

Obituary

# Michael Desmond, 64, teaching was a 'calling'

Walt Wiley  
STAFF WRITER

Desmond had wanted to be a father and two brothers, seeing him to be a teacher, it turned out to be a true

me up to me all the time a related to the teacher, "Dad," said his wife, Peggy go on to tell me about the he they had in his class, y was a calling with him." d died at home Tuesday k: at age 64.

when he suffered a stroke, working part time training Christian Brothers High

**"He was very people oriented, and he used humor to connect with his students."**

**Peggy Desmond**  
Michael Desmond's wife

School, where he taught history for the last 11 years of his 30-year classroom career, his wife said.

Earlier, he had taught at Jonas Salk Middle School and Bishop Manogue High School.

"He had an absolute passion for his-

tory, any history. He traced his family's history way back. He liked to tell of one great-great-grandmother who came on the boat from Ireland" and made her way to Marysville, "then walked to Grass Valley," she said. "He gave me a lesson on the history of the Portuguese National Church the day he died."

Equal with his love of history, Mr. Desmond was a gregarious man who loved corny jokes, his wife said.

"He was very people oriented, and he used humor to connect with his students," she said. "And he was also a die-hard fan of Christian Brothers athletics, as well as a man of deep faith, involved in all the Catholic activities."

Mr. Desmond was born May 1, 1937,

to Edna Nicolaus and Earl D. Desmond, both descendants of Gold Rush pioneers. She was the daughter of Louis Nicolaus, a founder of Sacramento's old Buffalo Brewery at 21st and Q streets.

Mr. Desmond graduated from Christian Brothers in 1956, then attended secondary in Oregon before graduating from Seattle University. Later, he was awarded his teaching credential at Gonzaga University and a master's at the University of San Francisco.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by daughters Kerry Desmond of Kansas City, Mo., Katie Desmond of Flagstaff, Ariz., and Colleen Desmond of Washington, D.C.; a son, David Desmond of Pasadena; and brothers Richard and Louis

and sisters Mary Mastalski, Denise Franza and Clare Lagomastino, all of Sacramento.

Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday at W.F. Gormley & Sons Chapel, 2015 Capitol Ave. A rosary will be said at 7 p.m. Monday at St. Philomena Church, 2428 Bell St., where a Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Tuesday.

The family suggests memorial contributions to the Christian Brothers High School Memorial Program, 4315 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Sacramento 95820.

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