



Mr. Dale S. Shaffner

May 5, 1924 - September 8, 2014

Dale Samuel "Papa" Shaffner, age 90, of Rossville, passed away on Monday, September 8, 2014.

He was born in Middle Town, PA to the late Aaron and Annie Hipple Shaffner, where he was a member of St. Peter Lutheran Church. Dale served his country in the U.S. Army, during W.W. II. He moved to the Rossville area in 1949, served as the band director of Rossville High School for 40 yrs., before retiring in 1984, founded the Rossville Lions Club and was a member of the Chattanooga Symphony and Opera Association.

Dale was also preceded in death by his loving wife, Alma Louise Shaffner.

He is survived by his children, Richard (Diane) Shaffner of Ringgold; grandchildren, Ian (Tiffanie) Shaffner of Daytona and Kane Shaffner of Rossville; great grandchildren, Makayla and Sydnie; and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral service will be held at 1:30 pm on Thursday, September 11, 2014 in the funeral home chapel. Interment will follow in the Chattanooga National Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Wednesday and prior to the service on Thursday. Arrangements by W.L. Wilson & Sons Funeral Home-Ft. Oglethorpe.

Tribute Wall

CS

“ *Mr. Shaffner was a man among men. He had a profound positive influence on my life. What a blessing he was to so many. His memory will continue to live in the souls of those who loved and respected him. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. Our loss...Heaven's gain.*

*Cathy Grice Lawson
Student from 5th grade @ South Rossville Elem.
through Graduation 1970, Majorette 1967-1970*

Cathy Grice Lawson - Chattanooga, TN and Panama City Beach, FL, FL - Student - September 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DN

“ *As Junior and senior high bandsmen I remember Mr. Shaffner very well. Although I left the band after my sophomore year, I always retained a love for music taught by him. After over 30 years of non playing I picked up the trumpet again in 1999 and today I play in the Salem Band of Winston-Salem, N.C. Thanks Mr. Shaffner for the love of Music.*

Doug Shoemaker Former Rossville High Band Member

Douglas Shoemaker - Eden, NC - September 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SJ

“ *Sorry for your loss! A truly great friend that will be missed by all.*

sandra james - September 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Thanks for all you taught me those long years ago. You will never be forgotten. Rest in peace and lead that heavenly marching band in the sky.

Robin Williams - Rossville, GA - Friend and former student - September 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

WM

“ Mr Shaffner was a wonderful man , he was like a dad to me , i spent many late afternoons in his office chatting with him , and with Roxy (his doberman) until he gave me a ride home everyday after practice in the old faded blue & white Chevy Delivery (i lived near him). Everyone always looked forward to band practice , simply because he was the best band director in the tri-state and he truly cared for each of his students , and wanted them to be the very best . he will be terribly missed by all .

Walter LaGrange - Proud member Rossville High School Band 1967-1971

Walt LaGrange - Chattanooga, TN - Rossville High Band Member - September 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

C'

“ Though I did not realize it at the time, Me. Shaffner was making us disciplined members of society. This has followed me through every aspect of my life; The military, my work, my studies of the martial arts. I find myself with my own students in stilling the same discipline. Being in the band with Me. Shaffner were done of the best days of my life. He was leader, mentor, friend, fellow veteran, Inspiration. Always, he expected excellence, and got it. The thing that amazed me the most was that he remembered all of us. Thank you for the lessons.

Christopher Sanders - Chattanooga, TN - Band member '78-82 - September 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *Mr. Shaffner was one of the best teachers I ever had. He started me off right on my musical journey. He emphasized quality of music and helped me understand how to read and play it. He also conducted the district band when I was in it in 1986. He will be greatly missed.*

*Sincerely,
Mark Dunn*

Mark Dunn - GA - student - September 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *I will be forever grateful for Mr. Shaffner. He was a true leader who encouraged me to be the best I could be and he had a significant influence in shaping my future. I still smile and think of him every time I hear Stars and Stripes Forever...and always will. He will be missed...my sympathies to his family and loved ones.*

Jennifer (Ross) Renshaw - Atlanta, GA - Former Student - September 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PT

“ *It was an honor to have been in the no 1 band in the South for several years.Mr Shaffner was the best.A true professional.He will be missed.Rip.*

Paula Shambaugh McMahan - Smyrna, TN - September 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AS

“*Mr. Shaffner was an outstanding teacher, musician and community leader. His ability to challenge those of us who studied with him shaped our lives for success in all kinds of avenues. I have been blessed with much good fortune both as an oboist and musicologist and as a financial services executive. I credit Mr. Shaffner as being one of the early role models who influenced me and guided me at a very critical point in my life.*

I am currently serving as a director on two California orchestra boards in the hope that I will be able to "pay forward" the amazing gifts that I received from the music education I received as Mr. Shaffner's student.

I hope that Mr. Shaffner's family and friends receive many notes of this kind because I am confident that his influence lives on in many people who were fortunate enough to study with him.

