



Alan Charles Coe

February 16, 1943 - September 21, 2017

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Alan was born in Saline, Michigan on February 16, 1943, the son of Gerald W. and Ann E. Coe (Peters). Gerald was a barber and active in civic affairs as was Ann who retired as secretary to the Saline Community Hospital. They preceded him in death. The details of Alan's death were not announced as he felt it was more important to know how he lived and thought Kipling's "If" was a good road mark for life.

Following graduation from Saline High School, Coe earned a BBA and MBA from Western Michigan University where he was also commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. Before serving on active duty, he was on Western's faculty in the department of management. He graduated from Michigan State University with a Ph.D. in 1972 and one year later was selected as Dean of Kent State University's Trumbull Campus. In 1981 he was named Dean for Academic Affairs for Kent's seven regional campuses which enrolled 10,000 students and employed 500 faculty and staff. He retired as an Emeritus Dean from Kent State in 1995 and worked part-time in undergraduate studies and in international affairs until 2008. He was also on the graduate faculty at MSU and Kent State and, in his words, published "the usual academic stuff" until overtaken with administrative responsibilities.

Coe served on a number of community organizations and was a member of the Roy Chapman Andrews Society, a Fellow in the Royal Geographical Society, Associate Member of the Explorer's Club, and the Grass Lake Historical Society. He often said that his best experiences were on the Ellsworth Hall staff in the Admissions Office and in the Department of Management at Western Michigan University and on the Michigan State Residence Hall staff and Dean of Students staff. In reminiscing, he found it rewarding to serve on the Alumni Board of Directors from 1980 to 1986 and lead the Association (1982-84) as a two-term president. He was especially pleased with the connections of the Trumbull Campus to the community of Warren, Ohio.

Coe's love of exploration is illustrated by his travel to over 50 countries. "To see what would happen", he often traveled solo. He visited Africa, South America, the Far East, and the Middle East to name a few. He slept on the Gobi Desert and on rooftops in the Himalayas. He frequented Florida for MLB Spring Training. After many travels, he worked on a book about his world discoveries, focusing not only on the lands, but also on his favorite or unusual food. He found the people to be the most fascinating. His "project" ended up being 613 pages. Those who knew him well, knew it would never be done, never perfect enough with details to be eternally added.

A master of detail, and, as he said "trivia," he would leave us in awe of his depth of knowledge pulled from study, experience, and curiosity. Always ready with an opinion and an argument, one could disagree heartily yet, in the end, shake hands and go to a movie or get a tin roof sundae, his treat. He was a friend and a mentor. When you were a stranger he knew your life story within 15 minutes. He wouldn't forget it. Although he was taken too soon, he rarely wasted a minute, filling his years with achievement, adventure and friendship.

Alan is survived by his son Gerald (Jerry) Coe and Michelle (Hundley) Coe,

and their children Madeline Elizabeth Coe and Alexander William Coe; sister and friend Janis in Bountiful, Utah.

Family will receive friends on Friday, September 29, 2017 from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. at the Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home in Saline. Memorial contributions may be made to the Fisher House Michigan. To sign Alan's guestbook and leave a memory or for more information visit www.rbfhsaline.com

Previous Events

Gathering of Friends

SEP **29**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services

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Saline, MI 48176

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<https://www.rbfhsaline.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Alan Charles Coe*

October 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ *Jerry and Michelle,*
This is very late, but your father (father-in-law) was a unique individual. I worked with him at Kent State University in the Center for International and Comparative programs. His expertise in all things international brought joy and insight to our work. Sending students abroad presents many challenges and rewards, and he met all challenges with superb talent. He made friends all over the world. His "sayings" so true will be with me to the end of my life. "Work will never love you back" and "Happiness shared is happiness made double." As a proud member of his "Fez Commission" (somehow, mysteriously, all of us who worked together were on our way to Fez) my hope is that we all will meet with him in Fez someday.

-Judith Carroll

Judith Carroll - April 02, 2018 at 06:05 PM



“ *I met Dr. Coe in 2006 when I was a senior at Kent State. He was very helpful and encouraging in my decision to study abroad in Switzerland. His sense of humor was great. He came to visit us while we were over seas. I am sorry to learn of his passing.*

Dan Walto

Dan Walton - February 16, 2018 at 11:27 PM

BH

“ I met “Doc,” as we called him, at the Warren Royal Racquetball Club back in the 80’s. As a manager and employee of the club he was a favorite regular. His humor, wit, and personality made my day from the moment he walked into the club. He was a pretty good racquetball player, as well. My deepest sympathy to his family. I am pleased to say I knew him and he made an impression upon me socially and in my education. I am a Kent State grad. RIP “Doc.”

Brenda and Don Hyde - October 15, 2017 at 02:04 PM

LC

“ I was sorry to hear of Alan's recent passing. He and I were close childhood friends. I recall visiting with him on many occasions at his home on Michigan Ave. in Saline. My best wishes and condolences to his family.

