



## Daniel P. Semenza Jr.

February 15, 1938 - September 21, 2024

Dan Semenza, 86, of The Villages, FL passed away September 21, 2024 at Cornerstone Hospice with his wife, Josephine, sister-in-law Nancy, brother-in-law Anthony and sister-in-law Carol at his side.

Dan was born in Old Forge Pa to Frances and Daniel Sr on Feb 15, 1938. The family moved to Carteret, NJ where Dan went to school and graduated Carteret High School in 1956. He attended Trenton State College (College of New Jersey), where he continued his sports career while earning a degree in teaching. He played soccer, basketball, field & track, and baseball. Dan graduated with a degree in Elementary Education in 1960. He taught 5th grade at Lincoln Elementary School then computers in Woodrow Wilson Middle School, Edison, NJ from 1960 to 1994. In August, 1956, Dan joined the 78th Division (Tng), United States Army Reserve. He rose to the rank of Command Sergeant Major (CSM) and was the CSM of the entire 78th Division (Tng), NJ and then the 39th Ord Group, before retiring in 1991.

In 1979, Dan married Josephine (Jo) Weber. In 1984, Dan became involved with Odyssey of the Mind which is a creative problem-solving program for elementary to college students. His teams from Woodrow Wilson won many awards in the World Finals of Odyssey of the Mind. In 1994, Dan became the International Problem Captain for the Structure problem (it is a balsa wood construction which holds weights). He retired from volunteering in Odyssey of the Mind in 2016.

Dan and Jo retired from teaching in 1994 and moved to The Villages, Florida. Dan joined the Rotary Club of The Villages in 1997. He progressed to President of the club in 2001. Dan was a Rotary Discussion Leader for Rotary Leadership Institute in 2007. He continued his Rotary work and was then elected to be Rotary

District Governor for District 6980 (Lake, Sumter, Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties) for 2016-2017. Dan received the Rotary International Avenues of Service Award for his outstanding dedication to Rotary in 2020.

Dan really did not retire. He became the Chair of the Lake County Republican Party in 2001 which was a whirlwind of activity. He met Jeb Bush, George W. Bush and other Republicans in the 8 years he was the Chairman.

Dan is survived by his wife, Jo, of 45 years, his daughter, Christine Weidel, son-in-law, Chris, his son, Daniel III, brother Sam Semenza (Ann), brother Tony Semenza (Shirley), In-laws Toby (Gail) Yapaolo, Nancy (Rick) Stengel, Penny (Bill) Cheshire, Anthony (Carol) Yapaolo plus nieces, nephews and Grandson

Matt (Samantha) Weidele and Granddaughter Allie. There are numerous great nieces and great nephews in the family.

Celebration of Life will be on October 5, 2024 at Eisenhower Recreation Center, 3560 Buena Vista Blvd, The Villages from 3 pm to 6 pm. Military burial will be on October 7, 2024 at 8:30 am from Beyers Funeral Home and Crematory, 134 N. Hwy 27/441, Lady Lake, FL. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Cornerstone Hospice, 601 Mariposa Way, The Villages, 32162 or The Rotary Foundation, 14280 Collections Center Drive, Chicago, IL 60693.

Burial will be Monday October 7, 2024, arrive at Lady Lake Chapel Beyers Funeral Home & Crematory, 134 N Hwy 27/441, Lady Lake, FL 32159 at 8:30 am.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

OCT 5. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Eisenhower Center  
3560 Buena Vista Blvd  
The Villages, FL 32163

*Celebration of Life will be held on October 5, 2024 at Eisenhower Center from 3 pm to 6 pm.*

## Burial

OCT 7. 10:00 AM (ET)

Florida National Cemetery  
6502 SW 102nd Avenue  
Bushnell, FL 33513

*Burial will be Monday October 7, 2024, arrive at Lady Lake Chapel Beyers Funeral Home & Crematory, 134 N Hwy 27/441, Lady Lake, FL 32159 at 8:30 am.*

# Tribute Wall

BA

“ There are very few teachers that made an impact in my life the way Mr. Semenza did. He truly was an inspirational 5th grade teacher at Lincoln School. I know I am not the only student who feels that way. At the end of 4th grade, everyone would hope they would graduate to Mr. Semenzas class-Room 2. My lucky year was 1968. He taught every subject in a very unique and interesting way. Mr. Semenza inspired my love for American history to this day and am eternally grateful. Rest peacefully Mr. Semenza....and thank you. Forever remembered and respected.



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**Bonnie Anderson** - March 09 at 04:39 PM

GA

“ Dear Dan:  
Rest easy my friend  
Your accomplishments set an example for the rest of us!  
Idee and I have been blessed to have you and Jo as friends .  
With love,  
CSM(ret) George Alatzas

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**george alatzas** - October 13, 2024 at 12:35 PM

HH

“ I was so blessed to have known Dan and Jo through Rotary. Their leadership and caring was amazing. I'm sure Dan will be missed by many.

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**Holly A Hollingsworth** - September 29, 2024 at 08:30 AM

JC

“ Dan was a great Chairman of the Republican Executive Committee. He led us to many, many victories. He was a kind hearted gentleman who lived by the Golden Rule. Peace and Blessings to you, Jo. You were also dearly loved by members of the REC. You were a great asset to Dan. RIP my dear friend.

Jimmy Conner - September 25, 2024 at 01:25 AM

CH

“ Dad, where do I start? Memories watching you mark papers, making arts and crafts. Lightning bugs loose in the house. Opening my eyes to the world of Mel Brooks' humor and your insane sense of humor that rubbed off on me. Abby Normal. I will miss our talks and our laughs and I will miss and love you forever! I told you when I last saw you "I'll catch you on the flip side". But not for at least 50 years though, I have things I still have to do. Until then, rest easy Dad and when we meet again I'll take a pork roll, egg and cheese! Love always, your favorite daughter, Christine XO

Christine - September 24, 2024 at 04:04 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Daniel P. Semenza Jr..



September 24, 2024 at 01:34 PM

CW

“ Christine Weidele planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Daniel P. Semenza Jr..

Christine Weidele - September 24, 2024 at 01:34 PM