



Roger W. Ziegler

February 1, 1947 - April 7, 2025

Franklin- Roger Ziegler, age 78 passed away on Monday, April 7, 2025 at Overlook Hospital in Summit. He was born in Irvington , New Jersey, the youngest child of the late George and Elinor (nee Schweibert) Ziegler. At two years of age, his family moved back to the Lake Mohawk section of Sparta, where they remained until 1967.

After graduating from Sparta High School, he enrolled at Seton Hall University, graduating with a degree in history and political science. In the fall of 1969, he began his teaching career when Hopatcong High School opened for the first time. While there, he was twice named Teacher of the Year and was its only recipient of the Prestigious Mort Pye Award from the Star Ledger. Shortly after, Roger enlisted in the New Jersey National Guard, attaining the rank of Specialist Fifth Class.

To supplement his income, he worked a number of “second jobs” such as a bartender, nursing home cook, truck driver, construction laborer and school maintenance worker. Later, he established a side business refinishing furniture from his garage sales treasures and finds.

While in college, Roger worked at Perona Farms rising from bus boy to Maitre D’ and banquet manager. It was there that his future changed when he met the love of his life, Donna Muleucis. They were married May 25, 1968 and started their family ten months later. They moved throughout the county from

Newton to Andover to Hopatcong and finally settled in Franklin, where they lived for over forty years. While there, he coached T-ball baseball, Midget Football, girls softball and was a member of the recreation commission. He was also elected to four terms on the Franklin Board of Education during which he was president for six years.

Shortly after celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary, Donna passed away. Besides Donna, Roger was preceded in death by his son, Kristian “Kitch” Ziegler; his sisters, Arlayne and Caroline; and his brother, George. He is survived by his daughter, Kirstin Sabo and her husband William; his son, Keven Ziegler and his wife Amy; his grandchildren, Lexa, Kia, and Grayson Sabo; Mason and Clayton Ziegler, and Alexandra and Addyson Ziegler; many nieces and nephews; and an old and new dear friend, Mercedes Mowdy. A celebration of life for family and friends will be held at a later date. Please check for updated information on the funeral home website. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Roger Ziegler’s memory to the Franklin Library, 103 Main Street, Franklin, NJ 07416. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Pinkel Funeral Home, 31 Bank Street (Route 23), Sussex, New Jersey. Online condolences may be offered to the family at www.pinkelfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Private Cremation Services

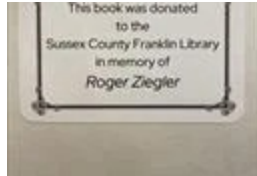
Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

LA

“ I’m so very sorry for your loss. Wish I’d known Roger personally — he sounds like a remarkable person. I’m grateful to be learning about and through him, thanks to this book donated in his name. May his memory be a blessing to you all.



Lynn Adamo - January 02 at 05:40 PM

MF

“ Roger and his wife Donna were one of the first neighbors we met almost 39 years ago and were the best neighbors. I watched their children grow up and move on. I always said "we may not be best friends but we both know that if the other needs something they can count on us. We will surely miss out neighbor.

Murphy Family - June 09, 2025 at 07:15 AM

TM

“ When we moved back home to N.J. , Uncle Roger welcomed us with open arms. He had such a warm smile and encouraging words at a time we really needed it. I know why Uncle Roger won the best teacher of the year more than once. He was the best storyteller keeping us on the edge of our seats. When our grandfather didn't want to travel anymore, Uncle Roger and his brother George would come visit him and my mom. Just about every Sunday rain or shine they'd sit together talking everything from world news, history to the number one book on the best sellers list. Theses are just a few of the fond memories I have of Roger. I will miss him at our upcoming family reunion but look forward to sharing more with my cousins and siblings. Sorry for your loss. He was well loved by many.

Tracy Mather - April 19, 2025 at 12:29 PM

JB

“ Jean Crowell Gunn I Use To Be There Baby lit a candle in memory of Roger W. Ziegler



Jean Crowell Gunn I use to be there baby - April 16, 2025 at 03:31 PM

AP

“ As one of his students which me being a student left a lot to be desired lol he was a shining light in my time at hopatcong high School. God bless, Mr Ziegler.

Anthony pepe - April 13, 2025 at 04:50 PM

JD

“ Mr. Ziegler was my favorite teacher ever. He taught me more than just subject matter, he was an example every day of showing up and being a decent, respectful and caring human being. I won a scholarship in college and was asked to invite the teacher who helped me get to that place and to my delight, Mr. Ziegler took time out of his own schedule to attend the ceremony and continue to support my academic efforts even after I graduated from high school. He affected my life in a huge way, his memory will always bring a smile to me. I know his memory will be a blessing to everyone who was lucky enough to know him.

Jennifer Davoren - April 13, 2025 at 03:30 PM

DM

“ You where the best teacher I had, you helped me learn and i appreciated how you helped me pass your class..and you did make some nice drinks at the bar (after i turn 18) Diana Milne-Smith..



Diana Milne - April 13, 2025 at 02:12 PM

KP

“ A great and respected teacher who was beloved by all in the HHS class of 1979. He had us read Centennial by Michener for US History class. Instilled in me a love for historical fiction despite our political differences. Called me a fascist for wearing my cheerleader uniform during a school pride day. At least it made me research what that meant! LOL! God bless and comfort your family.

Karen M. Pendlebury - April 13, 2025 at 10:43 AM

JR

“ One of the very best teachers I ever had, and one of the influences that made me major in history.

I still talk about his insights and his accurate social and political predictions. He was smart as hell, engaging, broadly curious and he readily discussed connections between the past and present that few HS history teachers ever mentioned. I'm not sure the modern limits placed on the curriculum could permit his like again.

James Ralston - April 13, 2025 at 10:14 AM