when the one coach would not care for his calls. One story I tell about when Don umpired Baseball. Early in my career I worked a game with him in late May. It was a cloudy, breezy day with temperatures around 55. He didn't look like he had many layers on before the game so I had asked him if he was going to be warm enough, of course Don said oh yea. By the end of the game, extra innings, he was shivering and i even thought his lips were turning blue. He said to me how did you stay warm, i said Don i wear thermo- underwear until the end of June because Michigan baseball is brutal. He said "Why didn't you tell me"! we are going to mis "Vogter" he leaves a hole in our heart, but he will be working his next game with his and our great friend "The Governor", Joe Kavulich. May Don rest in peace. Our prayers are with Nancy and his family.

Bob & Karen Williams

Bob Williams - February 12, 2025 at 10:56 AM

MK

I was a student at Lutheran East when Mr. Vogt taught there. I think I was in his Biology class. I also remember his chapel messages. In one, he spoke about dreaming some day of owning a Chevy Monte Carlo. (a relative of mine had one and I also thought it was a nice car). He then explained that he eventually got the car of his dreams. But, then the car started to age and have mechanical issues and really be a headache. His point was that the things of this world do not last and we should not place too much emphasis on them. I still remember this chapel message from well over 40 years ago.

Michael L Kesar - February 12, 2025 at 04:06 PM

CB

I had the privilege of meeting Mr. Vogt on his first year teaching at Mt. Calvary. It was in 1968, and the World Series, was on everyone's mind, and as Kim indicated, he allowed his class to go in the library and watch part of the Tigers / Cardinals. We immediately bonded, from grade school through high school. He was always approachable, and interested in your conversation. God made him to be a teacher, and he was accomplished in educating young people and an ambassador of Christ. He had a positive impact in my life, as well as with many more. We will carry Don's spirit on. We were blessed to have you in our lives. God's Speed, my friend.

Chuck Borders - February 12, 2025 at 06:36 PM

BG

I had the privilege of coaching the LHE jv football team with Don He was an inspiration to all the kids and to myself. I learned a lot from Don. He had a great attitude as a coach. He was a friend. I know that God has blessed you, Don.

Bill Gray - February 12, 2025 at 09:46 PM

DB

I first met Don when he was at Mt. Calvary I would go over to Mt. Calvary with a fellow neighbor who was a member at Mt. Calvary. We would play basketball until Don came and kicked us out of the gym. As I began officiating I got to know Don and officiated many of his games when he was at Lutheran East. I will always remember after working basketball together we would go over to your Shores Inn in St. Clair Shores for a beverage and a burger and we would hook up with other officials and coaches back then. Don was a great friend and fellow official. You will be missed Don there's not many people around like a Don Vogt you cared about people and was not afraid to express your faith. God Bless Don you will be missed.

Dave Baumgart

dave baumgart - February 14, 2025 at 06:37 AM