



## Morris E. Krape

February 20, 2021

Morris E. (Mike) Krape Jr., 82, of Lancaster, died at home on Saturday, February 20, 2021. Born in Altoona, PA, he was the son of the late Morris E. Krape Sr. and Margaret (Soccey) Krape. He is survived by his partner, William Rhoads for 59 years, the brother to Nancy Love, godfather to Zak Drescher and many nieces and nephews.

Mike retired from the School District of Lancaster in 1996. At the time of his retirement, he was Program Coordinator for Communication Arts. Previous to that position, he had been an English/Speech/Theater teacher, Director of Dramatic Arts, and English Department Chair at McCaskey High School and later District Supervisor of Secondary English. He was a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Temple University.

During his career, he served on various committees and task forces for the Pennsylvania Department of Education including those on Teacher Preparation and Certification, Writing Skills, Right to Read, Honors Studies, and Migrant Education. Additionally, he served as curriculum consultant to school districts and colleges throughout central Pennsylvania.

A co-founder of the Lancaster-Lebanon Writing Council, he was on its Board of Directors, served a term as President, and was twice conference chair. He was one of the early leaders in teacher training in writing process.

For a number of years he was a familiar presence at the Fulton Opera House, appearing in productions for the Kiwanis Club and for the Actors' Company of Pennsylvania including Harvey, Picnic, Inherit the Wind, The Diary of Anne Frank, Fiddler on the Roof, Damn Yankees, The Roar of the Greasepoint/The Smell of the Crowd, and The Royal Family.

He was co-founder of the Actors' Company High School Theatre Festival and served as festival coordinator for nearly two decades.

A private Celebration of Life service will be held at The Groff Family Funeral Home, 528 West Orange Street, Lancaster, PA with Pastor Jonette Gay officiating. The interment will be held at Highland Presbyterian Church Memorial Garden.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Mike's name may be made to McCaskey Alumni Association, 445 N. Reservoir Street, Lancaster, PA 17602 or The Music Department of either Highland Presbyterian Church 500 E. Roseville Road, Lancaster, PA 17601, or Otterbein United Methodist Church, 20 E. Clay Street, Lancaster, PA 17602.

# Tribute Wall



“ *The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Morris E. Krape*



**The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc** - February 26, 2021 at 10:52 AM

GS

*Beautiful Tribute!💕 Love Gail*

**Gail swartz** - March 09, 2021 at 10:50 AM

DE

*With sympathy and great respect.*

*Your friends at The Loft Restaurant*

**Denise** - March 15, 2021 at 04:13 PM



“ *Morris E. Krape*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM

AM

“ *Dear cousin, I am so sorry we never got to spend time together. My Dad always spoke so highly of you . May you rest in peace. Love Alice Socey Murphy*

**Alice Socey Murphy** - January 29, 2022 at 01:34 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Morris E. Krape.



---

March 03, 2021 at 08:43 AM



“ Bill, I am so sorry for your loss. It has been a long time since I have last seen you, but I will never forget the many great Thanksgiving dinners that you and Mike hosted, for my family. Nancy, I am sending you my love and support. I know this is so painful for both of you. Sending prayers, Love Gary

---

**Gary Davis** - February 28, 2021 at 08:19 PM



“ I met MIKE when we were both young and beautiful! It was a very trying time in my life, having been left with four very young children. Mike would come to help me put the Christmas tree up and put the toys together and I don't know what I would have done without him . We kept in touch over all these years and I was able to share the joy of his life with the best guy in the world, Bill Rhoades . They were and are, two of the best friends I've ever had . All My Love. Berta

---

**Roberta Ferrell** - February 28, 2021 at 11:12 AM

JN

“ Sympathy to you, Bill, for your loss. Joan Fyock Norris

Joan Fyock Norris - February 27, 2021 at 08:55 AM

B?

