



## Alfred D. Tutela

February 11, 1941 - August 20, 2017

Alfred D. Tutela, 76, of The Villages, FL passed away Sunday, August 20, 2017 following a brief illness at Leesburg Regional Medical Center, Leesburg, FL. Alfred was born February 11, 1941, the third child of Antonetta and Alfred J Tutela, in Boston, Massachusetts. He was a dedicated, passionate educator having received his Bachelor of Arts in Education at Boston College, his M.Ed at Northeastern University and his PhD at Kent State University. He served as Director of logistics for Boston City Schools during desegregation in the early 70s. From there, opportunity called him for the same position in Cleveland Ohio by Judge Frank Battisti. His career escalated as he became Superintendent of Cleveland City Schools, Youngstown City schools, and retiring in 2006 from Wachusetts Regional School District in Massachusetts. His retirement days were filled with joy, as he enjoyed riding around - or should I say racing around the villages, in his golf cart, golfing daily in one golf course or another, spending his afternoons in the pool with his wife, cruising from country to country with his latest cruise being a pilgrimage to Fatima and many of the cathedrals and Roman Catholic churches in both Spain and Portugal. Alfred enjoy taking a backseat in large crowds and watching with joy as he put on holiday dinners and family/friend get-togethers. His joy was in providing joy to others. He is survived by his adoring wife, Debbie S. Tutela; three daughters, Deborah Ann, Gina Maria (Mike Eident) & Sondra Marie; their mother, Mary; a foster son, Brian Murphy; a stepdaughter, Jennifer Tsangaris; a stepson, James J. Tsangaris; nine grandchildren; two great-

granddaughters; an older sister, Elizabeth DiNapoli (Michael-deceased); and a younger sister, Bernadette Peppe (Joseph). He was preceded in death by his parents, Alfred in 1975 and Antonetta in 1998; many aunts & uncles; and his older brother, Dominic in 2016. Alfred will be forever remembered by his loving family and friends as full of life, love, and his ability to make everybody feel like they were the most important person he had ever come in contact with. Mass of Christian Burial There will be a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Vincent DePaul parish in Wildwood, Florida on Monday, August 28, 2017, at 12:00 PM with Father John McCracken officiating. There will be no calling hours prior to the mass. Following the service there will be a light lunch and served at Rohan Rec Center, 850 Kristine Way, The Villages. Memorial Donations In Lieu of flowers, the family would like for donations to be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, or Missionaries of the Poor, P.O. Box 17145, Baltimore, MD 21297-1145 or to the Tutela Scholarship, Wachusett Regional School District, 1745 Main St., Jefferson, MA 01522. Checks should be made out to WRSD and include Tutela Scholarship in the memo section.

# Tribute Wall

SM

“ So sorry for your loss. I've heard many stories about Al from my Aunt Debbie in Brewster. I will remember Dr. Tutela handing me my diploma during my high school graduation.

Stephanie Major - December 24, 2018 at 12:36 PM

KA

“ I love you



Kaitlyn - November 29, 2017 at 04:03 PM

EM

“ *"Your loved one will never have to face the last enemy, death, ever again. In the meantime his acts of faith live on until he stands up alive and whole in the paradise." "May Jehovah sustain you at this time of such great loss."*

elton and laura miller - September 06, 2017 at 09:22 AM

DO

“ *Praying for you! So sorry for your loss Please let me know if I can do anything for you!*



Dortha - August 27, 2017 at 05:01 PM

“ Dale & I are so sorry for your loss. It was a terrible shock to loose such a good friend. I am sorry that I cannot be with you to attend the service to celebrate Al's life. Al was an important and special person in my life. I valued the time with him and his friendship. God will surely bless and keep his faithful servant, Al Tutela.

*I want to share with you the words I struggled to write about Al. I've written many things for him while he was at Wachusett. I miss having his minuscule notes correcting my punctuation and adding a word to complete the thought!*

*August 27, 2017*

*To the Editor, The Landmark*

*The beginning of the Wachusett school year is a time to reflect on the qualities that have drawn parents to choose to live in the five towns of the Wachusett District, and the attraction that brings Wachusett graduates back to raise their children in the Wachusett community.*

*Dr. Alfred Tutela, Superintendent of the Wachusett Regional School District (1994-2005), unexpectedly passed away on August 20, 2017. While Dr. Tutela has been away from Wachusett since his retirement in 2005, the legacy of his tenure lives on as our children and grandchildren begin their new year in Wachusett Schools.*

*Dr. Tutela arrived at Wachusett in 1994 at a critical time. Five towns agreed to bring six school districts together as a unified Wachusett Regional School District. Dr. Tutela's direction, drive, dedication and devotion provided the leadership needed to transform a broken educational system into one of the top regional school districts in Massachusetts.*

*Dr. Tutela lead the effort to provide Wachusett's children the quality places for learning they deserved. Unsafe, structurally dangerous,*

*mold infested schools were transformed with the construction of four brand new schools and the complete renovation/expansion of seven schools.*

