



George J. Synnott

October 23, 1945 - July 20, 2019

George J. Synnott, of Kensington, beloved husband of Carol (Godzyk) Synnott, passed away Saturday (July 20, 2019) at Hartford Hospital after a courageous battle with cancer. George was born in Waterbury, son of the late Finton and Nella (Zukauskas) Synnott. George is survived by his children Kaitlyn and Timothy Synnott of Kensington, Joyce Synnott (Bryan Brandow), Kim Donahue (Shane Donahue), and Jill Synnott (Todd Gerardi) of California, 6 grandchildren, his sister Veronica Santo (James Santo) and his mother-in-law, Ann Godzyk.

George graduated from Mt. Saint Mary's University (Maryland) where he was a pitcher on the college baseball team and earned advanced degrees at Central Connecticut State University. He was a teacher at St. Paul High School and served as a passionate baseball coach, leading the St. Paul's team to win the state title in 1971 & 1974. He coached the Bristol American Legion team and led them to the state, regional and national tournaments in 1974. He later became a history teacher, assistant principal and principal of Berlin High School where he respected and appreciated all teachers, staff and students. Upon his retirement, he became the Director of CIAC Unified Sports —Special Olympics Connecticut, a position and organization that made him very proud. This past June he was honored when CIAC Unified Sports designated the annual coach's recognition as the George Synnott Coach of the Year Award. George believed in Robert Kennedy's philosophy, "The purpose of life is to contribute in some way to making things better."

The family would like to thank the caring staff at Hartford Hospital Floor CB2 for their dedicated care during this difficult time.

Calling hours are Thursday 4 to 8 PM at Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square, New Britain. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday 11:30 AM at St. Paul Church, 479 Alling Street, Kensington, CT 06037. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to CIAC Special Olympics Unified Sports Program, 30 Realty Drive, Cheshire, CT 06410. Carlson Funeral Home, New Britain, is entrusted with arrangements. Please share a memory or note of sympathy at www.carlsonfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Calling Hours

JUL **25.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Carlson Funeral Home
45 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051
(860) 225-6361
carlsonfh@aol.com
<https://www.carlsonfuneralhome.com/>

Mass of Christian Burial

JUL **26.** 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Paul Church
485 Alling Street
CT 06037

Tribute Wall



“ I first met George when he was my biology student at Sacred Heart High in Waterbury. He was engaging and funny and a delight in class. Later we met when my children went to St. Paul's. I'm sorry for your loss, he will be missed.Lorraine Simoneau French

Lorraine French - April 22, 2023 at 07:03 PM



“ I am thankful to have met George. Even though it was only a few occasions, his passion for youth, sports and specifically Unified Sports was clear. My condolences to his family. Sending thoughts and hopes to the many people that George inspired and hope that you can find joy, strength and comfort in each other as you remember him

Scott George - July 25, 2019 at 12:04 PM



“ It was an absolute pleasure meeting George and my condolences to his family

Herley Pellew - July 25, 2019 at 11:47 AM



“ George is a great loss to many people especially his family. My sincerest condolences. May he RIP.

Roberta LaPerriere (cousin) - July 24, 2019 at 10:26 AM

BS

“ Coach Synnott,
There are a number of your former Baseball players, and Bristol American Legion Alumni, who will always remember you as a GREAT Coach who taught us about Baseball but more importantly taught us life lessons that made us better people. The moments we shared in the past few years on the Unified Sports fields, and the tremendous work that you did to make that organization thrive, is a memory that I will truly cherish. George "Coach" Synnott succeeded in life. He made all of us better people. He will be truly missed but never forgotten.
Rest in Peace my friend.
Brian Stranieri

Brian Stranieri - July 24, 2019 at 07:51 AM

LE

“ My Deepest Condolences goes out to the entire Synott family. Rest In Peace Mr. Synott. God Bless everyone.
Sincerely
Laura J Edwards “82”

Laura J Edwards - July 24, 2019 at 05:45 AM

NG

“ George will be deeply missed at our joint Godzyk/Rainville Christmas gatherings. I'm so sorry for your loss. ❤️

Nora Greene

Nora Greene - July 23, 2019 at 09:21 PM

MG

“ *Mr. Synnott was not only a principal, but he a man I looked up to and respected. He helped me, talked to me, and was always there for me during my teen years. He truly will always be remembered as a great educator and person! Thank you Mr. Synnott!*



Marco G - July 23, 2019 at 04:20 PM

GC

“ *To the Synnott family*

The Torrington High School Unified program is sorry for your loss. I remember playing playing against Bristol American Legion in 1975 and was so glad 6 years ago when George got our school involved in Unified Sports. Our prayers go out to your family. Thank you George, it was honor being part of your Unified program.