“ Sorry for your loss Bill, we have great memories of you & Mike back in the days that we were in Lancaster in the summer and also our New Years dinners at the Log Cabin& the Loft. We sure had fun back then. ❤️🇨🇦. Barb & Lucy

Barb Veater & Lucy Sharpe CA - February 26, 2021 at 10:11 PM

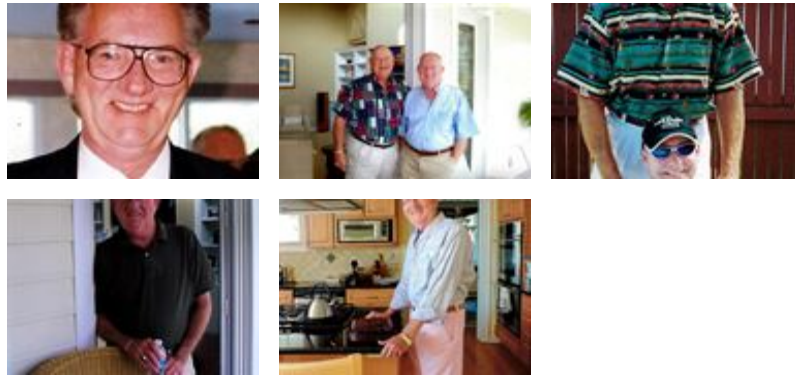
TJ

“ Best Teacher I ever had

Thomas D Jones - February 26, 2021 at 05:24 PM



“ 46 files added to the album LifeTributes



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - February 26, 2021 at 10:49 AM

TW

“ So sorry for your loss, Bill. You and Mike were such a big part of my mom's life in theater and church, oh so many years ago.

---

**Tom Walker** - February 25, 2021 at 10:55 PM

CK

“ The tributes here for Mike are a true testament to his amazing spirit and contribution to this world. Our condolences to you, Bill, on the loss of someone who shared your life for the last 59 years and was so special to you and so many others.

*Craig & Cindi (Lawrence) Kimmel*

---

**Cindi Kimmel** - February 25, 2021 at 03:32 PM

“ Dear Uncle Morrie,

*I want you to know how special you are to me and how much I love you. But mostly I want you to know that I could never get enough of being around you and Uncle Bill, for my entire life I've felt that way. I can remember as if it were yesterday, spending weeks in Lancaster with you and Uncle Bill, Mum and Dad. We laughed for years about my father leaving you with his credit card to make me shopping, and so it began.....*

*What a lucky girl I was to have you and Charlie Love. I always felt fortunate to have these wonderful men in my life. I learned so much from you, nice clothes, proper English, great food, being a bit snarky when appropriate. I could get mad at you, and you always treated me like a little girl, I always wanted you to be proud of me. This little girl had the greatest Uncle in the world.*

*You read more books than anyone I knew, books, books, books. I learned to cook passionately because of you. I wanted to stand in the kitchen for hours making meals for my family and friends and have them be wonderful meals, like you did for everyone for so long. I loved hanging out in the kitchen with you as an adult with NCIS on in the background, catching up and just hanging out. No one ever really helped you in the kitchen but watching was enough. I never quite got used to the giant dogs even though they were a presence for my entire childhood and beyond. I was the only girl in my school or my town or any town, that had Uncles that bred, raised and showed Great Danes! With you and Uncle Bill something interesting and fun was always happening.*

*I'll be forever grateful at the role you played after my father died. Everything you did for my mother then and the 30 years since was pure dedication and love. I could never tell you how much I appreciated you and Uncle Bill and how safe I felt my mother was being near you.*

*My dearest Uncle Morrie, I could write forever about your intelligence, wit, charm, humor, kindness and being the most couth person I ever knew. I still stick out my pinky and I almost always wish I had one of those candle sniffers!*

*I adore you, always have, always will.*

*Your niece, Roxann.*

---

**Roxann Davis** - February 25, 2021 at 08:37 AM

JP

“*Mike was a beloved colleague at McCaskey High School. It was an honor to work with him. A true mentor who never lost his sense of humor, he ignited my creative energy to inspire my students. He will be deeply missed.*

