



John C. Sprowl Jr.

January 13, 1942 - March 12, 2026

CROSWELL: John Clarke Sprowl, 84, passed away peacefully Thursday, March 12, 2026.

He was preceded in death by his parents Irene and Clarke Sprowl. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Judy Ann Sprowl, his sister Delia “Nadine” Sprowl, his son John Sprowl, and daughter Jodi (Jeff) Shinn, grandchildren, Jeremy Shinn, Jarred (Kylee) Shinn and their son, Jensen, along with Jenna (Isaiah) Saenz, and Joseph Sprowl. John often shared how proud he was and how much he loved and appreciated his family.

John graduated with a Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree in Education from Michigan State University. He loved his Michigan State Spartans, and passed this love onto his children and grandchildren. While attending Michigan State, he was a part of the Prominators (a dance group) and the MSU Singers who participated in competitions all of the United States.

John spent most of his professional life teaching history and psychology at the Croswell Lexington High School. During his career, he was a part of the School Board and was an integral part of negotiating contracts. He was a member of the Michigan and National Education Association and represented teachers nationwide. John often expressed his love for teaching and the privilege it was to teach the children in Sanilac County.

John had a strong Christian faith and was an active member of the Methodist Church whether he was leading worship, singing in gospel groups, or teaching Sunday school. He can be best described as a person with integrity, a person

who loved his family, who was intelligent, patient, and kind.

Although John had significant visual impairment throughout most of his life, it never stopped him from doing what he loved. He led a fulfilled life. He is in Heaven now, able to ask all his questions, see his family and friends, see the colors and miracles clearly for the first time, and maybe even start a new quartet.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to the Croswell Lexington High School, Social Studies Department, in John's memory.

Private family services will be held at a later date.

Tribute Wall

MW

“ I was one of the teachers that made that trip to Cass City every few weeks. Usually the others met at my house in Sandusky and then went from there. John provided most of the laughs during the trip up and back! But there times there were some serious discussions as well. He always had a good outlook on life. May you experience God's wonderful love and peace that only He can give

MJ Wilson - March 18 at 03:06 PM

JF

“ John was a longtime friend of our family while I was growing up. I was friends with Jody and John-John, my parents friends of John and Judy. We went to church together, he sang in the quartet with my step-dad, and John was a teacher of mine in high school. I will always treasure those special memories. My condolences and prayers are with the entire Sprowl family.

Jaclyn Fouts - March 16 at 03:10 PM

RS

“ I never saw John since we left High school. I had a typing class with John and we were taking a typing test. I was typing away furiously and when I looked up there was John holding the carriage on my typewriter. (no computer in those days). Apparently that sense of humor carried over to his teaching days. After reading his obituary I wish I had kept contact.

Richard Stapleton - March 16 at 11:54 AM

HM

“ John was a friend and colleague for many years. We spent many hours together as he was President of the CLEA and I was a SANRON rep. We had some great laughs and stories in all of those long drives and late nights in Cass City. My daughter's favorite teacher, as he was to many. He touched so many students with his sense of humor and sincerity. My thoughts with Judy, his family, friends, and anyone who was lucky enough to have known him.

Harry Magedki - March 15 at 06:34 PM

DB

“ John was such a committed educator that he naturally mentored many, including staff and students. His dedication and leadership insured the quality of education at Cros-Lex was second to none. We love you John and are grateful to have known you.

Darrell Bechtel - March 15 at 02:00 PM



“ John was a truly special man...a great teacher and even better person. I admired his dedication to students and colleagues alike. We could always share a laugh and he would make the day better for so many. He loved Judy so deeply and completely, such a great example without trying to be. I know he is basking in heavenly glory today, and I have peace knowing his eternity is secure. Love to all his loved ones.

Erik Bergh - March 15 at 01:29 PM

AE

“ My condolences to the family. John was a great teacher, a leader at church, and in life! Bless his family at this time, and may God grant him sight.

A Ehardt - March 15 at 08:17 AM

AN

“ When you lose a teacher who was once your own, it just hits differently. You know firsthand how many students walk through your door hoping you’re making a difference, and you remember that this teacher was one of many who helped send you down that very path.



Mr. Sprowl was such a special educator. I have so many memories of student council meetings and homecoming planning in his classroom, the black felt-tip markings on returned assignments, the familiar smell of Old Spice when you walked in his classrooms, dress shirts and ties during the week and an MSU shirt on Fridays. I remember the tears shed over the loss of colleagues and friends, and so many lessons about life that were never forgotten.

Mr. Sprowl was one of the good ones. One of those teachers every generation shared. Even years later, when I was negotiating as a teacher and he was serving as a school board member, we could still laugh together like old times.

He always greeted you with a smile, a hello, or a hug, and he was never afraid to ask you for a ride home.

Sending many prayers to his family during this difficult time. Just know that his legacy will never be forgotten.

Andrea Nunn-Mencavage - March 14 at 11:29 PM

DL

“ John was my daughter’s favorite teacher and while I was an elementary teacher he was always ready with a smile at parent conference meetings, where he not only informed me about my child but then asked me, a new teacher how was I doing. I admired him for the care he gave as a teacher to my child but also the kindness he showed me. His faith shown through in his open friendly smile, his inner joy, and his deep pride in teaching. Amazing seems such an inadequate word, but he was Amazing!

Debbie Lyons - March 14 at 07:17 PM

LB

“ I have only the best memories of Mr. Sprowl. My last two years of high school, I was his student assistant and the time I spent with him was so formative. His mentorship was invaluable. Always supportive, never judgmental, kind, and caring. His psychology class started me off in my career now, as a psychologist. He taught me how to play euchre, shared many chocolate chip cookies, listened to my adolescent angst, wrote my college recommendation letters, and pushed me to be my best. All of my best to his family now, thank you for sharing him with the rest of us.

Lyndsay Volpe Bertram - March 14 at 07:02 PM

AB

“ Mr. Sprowl was a friend to me. Always kind & funny when he talked to me in the library. A respected teacher and man in our community. He will be missed. 🥹🥹🙏🥹 Alleida

Alleida Bringard - March 14 at 06:30 PM

MG

“ *Such a caring and excellent educator. He made a difference in both my children’s lives and education; he made a difference in many students lives at Cros- Lex High School, intelligent and kind man. Rest in peace with your Lord and savior, John.*

Maryellen Geiger - March 14 at 06:26 PM

FJ

“ *Faith Jaciuk lit a candle in memory of John C. Sprowl Jr.*



Faith Jaciuk - March 14 at 02:11 PM