



Theodore D. "Ted" Chitwood

November 18, 1948 - May 21, 2024

Dodgeville - Theodore Dale Chitwood, age 75, of Dodgeville, WI passed away on Tuesday May 21, 2024. After a short battle with glioblastoma, Ted's final hours were spent surrounded by his loving family at the Agrace Hospice Center in Fitchburg, WI.

Born in Boscobel, WI on November 18, 1948 to Keith G and Ruby E Chitwood, Ted spent his childhood growing up on the Richland County family farm north of Blue River, WI. While a student at Blue River High School he participated in football, wrestling, band, chorus and Future Farmers of America. After graduating in 1966, Ted attended UW-Platteville where he received a degree in Biology with a minor in Physical Education. While there, he participated in college life as a member of the wrestling team, a Resident Assistant in Wilgus Hall, as well as a member of the Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity. He then received a Master's degree in Physical Education from Winona State University.

While at UW-Platteville Ted met the love of his life Ronda. They started dating three weeks after meeting in the fall of 1969, and they married in 1973. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in July of 2023.

His first teaching job was his last, as Ted was hired by the Dodgeville School District in 1970 and worked as a middle school Physical Education and Health

teacher there for 34 years before retiring. During his tenure he mainly coached middle school track and field and middle school wrestling, and actually started Dodgeville Middle School's wrestling program. He was an unparalleled advocate of youth athletic programs of all kinds, and was constantly encouraging students to find activities to participate in - no matter their talent level. Ted also helped initiate the Iowa County Soccer Program that would go on to extend into many high school programs in the SWAL.

As a Dodgeville community member, Ted kept busy by attending any and all sporting and community events; it didn't matter what the event was, he was often the first on site, ready to help set up, as well as the last to head home after the last chair was put away (and we mean the VERY. LAST. CHAIR).

Ted highly enjoyed his time working and mentoring with the National Wild Turkey Federation's Learn to Hunt program; he was thrilled when one of his mentees - young and old alike - acquired gains in their hunting skills, especially when they got a bird.

One of Ted's part-time endeavors included painting dozens - if not hundreds - of houses and rooms in the Dodgeville area. He painted so many homes in Dodgeville that when he couldn't fall asleep at night, he would mentally count them as if they were sheep.

In retirement, Ted remained a fixture of the Dodgeville sports community by volunteering his time at wrestling matches, track meets, etc. where he continually found joy in watching kids work hard, gain success and learn from challenges. He was a member of the Dodgeville Mat Club, the Dodgeville High School Athletic Hall of Fame Committee, and spent a number of years on the Dodgeville City Parks and Rec Department Committee as both a member and a co-chair.

If you knew Ted, then you know that his most favorite pastimes were bow and gun hunting for deer and turkey, being outdoors on the family's woodlots in Richwood Township, chatting (lots of chatting) with friends and neighbors, consuming chocolate malts, and spending time with his granddaughters - watching their dance and piano performances, going on family outings in Denver, and re-painting their bedrooms - sometimes even with their help! One of his greatest joys was watching them grow and thrive.

Ted is survived by his wife Ronda (Roethlisberger), daughter Kara (Daniel Searing), son Kyle, granddaughters Olivia and Emerson Searing; brother James (Kay) of Oshkosh, brother-in-law Larry Kent of Fond du Lac; his Chitwood nephews Matthew (Heidi), David (Annie), Stephen (Katie); his Kent nieces Tara (Jake), Lindsey (Adam) Nelson and Kelly; and many close Chitwood and Anderson cousins, including his "favorite brother" Eddie (Linda) Chitwood. He is also survived by his sisters-in-law Nancy Reddington (Roger) and Linda Roethlisberger (Dennis Hennessey), nephew Mark Fry, and over 20 additional nieces and nephews through Ronda's side of the family. Ted was preceded in death by his parents, sister Susan (Suzi) Rae Kent and close cousin Gary Dale.

A public visitation will be held on Friday May 31, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the GORGEN-McGINLEY & AYERS FUNERAL HOME in Dodgeville, WI. A private burial is planned, and a public celebration of life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to:

Ted Chitwood Wrestling Scholarship

Dodgeville Area Scholarship Foundation Inc (DASFI)

The local chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation

Dodgeville Parks and Recreation Department

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 31. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Gorgen-McGinley & Ayers Funeral Home
400 East Grace Street
Dodgeville, WI 53533
(608) 935-5222
gorgenfh@mhtc.net

Tribute Wall

TK

“ Besides being a big teaser, I have many other fond memories of my Uncle Ted.

A couple years ago, he took Jake and I on a 9-hour Richland and Grant County cemetery tour. We looked for all our relatives and others that were family friends. He had a story about everyone. That evening, I tried to remember and jot down all of those priceless genealogy gems.

In the past 5 years, I've connected with Ted on our love for the family's Blue River woodlots. Like Ted, I enjoy spending lots of time alone in those woods. At night, he would call me and see where I went that day, what I saw and just chat. Sometimes for a couple hours. I could explain a trail or a tree and he knew exactly where it was. When he found a feather- usually turkey - he left it in the woods, he just placed it in the soil upright. On occasion, I would find those feathers and know he put them there. Last week, on the day he passed, I found a turkey feather in the Back 80, his favorite place.

And, last fall, I got to walk the Back 60 with Uncle Ted for the last time, he loved a yearly hike up Grapevine Ridge, a pretty steep climb of the north side, to "see if he still could do it."

I hope to continue the family legacy of the Woodlots and be able to pass my knowledge onto the next generation of Chitwoods.

Thank you Uncle Ted for these memories 

Tara Kent - May 28, 2024 at 07:52 PM

JA

Nice memories for you.

James - April 10 at 12:53 PM

RL

“*Ted was my teacher, my mentor, and a role model, but best of all he was my friend. I will always have special thoughts of Ted when the turkeys gobble in the spring and the bucks grunt in the fall.*”

Rod Lewis - May 27, 2024 at 04:50 PM

AD

“*I have wonderful memories of my times spent with Ted. My greatest are the times spent with him and our families together. I'd like to share a few.*

My first year of deer hunting with Keith, Jim, and Ted (along with my brother and dad) is a time that sticks with me to this day. Ted wanted to make sure I got a buck and he made it happen. After missing many deer that week, Ted came to me and told me to sit by a certain tree and he'd drive one down the ridge. I was able to get that buck that day. It turns out it was my first and last ever. I needed to hunt with Ted more.

While attending David Chitwood's wedding, I made a lame joke about my wife's vegetarian-cooked meals. Ted, being the gentleman that he was, defended my wife's honor, didn't miss a beat, and replied, "It doesn't look like you're missing many of them." I still chuckle when I think about that day.

Our last time deer hunting together, my brother challenged Ted to a wrestling match. It brings a smile to my face as I remember my brother pleading for my help. I looked on with glee until he said "uncle".

Ted was a great man and a delightful person to be around. Thank you Uncle Ted for the moments you shared with me.

Alex Dale - May 26, 2024 at 05:58 PM

JC

“ *The kindest, most unselfish and patient man I ever knew. We always agreed that we were from opposite branches of the same tree. One could only hope to be as good a person as Ted. Dedication, commitment and that "can do attitude" would best describe Ted. Our condolences to the entire family.*

Jim Chitwood - May 26, 2024 at 10:03 AM

BS

“ *Ted was an exceptional father-in-law to my brother, Dan. I know they enjoyed a strong bond of trust, respect and good humor. He was also a loving grandparent to that went above and beyond the call on more occasions than I can remember. My condolences to Rhonda, Kara, Kyle and all who had the good fortune of knowing him.*

I am so very grateful for Ted and the life he shared with our family.

Bryan Searing - May 24, 2024 at 04:27 PM

MA

“ *Ted was one of my all time favorite teachers in middle school. So patient and steady. Appreciated his strength and confidence during those tumultuous years of growing up. Rest in peace, good sir. May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.*

Mark Ahrens - May 23, 2024 at 09:01 PM

BF

“ Ted was my phy-Ed teacher in middle school. I remember when he taught us how to dance! He was a great teacher, he loved what he did! He will be missed but never forgotten!

*Much love and Prayers!
Barb Fawcett & Family*

Barb Fawcett - May 23, 2024 at 07:27 PM

MB

“ Rhonda, Kyle, Kara and Jim and family. We are so deeply saddened. There are no words to describe how wonderful of a person not only as a family man but for those around him and in the community. Ted was always so nice and you were so lucky to have him as your husband. father and brother. Sending prayers, love and prayers.

Marilyn Martin, Sean and Tiffany Burke - May 23, 2024 at 04:18 PM

WL

“ Ted was my younger brother Ryan's wrestling coach in Dodgeville HS. I first met Ted then but got to know him as he coordinated use of footballs and the football field at the high school for the Dodgeville JCs Kick Pass and Punt event. His personal comments and our conversation left me with such a different feeling about him. Special.

My brother Red was closer to Ted and they had many phone calls. He would invite Ted to go hunting with us. That was fun. And ever so often when we were cleaning up after the hunt, Ted would stop in for a visit. Always a smile gleaming from his face.

So sorry for your loss Rhonda and family.

Wayne Lipska - May 23, 2024 at 11:42 AM



Condolences to the family!

Karen Clough family - May 26, 2024 at 07:18 PM