



Orlando P. Vece

February 6, 1929 - January 14, 2023

Orlando Philip Vece, 93, passed away peacefully on January 14, 2023 surrounded by his loving family. He was the devoted husband of Theresa (Bossoli) Vece to whom he was married for 63 years.

He was born on February 6, 1929 in New Haven, son of the late Peter Vece and Dora (Cappella) Vece.

Phil was a devoted educator and student of life, always learning and curious about the world. This passion for learning extended into his long and purposeful career as a teacher and athletic coach – a tremendous part of his life he held dear.

He treasured time with family and friends, and believed in people, possibilities and hard work. There was never a moment he was not pushing boundaries to learn and grow, as was his nature from a young age. From working as a ranger at Yellowstone National Park to proudly serving as an official in the U.S. Air Force to pursuing advanced degrees in education, he was always fascinated with learning and sharing that learning with others.

Phil completed his education at New Haven State Teachers College (Southern Connecticut State University), earning a bachelor's degree in education and later earning a master's degree from the same institution. After earning an

M.A. degree, he completed a Sixth-Year program in Teacher Leadership. He was a devoted educator, coach and volunteer in the Meriden public school system for more than five decades. Among a myriad of roles with the Meriden school system, Phil served as department chair for elementary physical education, director of the Meriden summer school program, head coach of girls' softball at Maloney High School, and assistant high school football coach.

Besides his loving wife Theresa, Phil is survived by a daughter, Susan Carol, her husband Richard B. Ticotsky, and grandson Matthew Charles; son Philip Charles; sister Carmel Apuzzo; sister-in-law and brother-in-law Carol and Robert Schpero; and sister-in-law Jennie Vece. He leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews, and was predeceased by several sisters and brothers.

Phil was a longtime communicant at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church at 2819 Whitney Avenue, Hamden. A funeral mass in his honor will be held there on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 11am. Burial services will be private and there are no calling hours. Sisk Brothers Funeral Home of Hamden is assisting the family with the arrangements. Donations in Phil's name can be made to Project Excel (www.projectexcelmeriden.org), a nonprofit organization supported by the Meriden school system, Board of Education, and the Meriden Federation of Teachers, with the purpose of helping young people excel in academics and citizenship. To leave an online message of condolence go to www.siskbrothers.com.

Previous Events

Funeral service

JAN 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Mt Carmel
2819 Whitney Ave
Hamden, CT 06518-2544
(203) 248-0141

Tribute Wall

TS

“ *My sincerest sympathies to the Vece family in the passing of Phil. We met 25 years ago at Gaylord swimming at the pool at night. Phil was certainly a great friend and a great person. God bless Rip 🙏*

Tom And Donna Shea - January 17, 2023 at 04:55 PM

KF

“ *Mrs Vece and the entire family, I am so sorry for your loss. I had Mr Vece at the old Jefferson Middle School and my kids were all able to have him as well later on. He was such special person and made everyone's time in school that much better. I know he was a special friend to my parents. It was always a pleasure to see him whether at a ball game or grocery shopping. He will be truly missed. Thoughts and prayers to the whole family*

Ken & Dawna Fahey

Ken Fahey - January 17, 2023 at 01:50 PM

DG

“ *Mr Vece was my 8th grade Gym teacher at Jefferson Jr High. He taught, worked with me in Gym Class and after hours encouraging me play Basketball at Maloney High in Meriden which I did for 5 years*
My condolences to the Vece family.
As time passes you will always have the memories close to your heart.

David Grodzicki - January 17, 2023 at 11:42 AM

WM

“ Philip Vece was my gym teacher at Jefferson Jr High School back in 1965-66. As I came from a parochial school background to the public system, and lived in a west side neighborhood but by virtue of a boundary had to attend an east side Jr. High School, (the 9th grade was moved back into the Jr High Schools for budgeting purposes), he helped me to fit in in a new school environment. He was personally friendly and always encouraging to the class. He saw some artwork I had done that was a feature in the local newspaper, (Meriden Record-Journal), and asked me if I'd do a portrait of his toddler daughter, (Susan), which I did for him. When I left to go to Platt High School the following year, we stayed in touch for three years. As there was no real physical education program in the parochial schools back then, he was the first person to expose me to sports and physical Ed. I stuck with athletics for most of my life after that. I will always be grateful to him for that. He was an excellent educator.

William M MacMullen, AIA

William M MacMullenAIA - January 17, 2023 at 11:14 AM

PM

“ We often saw Phil at ShopRite and it was never a quick hello! The last time we saw him there with his son-in-law, I helped him find Old Bay Seasoning for his wife. Phil was genuinely interested in other people. He taught our two sons at Hanover School over 40 years ago and always wanted updates on their lives. He was a friendly person who will be remembered fondly by many people. With sympathy, Ray and Pat Maratea

Pat Maratea - January 17, 2023 at 07:54 AM

JC

“ My condolences to my Aunt Terri, Susan Carol, Charles, Matthew, and Richard. Also, to my Aunt Carmel on the passing of her brother. My many wonderful memories of my Uncle Phil run deep into my childhood and early adult life. Uncle Phil had a huge influence in my life. I followed a similar career path because of my uncle. Plainly said, he was my childhood "super hero" Uncle Phil, thank you for being there for me during those years. Rest in peace.

Joe Canzanella - January 17, 2023 at 06:41 AM

LL

I taught with Phil at Hanover School. The children absolutely loved him. He was always, always smiling.

Linda Latini

Linda Latini - January 17, 2023 at 03:07 PM

LS

We all lost a good friend! Phil was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, friend and educator. He was always there going the extra mile when he could for anyone. It was my privilege to be a part of his life. I first met him when he was the Phys Ed teacher and I taught 5th grade at Jefferson in 1962. We would continue to work together again from 1975 at Trumbull and 1981 at Hanover until he retired! He continued to volunteer countless hours at Hanover as well as other Meriden Schools for many years to come.

LEVERETT S STOCKINGJR - January 17, 2023 at 05:42 PM



I had Mr. Vece in Jefferson Middle School he was a great teacher and friend he will be missed. I ran into him many years after leaving Jefferson it was amazing that he called me by name and talked for quite awhile. Thoughts and prayers to his family.

James Filipowicz - January 21, 2023 at 01:01 PM

JN

My sincere sympathy to the Vece family. I taought with Phil many years ago in the Meriden School System. We would have talks about various things. He was always friendly and outgoing.. He was always wonderful with the students. Joe Nuzzo

joe nuzzo - January 21, 2023 at 04:25 PM

KB

Phil Vece was a great guy. I had the privilege and honor of working with him at Hanover School. The students and faculty adored him. Not only was he a great colleague, he was a great friend. They don't come as fine as Phil Vece anymore. My condolences to his wife and family.

Katherine Bourdon - January 23, 2023 at 10:28 AM

KA

My sympathies go out to the Vece family. Phil was one of my mother's most dearest friend.

Keith Adkins

Keith Adkins - February 02, 2023 at 08:54 AM