*Jane Pelland*

---

**Jane Pelland** - February 24, 2021 at 03:45 PM

DK

“*I was so sad to see Mike’s obituary in the paper, and I regret not keeping in touch with him after his retirement! Mike was an incredible coach and mentor, and my year as his intern in the Curriculum Office was an education and an experience that shaped everything that came after! He was as gracious and fun as he was intelligent, and kind! I was spoiled, having the opportunity to work with and benefit from his wit and wisdom everyday! Sending much love to Bill! May the warmth and love and laughter of memories soon outweigh the incredible grief! Rest In Peace, Mike! Your generosity and your incredible talents live on in so very many people whose lives you touched!*

---

**Debra Kauffman** - February 24, 2021 at 01:15 PM

BK

“ *Bill*

*Was so sorry to see in paper of Mike's passing . I know how much you two shared of each other over all the years and how close you were. He was really a neat guy to know and his intelligence and wit were things that I admired about Mike . Will always remember our first dinner together with you guys at the LOFT in Lancaster. Again so sorry for your loss.*

*Bill Kudrick*

---

**Bill Kudrick** - February 24, 2021 at 09:11 AM

BK

“ *I had the pleasure of escorting you for you vaccine last week. I am so sorry for your loss. Brenda Kopf, PSH Lime Spring*

---

**Brenda Kopf** - February 24, 2021 at 08:46 AM

JP

“ Dear Bill,

*I loved being with you and Mike in so many Fulton shows. I was always enamored of Mike's dedication to the theatre. He was a wonderful role model for all of us when he lead the cast of "Our Town". He was an encouraging and positive mentor in " The Roar of the Grease Paint -The Smell of the Crowd". Mike not only knew theatre, he knew how to live it. His knowledge brought excitement and encouragement to all of us who had the honor to be on stage with him and in his company.*

*The world of theatre and education are better because he was here to share his joy with us!*

*Bill, we know he will leave a void in your heart, but you have so many wonderful memories to cherish because of your wonderful relationship with each other. We will all miss him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you now.*

*Love,*

*Peter and Jane Brown*

---

**Jane Pippart-Brown** - February 23, 2021 at 08:59 PM

KL

“Wandering through the “lost wing” in McCaskey High School I entered Mike’s classroom as the first student in that year’s Drama class. Little did I know that this would be one of the most important “entrances” of my career. After that one lesson I knew I found someone I wanted to learn from and be directed by. Mike was an exceptional teacher and an outstanding mentor. Our working together in high school theater productions was one of the most significant experiences in my life. He led us on incredible journeys, suddenly high school life became vibrant and meaningful. After graduation Mike and Bill offered me their friendship, guided and supported me in making vital career decisions. They also taught me more than just a little touch of class and treated me as family. I went to Germany for a few years but ended up never coming back home, except for visits. After founding a theater with friends in Frankfurt, I started teaching theater in a German boarding school. As Mike found out he came to visit and helped me for two weeks working with my students, in German no less. It was dream come true because I felt what we did was making a difference in their school lives and perhaps beyond. One of the plays I was directing was “Our Town” a play that Mike and I did together at McCaskey. As fate has it I made teaching theater my career and my goal was to always create the same dynamic and depth of purpose that Mike instilled in us. In the fall of 2019, I again asked Mike’s advice on an article I was writing for my school’s centennial publication. He gave me great insights and lessons on creative writing, the mentoring was an ongoing process. What an amazing gift!

*Our thoughts are with you Bill in this most difficult of times. Wish we could be physically with you to lend our support. Love to all your friends and family!*

*Keith, Vanessa, Cheyenne LeFever and Stefanie Fark*

---

Keith LeFever - February 23, 2021 at 05:35 PM

RT

“ *What a wonderful teacher, mentor, and actor--inspired me to become a teacher. Always a kind and supportive person. Thank you, Mr. Krape.--Rick Taylor*

---

**Rick Taylor** - February 23, 2021 at 05:15 PM

JL

“ *Bill, so startling to see Mike's obituary this morning. My thoughts, heart and energies are with you in all ways imaginable. Your union of so many years was so lovingly binding for decades. May fine, happy memories and love help be your path for healing this tremendous loss. Peace and love to you Bill. With deep sympathy, Jeff & Stephanie*