Alan Mason

Managing Director, BlackRock

Director, Santa Rosa Symphony

Vice-President, Association of California Symphony Orchestras

Alan Mason - San Francisco, CA - Former Student - September 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SS

“*Mr. Shaffner instilled in me the confidence I did not have. That confidence has gotten me through many storms. He was a superior teacher and an extraordinary man. Rest in Peace Papa Dale and God Speed.*

Sonnie Harris - Richland, WA - Student - September 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ I am grateful for Mr. Shaffner's influence in my life. His dedication and discipline inspired me and thousands of others throughout his lifetime. Whenever I hear the Stars and Stripes or the Star Spangled Banner, I stand a little taller, a little straighter, with my heels together because he taught me to. I hope heaven has a perfect 8X8 64 piece marching band for him to direct. Our condolences and sympathies to his family, and the Rossville High School Bulldog Marching Band family. A great man.

Dr. Ralph Wooten - Eufaula , AL - Former band member - September 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ I wasn't in the band but I loved to hear our band play. Mr. Shaffner was the best band director in the world and there will never be another one like him. Will be missed very much will be praying for the family.

Tammy Adams Fowlkes - Rossville, GA - Student at Rossville High School - September 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Oh Papa Dale...
How we all cherish the memories! You taught us as band students but were really teaching us life lessons that have served us well. The last time we spoke, you told me how proud you were of my accomplishments in life. You weren't just being polite... you were looking right into my eyes as you spoke. You giggled and asked if I was still baking muffins... then I hugged you tight & kissed your cheek.

I Love You & will try to keep making you proud until I get to heaven to hug you again... and then bake you muffins!

Jamie Lynn Morris - Chickamauga, GA - Band Student/Flag Corps/Admirer - September 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

J'

“ Miss & love you Papa Shaffner!

Ken & I graduated together, grew up together. Our dads started the Lions club, the booster club and worked the concessions together. What glory days they were! Best football teams, No 1s at Bristol and Chattanooga Band festivals. When I went to Ga Tech, my band director there awaited me from a note from his long time friend Dale Shaffner. I heard so much about golf from him, later, I took up the sport, and actually got to play a round with him. What a treat. In ways he reminds me of Arnold Palmer, great ambassadors for music and for golf.

All the best to the family, our hearts and prayers are with you.

john graves - Tampa, FL - Rossville Band Class of '65 - September 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ *Such fond memories of band camp, world's fair, and disney world...not to mention the contests and ballgames! Mr. Shaffner was a wonderful band director and commanded respect and our best! We are all better for have experienced band life with Mr. Dale Shaffner...he will be sadly missed!*

Kim L. Johnson (Wright) - Rossville, GA - former student - September 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ *Words cannot express the amount of admiration of anyone who was blessed enough to know him or be mentored by him. One can only say...Papa Dale thank you will never be enough and I'll see you in Heaven one day.*

Rita Patrick-McDaniel - Rossville, GA - Band member/Flag Corp - September 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

NF

“ *Fond memories of the kind pipe-wielding face when he judged me at competitions. More wonderful memories as a colleague in symphony.*

*Nora Setliffe Kile
flutist, Chattanooga Symphony
fellow alum, Cincinnati Conservatory*

Nora S. Kile - Chattanooga, TN - fellow flutist - September 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

P6

“ *Dale Shaffner set the bar. He expected greatness and he got it. I'll always remember standing for inspection--you'd better be dressed appropriately and your mouthpiece better be clean... lessons for life learned early. We'll always remember and love you, Papa Dale.*

Phyllis McCloud Lively - Rossville, GA - Student, Band Sargeant, 60-66 - September 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ *Me. Shaffner was simply known as grandpa to me.. He had such a kind and loving heart.. He could strike conversation up with a stranger about nearly anything! There are no words that could describe what a great man he was. He will be dearly missed.*

Ali Watson - September 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

J1

“ *God's symphony just got better. He was a major influence in my life. He nurtured and inspired me. I will miss him and remember him always.*

Jeff Vandergriff - Rossville, GA - Student 1979-1984 - September 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ *Mr. Shaffner lead by example and expected nothing less than excellence. He taught everyone to reach for their dreams and never give up. And my admiration and respect for him are limitless. He will forever be the face I see every time "Stars and Stripes" is played.*

Rose Lewis - Calhoun, GA - September 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

HS

“ *Mr. Schaffner was a great inspiration to me and will be greatly missed.*

Helen French - Cleveland, TN - student - September 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ *Though I was not in the band, my brother and many of my friends were. My father, Ralph Wooten, was a big supporter of the band and he and Mr. Shaffner became good buddies. Daddy helped with the building of the band building and provided the sign above the door. I will never forget Mr. Shaffner running in the funeral home at 9 p.m. on the day before my father's funeral. He had been out of town and did not know of my father's passing until he got home. It was so important to him to come see us. Mr. Shaffner was a strict teacher and director but well- loved and respected at the same time. He was a gentleman, musician, and inspiration.*

Sandra Wooten Russell - Rossville , GA - colleague - September 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ I stood by him less than a year ago and introduced myself as his former student. He looked at me and said, "Trumpet Player"! I can't describe the impact that he had on my life except to say that without his tutoring and sometimes tough love I may not have made it. His example's of leadership, compassion and fairness has been the model that I have tried to achieve through my life. To him I owe more gratitude that I, as a hard headed teenager could have ever understood.

Sweet peace Mr. Shaffner,

Steve Oswalt

Steve Oswalt - Trion, GA - Former Student - September 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM