



Anthony Stanislaus Walawender

October 28, 1929 - June 8, 2026

Anthony Stanislaus Walawender, age 96, of Warren, Michigan, passed away peacefully on June 8, 2026. Born on October 28, 1929, in the village of Duninów, in the Tarnopol voivodship (województwo tarnopolskie) of southeastern Poland, he was the son of Stanisław Walawender (1906–1983) and Maria (née Babiarz) Walawender (1910–2007).

When World War II started, the Soviet Army deported Anthony and his family, with all other ethnic Poles in the province, to Siberia and Kazakhstan. After their release, his journey took him through Iran and India before he arrived in the United States as one of the “Chłopcy z Polski” (Boys from Poland), who came from India to the Orchard Lake Schools in Michigan. He was an alumnus of St. Mary’s Preparatory at Orchard Lake, St. Mary’s College, and the University of Detroit.

A retired veteran of the United States Army, Anthony served during the Korean War. He dedicated his career to education as a school teacher and college professor. Active in numerous Polish organizations, he was the founder of the Adam Mickiewicz Polish language school. A devout Catholic, Anthony was a parishioner at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church. He was also an avid fan of the Detroit Tigers, Red Wings, Lions, and Pistons.

Anthony is survived by his beloved wife, Helen (née Lenk) Walawender; his

seven children, Christine (Robert) McClelland, Barbara Wisniewski, Richard (Brenda) Walawender, Chester (Julie) Walawender, Joann (William) Spencer, Diane (James) Burlison, and Anna (Craig) Mathie; his eighteen grandchildren, Cassandra McClelland, Alexander McClelland, Christopher (Leann) Wisniewski, Nicholas (Meghan) Wisniewski, Angela (Awenate) Wisniewski-Cobbina, Nicole Tabin, Andrew (Katelyn) Walawender, Teresa Walawender, John (McKenna) Walawender, Maria Walawender, Timothy (Megan) Bazil, Carlee (Matthew) Gaidica, Jenna (Mathieu) Sanders, Matthew (Olivia) Burlison, Stephanie (Barrett) Hall, Joshua Mathie, Luke Mathie, and Joseph Mathie; his fifteen great-grandchildren, Estella, Vera, and Jax Wisniewski, Maximilian, Lillian, and Olivia Wisniewski, Baldwin Ama Cobbina, Caitlin and Clara Tabin, Genevieve and Gemma Walawender, Huxley and Theo Gaidica, and Violet and Sadie Burlison; his sisters, Stanisława (the late Stanisław) Chamerska, Zofia (the late Zdzisław) Walisiewicz, and Danuta (Kazimierz) Wrona; and numerous nieces and nephews in the USA, UK, Canada, and Poland.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Stanisław and Maria Walawender; and his brother, Józef Walawender.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Anthony's name to: Szkoła Polska Mickiewicza (Mickiewicz Polish Language School), 3100 18 Mile, Sterling Heights, MI 48310.

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery

18201 Clinton River Rd
Clinton Township, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 14. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Rosary

JUN 14. 6:00 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Instate

JUN 15. 10:30 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Czestochowa Catholic Church
3100 18 Mile Rd
Sterling Heights, MI 48314

Funeral Mass

JUN 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Czestochowa Catholic Church
3100 18 Mile Rd
Sterling Heights, MI 48314

Committal Service with Military Honors

JUN 15. 12:30 PM (ET)

Resurrection Cemetery
18201 Clinton River Rd
Clinton Township, MI

Tribute Wall

PB

“ *I had him for social studies in Jr high. What a great teacher. He ignited my interest in world history.* ”

Peggy Bailey - June 17 at 11:57 PM

“ Pan Walawender był założycielem Szkoły Języka Polskiego im. Adama Mickiewicza w Sterling Heights. To dzięki Niemu nasze polonijne dzieci mają dziś możliwość uczenia się języka polskiego, historii, geografii oraz kultury i tradycji polskich. Zaczęło się od pomysłu i chęci kształcenia niewielkiej grupy dzieci, a rozrosło się do prawdziwej szkoły — od zerówki do klasy 11. Jak wiele może osiągnąć jeden człowiek z wielkim sercem, wypełnionym miłością do Polski i powołaniem nauczyciela. Dziś, w imieniu wszystkich uczniów i rodziców z całego serca dziękujemy za ten niezwykle dar stworzenia miejsca nauki dla wielu pokoleń, dzięki któremu nasze dzieci mówią, piszą i czytają po polsku. Pan Walawender pozostanie na zawsze w naszej pamięci.

Jak pisał Adam Mickiewicz: „Wiedzę możemy zdobywać od innych, ale mądrości musimy nauczyć się sami”. Te słowa szczególnie dziś przypominają nam, jak wielką wartość pozostawia po sobie nauczyciel, który poprowadził innych ku wiedzy.

Rodzinie oraz bliskim składamy najgłębsze wyrazy współczucia, szczerze kondolencje oraz słowa otuchy w tym czasie bólu i smutku. Niech pamięć o Jego życiu, pracy i dobru, które pozostawił po sobie, będzie źródłem siły i pocieszenia.

Niech odpoczywa w pokoju wiecznym.

*Joanna Makiej
Przewodnicząca Komitetu Rodzicielskiego
Szkoły Języka Polskiego im. Adama Mickiewicza*

*Zdjęcie:
Pan Walawender i Adam Mickiewicz (Jakub Makiej)*



Joanna Makiej - June 14 at 09:43 PM

ML

“ *Mary Longas purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Anthony Stanislaus Walawender.*



Mary Longas - June 14 at 11:00 AM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Anthony Stanislaus Walawender.*



June 14 at 10:47 AM

TF

“ *The Brugner Family purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Anthony Stanislaus Walawender.*



The Brugner Family - June 13 at 09:18 PM

KB

“ *Mr Walawender was my teacher 50 years ago. He was a wonderful teacher. Always cheerful and kind. Rest in peace.*

Kay Bania-Wells - June 13 at 09:36 AM



Mr Walawender was my Social Study Yeacher back in the early eighties at Fitzgerald High School. He was one of my favorite always cracking jokes and never in a bad mood! Such fond memories. R.I.P Mr Walawender. My thought's and Prayer's are with your family. 🙏❤️



Renee Pelkey-Ierchenfeldt - June 13 at 10:12 AM

CO

*“ Mr Walewendar was one of my favorite teachers. His stories were fascinating. He made Social Studies so interesting. Thank you for planting the interest in history in my life. God bless you 🙏
Cheri Olsowy class of 1977*

Cheri Ann Olsowy-Osak - June 13 at 09:31 AM

JG

“ Mr. Walawender was a great teacher and person. I remember he would play basketball in the gym at Chatterton after school. We could always catch a game of HORSE with him. He had a backwards half court shot he would never miss. I will never forget! Rest in peace!

Jon Lopp - '92 Fitzgerald Graduate - June 13 at 07:22 AM

KB

Mr. Walawender was an amazing teacher. He even had a Polish class during a special program they had at Chatterton Middle School. I always thought about him. God blessed him with an amazing life.

Kathleen A Butkovich - June 13 at 08:37 AM

BM

“ I meet the Walawender family just prior to high school, Rick and I played on the same baseball team and we became fast friends, from there I meet the entire family. This is truly wonderful family; it all begins with Mr. and Mrs. Walawender. I do recall Mr. Walawencer always watching the Tigers in the summer, I had many fantastic conversations with him, enjoyed everyone! Mr. Walawender was always polite, kind, ask questions pertaining to my dreams and he cared for people. Mrs. Walawender always asked me if I was hungry! They made me feel welcomed and like family! When I final decided to get married, they accepted my future wife with open arms and welcomed her as well! Mr. Walawender will be missed but never forgotten! He was and always will be a special person. To the entire Walawender family our deepest condolences to all! Bob and Joanne Marfechuk

bob marfechuk - June 12 at 08:44 PM

DW

“ Dennis wisniewski purchased the Ringed by Love for the family of Anthony Stanislaus Walawender.



Dennis wisniewski - June 12 at 03:19 PM

DW

“ Dennis wisniewski planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Anthony Stanislaus Walawender.

Dennis wisniewski - June 12 at 03:19 PM

WJ

“ *Walt & Jan purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Anthony Stanislaus Walawender.*



Walt & Jan - June 12 at 09:55 AM

WJ

“ *Walt & Jan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Anthony Stanislaus Walawender.*

Walt & Jan - June 12 at 09:55 AM

JS

“ Ostatnie spotkanie p. Antoniego Walawender, założyciela Szkoły Języka Polskiego im. Adama Mickiewicza z uczniami, w listopadzie 2022 roku.

Pan Antoni podzielił się z naszymi uczniami swoimi przeżyciami z zsyłki na Syberię oraz trudną i skomplikowaną historią, wzbudzając ciekawość młodzieży i prowokując wiele pytań.

Drogi Panie Antoni, pozostaniesz w naszych myślach i sercach.

„Odpoczywaj w pokoju!

Uczniowie i nauczyciele Szkoły Języka Polskiego im. A Mickiewicza w Sterling Heights.

Jolanta Gmurowska



Jolanta Gmurowska Dyr. Szkoły - June 11 at 09:37 PM

CM

“ Craig Mathie lit a candle in memory of Anthony Stanislaus Walawender



Craig Mathie - June 11 at 04:46 PM

JM

“ Joey Mathie sent a virtual gift in memory of Anthony Stanislaus Walawender



Joey Mathie - June 11 at 04:44 PM

LM

“ Luke Mathie sent a virtual gift in memory of Anthony Stanislaus Walawender



Luke Mathie - June 11 at 04:44 PM

JM

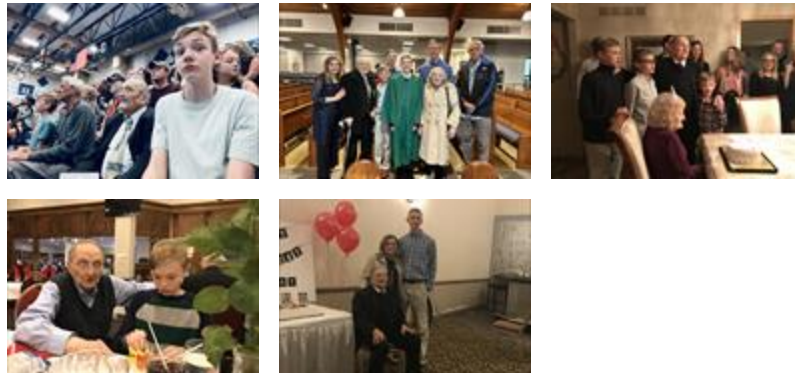
“ Josh Mathie sent a virtual gift in memory of Anthony Stanislaus Walawender



Josh Mathie - June 11 at 04:42 PM

AM

“ 14 files added to the tribute wall



Anna Mathie - June 11 at 04:36 PM

AM

“ Anna Mathie lit a candle in memory of Anthony Stanislaus Walawender



Anna Mathie - June 11 at 04:19 PM

SH

“ I first met Mr. Walawender 51 years ago, when I became good friends with his daughter, Diane, I lived just down the street from them, and I spent many days during the years of my childhood at the Walawender home, which was always filled with action. The one quality I remember most about Mr. Walawender, was his sharp and intelligent mind. He always wanted to teach other people, especially young people. He also encouraged me to learn more about my Polish heritage. He could be very serious, but he also was a fun loving man who cared immensely for his wife and his family. He leaves behind a truly remarkable legacy, and I will never forget him. Love to all the Walawenders. Susan Potok Harrison

Susan Harrison - June 11 at 11:37 AM

JR

“ *Sp. Antoni S. Walawender byl moim pierwszym nauczycielem jezyka angielskiego. Dzieki jego radom poznalem jezyk angielski (UofM) i dziennikarstwo (WSU). Nigdy nie pozostawil mnie ani wielu innych, ktorych znam, bez pomocy i wsparcia mentalnego. Bedzie Go Polonii brakowac. Czesc jego swietlanej pamieci!*

Jerzy W. Rozalski

Jerzy W. Rozalski - June 11 at 09:19 AM

AK

“ A great witness to the Polish destiny, a teacher of generations, one of the last "Boys from Poland."

Wielki świadek polskiego losu, nauczyciel pokoleń, jeden z ostatnich "Chłopców z Polski"

The late Antoni belonged to that generation of immigrants who, through their hard work, integrity, and steadfast adherence to values, built the foundations of the Polish community in America. His life bore witness to the fact that one can carry one's Polish identity in one's heart wherever one goes—at home, at work, in civic engagement, and in everyday acts of care for others.

Antoni Walawender was one of those people who sought no public acclaim, yet became pillars of the community.

Those privileged to know him will remember him as a man of integrity—cheerful and humble, yet possessing immense strength of spirit. His life was a quiet yet powerful lesson in patriotism, responsibility, and humanity.

May the memory of Antoni Walawender endure as an example of a life beautifully and honestly lived, and one filled with love for his fellow man and for Poland.

It is with deep sorrow that I bid farewell to the late Antoni Walawender—a man whose life became part of the great story of the Polish diaspora, of loyalty to the Homeland, and of the strength of the Polish community in America.

We have lost someone who not only lived among us but helped shape the history of our community, embodying the finest aspects of the Polish spirit: industriousness, honor, remembrance, and a love for tradition.

The late Antoni leaves behind a legacy that is woven into the great narrative of the Polish diaspora—a story of immigrant courage, the strength of community, and love for Poland and the Polish language.

*May his memory serve as a call for us to continue building what he dedicated his life to: Polish identity abroad, community, solidarity, and care for one another. Thank you for every meeting, every conversation, every handshake, and always for a kind word ❤️
May he rest in peace.*

Alicja

Alicja Karlic - June 11 at 08:54 AM

BW

“ 12 files added to the tribute wall



Barbara Wisniewski - June 10 at 07:31 PM

BW

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Barb Wisniewski - June 10 at 07:08 PM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Anthony Stanislaus Walawender.*



June 10 at 05:59 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Anthony Stanislaus Walawender.*



June 10 at 05:13 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Anthony Stanislaus Walawender.*

June 10 at 05:13 PM



“ *43 files added to the album From Family*



R Walawender - June 10 at 05:02 PM