---

**Jeff LeFevre** - February 23, 2021 at 03:20 PM

WP

“ *Bill, yours was a special relationship, a true gift! I know words just aren't enough but allow wonderful memories to bring some measure of comfort and peace.  
love, Wendy Phillips*

---

**Wendy S Phillips** - February 23, 2021 at 01:13 PM

KM

“ *Bill - so so sorry for your loss. I will always hold in my heart the memories of Mike narrating the Otterbein Christmas Cantatas from the Otterbein balcony with he marvelous voice and diction. HUGS.*

---

**Kay Moshier McDivitt** - February 23, 2021 at 11:58 AM

RB

“ *Bill, I am so sorry the loss of your dear Mike. I hold you in my prayers for God's comfort and peace--that same comfort and peace that you and Mike have brought to so many folks. Blessings. Ron Bohannon*

---

**Ron Bohannon** - February 23, 2021 at 11:49 AM

JN

“ *My dear friend, Bill. You have my deepest sympathy or your loss of Mike. Know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. When we can actually be close to our neighbors again, I will give you a heartfelt hug. Until then.... Your Lancaster Opera Workshop friend and neighbor, Jean Nikolaus*

---

**Jean Marie Nikolaus** - February 23, 2021 at 11:29 AM

SA

“ I was 19, I was travelling by myself in a big old car through the United States, and Mike and Bill took me in for several days and meals and lots of laughs (and not to forget, movie night, Witness, of course). I took their dog Ralph for a walk and shell-shocked the poor animal with the sheer duration of that walk - and likewise Bill and Mike, I'm afraid, who stood in the door worried when I returned, imagining I had gotten lost or kidnapped or both.

They opened their home to me, a total stranger (we only had a friend in common), and showered me with affection and generosity in a way I will never forget. I'm not sure Dad, who was still around at the time, knew exactly what this little girl was doing in his house, but he was kind and forgiving (my poor English at the time). It was the sweetest, most unexpected stay on my trip. On my last day, they had my car maintained, filled it with gas and a carton of Lucky Strikes, and sent me on my way. I'm glad I got to go back a few years later and share my enormous gratitude with them.

Sending my love and a long embrace to you, Bill, from a faraway place, too far away to come over and give you a hug for real, so this will have to do.

Mike, you will live on in our hearts, always.

Sandra

---

**Sandra** - February 23, 2021 at 11:21 AM

EW

“ Mike is the reason I had a career. He taught me proper diction! My favorite teacher of all time. The only teacher I ever went back to school to visit. When teacher of the year started in Pennsylvania I nominated him immediately and interviewed him live on my radio show. So many great memories with Mike and Bill at Fulton Theater opening night events. The Planet has lost one its' best. Thank you for everything Mike. There's a hole in my heart that will never be filled. Love for you. Love to you Bill.

*Ellen Wascou*

---

**Ellen Wascou** - February 23, 2021 at 10:58 AM

DR

“ Mike was the ultimate scholar, educator and colleague. I had the privilege of first getting to know Mike when he assisted with the McCaskey musicals, and later as a leadership team colleague. The students and fellow educators whose lives he touched as a teacher and program coordinator will be forever blessed. RIP my friend...Dave Rentschler

---

**David Rentschler** - February 23, 2021 at 10:37 AM

SG

“ Having worked with Mike in the School District of Lancaster I know what an amazing man he was. Always the gentlemen, the ultimate educator and champion of the students. There was no task too great for him to tackle and along with his colleagues he made the district and the community a better place. May God grant his family peace and grace as your memories bring a smile to your face along with the tears.

*Susan Garofola, former member of the SDL board of directors*

---

**Susan Garofola** - February 23, 2021 at 10:04 AM

JH

“ *The world lost an amazing man on Saturday. An life-long educator who cared immensely for those he taught. A host who always made sure his guests needs came before his own. A confidant and counselor who I trusted implicitly. The loss I feel is immense, but I am a much better person for having known Mike and he will remain a part of me forever. To Bill – know that you are in our thoughts and we wish for nothing more than to be able to give you a big bear hug and to cry and laugh on each other’s shoulders. May that time come soon. Love, John Haney*

---

**John Haney** - February 23, 2021 at 08:39 AM