*Dr. Tutela lead the effort to transform a fragmented instructional program with no unified curriculum, outdated materials, broken equipment and scarce technology. His leadership resulted in coordinated regional curriculum, infusion of modern instructional materials and technology, and investment in Wachusett's teachers through high quality professional development. His vision paid off in improved achievement and exceptional accomplishments of Wachusett's students.*

*Dr. Tutela recognized that Wachusett was a place for all students. Under his direction, in-district programs for students with disabilities were expanded from preschool to post graduate. Reliance on out of district programs was substantially reduced as children with exceptional educational needs found their place in Wachusett schools as integral members of the school community.*

*Dr. Tutela brought a laser vision to the organization and management of the five town school district. The policies and procedures implemented under his direction continue to guide the effective operation of the district.*

*Dr. Tutela devoted his time, boundless energy, and fiery passion to serving the Wachusett District. He saw that his life was inextricably bound with the district's saying "I am the district." It was my privilege to work with Dr. Tutela during his tenure as Superintendent. I witnessed his work for all of the district's children. I came to know Al as a friend and saw the sensitive man behind the sometimes abrasive exterior. His boundless energies were driven by his faith that "whatever you do for the least of my children you do for me."*

*The successes and accomplishments of tens of thousands of children who have received an exceptional Wachusett education since K-12 regionalization serve as a testament to his tenure and*

*serve as a living memorial to Dr. Tutela's life of service for children.*

*Jason R. Newton  
Fairchild Drive  
Holden, MA 01520*

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**Jason Newton** - August 27, 2017 at 10:34 AM

MA

“ *You will always have a special place in my heart.* ”



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**Mary** - August 27, 2017 at 09:19 AM

PC

“ *Thank you Al for all the hugs, the big smiles, the feeling that you were always happy to see us! Thanks for having such a great 4 th of July party- sharing those great sausages- laughter- and joy that you always brought with you wherever you went- We will always miss you and feel privileged that you were our friend- You and Deb had a marriage and love truly made in heaven- our deepest sympathies to your family-farewell and Godspeed Al - Pat and Wayne Crowe* ”

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**Pat and wayne crowe** - August 26, 2017 at 08:46 PM

HG

“ *Deb, we are so sorry for your loss. We will forever remember the good times and laughs playing golf with you and Al. He taught me to use my Putter for almost every shot you can do on a golf course. Ha Ha He was a loving person who made you feel special. God Bless you and your family.* ”

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**Helen & Terry Grimes** - August 26, 2017 at 12:37 PM

JL

“ Al, to my friend, colleague, and mentor, thank you for the guidance and inspiration as an educator. We remain enriched with your memory. May the Lord be with you. Our prayers and sympathies are with Debbie and your entire family.

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**Jim & Delia Lanese** - August 24, 2017 at 02:05 PM

TP

“ What a great picture of Al! I fondly remember that smile and how it portrayed the enthusiasm that he had for our students. Please accept my condolences on your loss. I learned many lessons from Al that inform my work as a school leader to this day and for that I am grateful to have worked with him.

Sincerely,

Tom Pandiscio

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**Tom Pandiscio** - August 23, 2017 at 03:42 PM

GS

“ Deb, Al's enthusiasm in all he did, his big, joyful smile was so endearing. I'm thankful our paths crossed as I visited The Villages.

May you be surrounded by those you love and memories fill your heart with peace.

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**Gabrielle Strand** - August 23, 2017 at 10:39 AM

BF

“ Dear Debbie,  
My deepest condolences to you and all the Tutela clan. Al's love, smile and laughter will be greatly missed and always remembered.  
Much love,  
Brigitte



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**Brigitte Fleetwood** - August 23, 2017 at 09:44 AM

RC

“ Al was a great classmate for four years in college. We both went to teach in Norwalk CN and were roommates for one year. We then taught together in Brockton, MA. I was in Al's wedding and he was in mine. I last spoke to Al about 25 years ago and we lost touch. I can remember so many interesting times we had together. Every experience was an adventure. Sincere condolences to his family.

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**Richard A Capone** - August 23, 2017 at 09:26 AM

DF

“ Deb,  
SO sorry for your loss. Will always remember Al's love for life.  
Eating lobster on our deck is a fond memory.  
May faith, family, and friends help you through this difficult time.  
Much love,  
Diane and Paul

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**Diane and Paul Fontaine** - August 23, 2017 at 08:47 AM

JR

“ *My deepest condolences to Al's wife and family. I enjoyed my time working with Al here in the Wachusett district, and I know through that interaction about his passion for his family and the greater community he lived in. May the peace of our Lord be with you, Al's family, during these difficult days. Sincerely, John Rokicki*

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**John Rokicki** - August 23, 2017 at 12:39 AM

TM

“ *Will miss the times we played golf and laughed*



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**Tom Mahler** - August 22, 2017 at 11:49 PM

PW

“ *Al, you will be remembered for you wit and smile. Wednesdays will not be the same without you. Rest in peace friend and may your family find comfort in their memories of you!!*



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**Pat Walsh** - August 22, 2017 at 10:34 PM