Larry Carr

Laurence (Larry) Carr - October 07, 2017 at 01:42 PM

EM

“ My sincere condolences to Al's family and friends. I will long remember my days at WMU with Al and the joy and friendship we shared. Our basketball games were the best and Al had all the moves on the court. Off the court he was a leader in the WMU community and went on to make his mark in the college arena and in all the endeavors he cared for. RIP my friend! Ed Mack

Ed Mack - September 29, 2017 at 07:04 PM

ZZ

“ Alan's grandson and my son play on the same hockey team. Alan and I always chatted before the games. We would exchange travel stories and jokes. Alan was a knowledgeable, caring and generous person. I will miss him. Condolences to the family.
Sincerely, Zilai Zhao

Zilai Zhao - September 29, 2017 at 01:32 PM

RB

“ 115 files added to the album Life Tributes



Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services - September 29, 2017 at 10:15 AM

FB

“ Al will always have a special place in our hearts. He was a loyal friend and confidante.
Frank and Sandy Bernier

Frank Bernier - September 29, 2017 at 05:48 AM



“ *Ghirardelli Galore was purchased for the family of Alan Charles Coe.*



September 27, 2017 at 10:57 PM



“ *What a guy! I have known Al since the first day of kindergarten in Saline--he may be my longest continuous friendship. So many memories of the fun we had growing up, goofing around, learning to play the trumpet together, hundreds of basketball and baseball games and other adventures. Then we went off to college, and more college--he obtaining a PhD and me a J.D. We stayed in touch as we moved forward in our careers in education, catching up every now and then--including one memorable 5 day visit in Santiago, Chile about 15 years ago--see photos. He was always the "straw that stirred the drink"--first in fun, adventure, travel, opinions (and how he loved to debate), but a great friend to me and all who knew him--he will be missed. Sharon and I send our most sincere sympathies to his family and friends.*

Michael Bixby



Michael Bixby - September 27, 2017 at 10:47 PM

CC

“ I will miss you Alan and your wonderful zany personality. I know I will never meet another like you my friend!
Cindy Coakley

Cindy Coakley - September 26, 2017 at 04:14 PM

FF

“ From your Ice Cats family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Alan Charles Coe.



From your Ice Cats family - September 26, 2017 at 02:18 PM

CM

“ Alan and I worked together at Kent State for 20 years. Though we had our moments at work, we came to be dear friends. I have fond and loving memories of him. He was a good man with a good heart.
...Connie Mohan, Kent, OH

Connie Mohan - September 25, 2017 at 04:33 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Alan Charles Coe.



September 25, 2017 at 04:24 PM



Carla Scruggs

“ *The staff of the Rec Center along with the many friends he made in TRX class and racquetball league will miss Alan. He was a character who made a lasting impression on everyone he met. RIP Alan, you are missed.*

Carla Scruggs - September 25, 2017 at 03:53 PM



“ *Al was my boss for my first professional job at the Kent State Regional Campuses 1990-1992. It was never a dull moment. I have never met anyone in all the subsequent years working in higher education who cared more about students. Although I have not spoken with him in a very long time, I often think about him and hope he knew how much of an impact he had on me.*

Bill Knight

William Knight - September 25, 2017 at 11:31 AM



SM

“ *I am so sorry for your loss, may a loving Heavenly Father hold you in His hands.*

Suzanne Foster Mayhew - September 24, 2017 at 08:22 AM



L(

“ *My brother, Jim Struble, was a high school friend of Al. Al had an MG convertible & one day he entertained my younger sister, Lori, by giving her rides around & around & around the house. We laughed hilariously.*

Linda Kasberer (Struble) - September 23, 2017 at 07:11 PM

FT

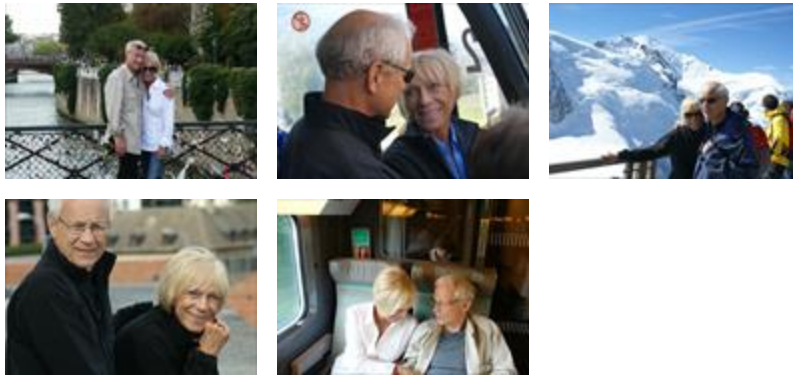
“ Fondly, Ann Tucker purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Alan Charles Coe.



Fondly, Ann Tucker - September 23, 2017 at 04:56 PM

MC

“ RIP soulmate. Just to see what happens...



Marilyn Cook - September 23, 2017 at 02:42 PM

BL

“ What a full life Alan had. Gone too soon. Glad I knew him. Condolences to his family.

Barbara Schmid Losee - September 23, 2017 at 09:35 AM

Sara Hehr

“ I have fond memories of Alan as a cornet player in Saline High School Band...way before his glorious life experiences. He was a very talented man! Sincerely, Sara Schaible Hehr

Sara Hehr - September 23, 2017 at 09:16 AM