Gerry Carbone

Gerry Carbone - July 23, 2019 at 02:49 PM

SD

“ *To the Synnott family,*

The New Britain High School Unified Sports program will be forever grateful for Georges kindness to all, care for the students, and competence in leading Unified Sports throughout CT. We are so saddened for your tremendous loss. Sandy Dichner and the whole NBHS Unified Sports program.

sandra dichner - July 23, 2019 at 01:50 PM

CB

“ Carol and family! We are so sad and sorry for your loss! George was a great man with a big heart and smile! You’re in our thoughts and prayers!
Ken and Carol Bragg. ❤️

Carol Shepard Bragg - July 23, 2019 at 11:22 AM

JC

“ CIAC's Unified Sports has lost their tremendous leader and a truly wonderful person.
The thing I will always remember the most is when George came to me with an idea for having his Unified Basketball players participate in the finals at the Mohegan Sun during the CIAC Basketball Finals. Having the opportunity to see him smile and help him fulfill this vision and be a small part in seeing his dream come true was a blessing for me. Thanks for being a caring mentor to many. Jiggs Cecchini. CIAC Boys Basketball

Jiggs Cecchini - July 23, 2019 at 10:36 AM

EF

“ The EHHS Cheer Fund would like to extend its condolences to Carol and the rest of George's family and to his friends as well. You are in our thoughts and prayers at this most difficult time.

EHHS Cheer Fund - July 23, 2019 at 10:25 AM

KD

“ *My heart is truly saddened upon hearing the news of George’s passing. His kindness, compassion and sincere quick smile demonstrated the kind of man George was and the trademark of the life he lead. George’s work through Unified Sports is the legacy he left for us - for this I and the entire Newtown Unified Family is forever grateful. To the Synnott Family, please know you are in our thoughts and prayers. Kathy Davey & NHS Unified Sports Family*

Kathy Davey - July 23, 2019 at 10:15 AM

MR

“ *To The Synnott Family,*

I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

Maureen Rainville

Maureen Rainville - July 23, 2019 at 09:23 AM

CP

“ *Joyce, Kim and Jill,*

Heartfelt condolences to you in the loss of your dad. He sounds like an amazing man who touched many lives...the best thing we all hope to do in life. I'm sure he was very proud of his beloved children and grandchildren.

Chris Pinette

Bristol Friend

Christine Pinette - July 23, 2019 at 09:09 AM

JK

“ To the Synnott family:
My deepest sympathies. May the memories you have of George get you through these difficult days. He was a wonderful, caring person who accomplished much in his life. He made a difference.

John Krot

CAAD Member

Director of Athletics, Parish Hill Middle High School

John Krot - July 23, 2019 at 06:49 AM

DG

“ Mr. Synnott was like the Johnny Carson of St. Paul CHS. Kept us laughing, engaged, with a terrific teaching style, and rarely taking anything too seriously.

I had no u.s his reputation in baseball before St. Paul and American Legion. He really made a mark in many ways.

Sympathies to the Synnott family and friends, colleagues, and his many students everywhere.

Diane Graham - July 22, 2019 at 10:04 PM

DG

*idea (not u.s.)

Diane Graham - July 22, 2019 at 10:06 PM

ML

“ George was our coach for the 76-80 St Paul Falcons Baseball team. He was an outstanding leader, tuff but always fair and well respected by all of us. I will never forget him and it was my pleasure to be his Facebook friend these last few years. My heartfelt condolences to his entire family. God Bless Coach!!

mike lambert - July 22, 2019 at 09:17 PM

TM

“ *To The Synnott Family*

While here in South Carolina, I was sadden to hear of the passing of George. George was a lovable, pleasant, giving, and most sincere person. He always was smiling and never hesitated to shake your hand and say "hi".

My thoughts and prayers are with you at this most difficult time. Find peace and comfort that he is with our good Lord!

God bless!!

*Tom Malin
Retired Athletic Director
East Catholic High School*

Tom Malin - July 22, 2019 at 08:24 PM

FS

“ *George was an outstanding teacher, coach and administrator. Most of all he was a great guy. My condolences to his family. He was a positive influence on so many people Rest In Peace my Friend*

Fran Serratore

Fran Serratore - July 22, 2019 at 08:15 PM

SC

“ *I have fond memories of Mr. Synnott in history class. He was a strong influence on me, for which I will always be grateful. Condolences to his loved ones and may happy memories comfort you.
Stephanie (Johndro) Curran, SPCHS class of '79.*

Stephanie R Curran - July 22, 2019 at 07:14 PM



Teg
Cosgriff

“ A very sad day. Proud to call George a friend and enjoy his support and advice as a colleague. Rest In Peace George. Prayers, thoughts and blessings to your family during this difficult time.

Teg Cosgriff

Director of Athletics, Westbrook Public Schools

Teg Cosgriff - July 22, 2019 at 04:30 PM



“ George was a warm heart, a warm hand, a warm soul. No words can express the sadness. He has changed so many lives and his legacy will live forever. Deepest sympathy.

Jaye Carlson (guilford unified sports)

Jaye Carlson - July 22, 2019 at 02:48 PM



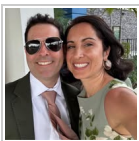
MM

“ George was an amazing man who touched the lives of so many. He truly made a difference in this world! He will be truly missed!

Marguerite Maddalena

Southington Unified Sports

Marguerite Maddalena - July 22, 2019 at 01:17 PM



“ Smith Middle School could not have run its Unified Basketball tournament without the help, advice, and kindness of George. Such an irreplaceable loss.

Laura Rose - July 22, 2019 at 12:35 PM

BH

“ George had a kind and loving spirit and a great sense of humor that endeared him to all he met. His passion for Unified Sports helped our program grow substantially under his leadership. It was a pleasure and honor to work with him. I wish your family every blessing during this difficult time.

Bob Hale

Bob Hale - July 22, 2019 at 12:26 PM

ST

“ It was such an honor to work with George in Unified Sports. He was a caring, passionate individual who cared about the betterment of kids. He was always willing to help organize an event for kids. My prayers are with all of you and we will surely miss him .

Steve Trifone

Athletic Director, Cheshire High School

Steve - July 22, 2019 at 11:48 AM

KB

“ George's memory will live on through Unified Sports. He will be missed terribly in the Special Olympics community. Sending thoughts and prayers to the family - may he rest in peace.

Sincerely,

Kelli Bigelow

Special Olympics Connecticut

Kelli Bigelow - July 22, 2019 at 11:44 AM

FB

“ To Carol & the Entire Synnott Family,
Please know that George was a special person who touched the lives of many people. He was an inspiration to us all and a pleasure to work with. He was a true friend. His passing is sad for those of us who knew him and we can only find comfort knowing he is in peace. God Bless George and to the entire family.

Sincerely,

Fred Balsamo

Executive Director

Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors

Fred Balsamo - July 22, 2019 at 11:40 AM

DM

To the Synnott Family -- our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. George was so supportive of our efforts to begin a Unified Sports program, and our athletes, partners and families could not be happier with the growth and success of our program -- due in large part to George's efforts when we began. George will be missed, but left an indelible legacy throughout the State of Connecticut. May he rest in peace.

Doug Marchetti
Athletic Director
Norwalk High School

Doug Marchetti - July 22, 2019 at 01:56 PM

CC

To the Synnott Family,

Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. George touched the lives of so many individuals, from St. Paul Catholic High School, Berlin High School, and Unified Sports. His memory will live on forever.

Chris Cassin
Athletic Director, Bristol Public Schools
SPCH Falcon - Class of '81

Chris Cassin - July 22, 2019 at 03:30 PM

DC

A gracious, loving man. His temperament was a balm to many. He taught me some things about drinking scotch. Go with God.

Don Cunningham

DC - July 22, 2019 at 06:51 PM

LC

*To the Synnott Family,
George was such a great individual! As a Teacher,
Administrator, Principal and Director of Unified Sports, children were
always # 1 in his heart. My deepest sympathy to the Synnott Family.*

*Len Corto
Athletic Director
New Britain High School*

Len Corto - July 22, 2019 at 07:01 PM

GP

*Each life such as Coach Synnotte touches the world in a way no other
can, leaving us with us not only wonderful, rewarding, positive
reflections and life lasting memories in our minds and hearts. Coach,
teacher, administrator, dad, husband and LOYAL friend that I feel
blessed to have coached with and known. My thoughts and prayers are
with you and your blessed FAMILY during this difficult time. May you
rest in Peace with our Lord.*

Gary Palladino

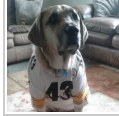
gary palladino - July 23, 2019 at 09:00 AM

NB

*Carol, Stan and I send our warmest thoughts to you and your family at
this time of George's passing. He was a steadfast and dedicated
educator and served the students and teachers well during his time in
the Berlin Public Schools. I was proud to have been a teacher in Berlin
during his tenure.*

Nancy Brittingham

Nancy Brittingham - July 23, 2019 at 07:43 PM



*To the Synnott Family,
My deepest condolences go out to your family. George supported me with every new activity I proposed. He was inspiring in the fact that his support did not come with fear or hesitation, but confidence and encouragement. He was an outstanding principal. My favorite memory is when I found out that the father of a little 2nd-grade girl I sprinted to the nurse's office to get a wound over her eye cleaned out ended up being the principal's daughter of the school I was applying to!! He handled everything with a grain of salt. George was a special man. Jim Arnold*

Jim Arnold - July 26, 2019 at 11:29 PM