



Ed Sparks

November 15, 1942 - September 14, 2017

Ed Sparks

Ed Sparks, 74, of Plain City passed away on September 14, 2017 at the James Cancer Hospital. Ed was born on November 15, 1942 in Norwalk, Ohio to the late Howard and Mary Sparks. Ed graduated from Bluffton College and Indiana University with degrees in Social Work. He began his career in Bellefontaine, Ohio and for over 50 years he had a distinguished career committed to helping children. Ed is survived by his wife of 51 years, Elaine Sparks; sons, Steve (Gina) Sparks, and Matthew (Meghan) Sparks; daughter, Susann (Jim) Wittig; grandchildren, Ben, Zach, Aidan, Keaton, Luke, Emily, and Drew; brothers, Tom (Audrey) Sparks and Ronald (Pat) Sparks; sister, Sharon (Jim) Springer. Ed is preceded in death by his parents, and nephew, PFC Jason Sparks. Family will receive friends on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the chapel at DUBLIN COMMUNITY CHURCH 81 West Bridge Street Dublin, Ohio 43017 where a memorial service will be held on Wednesday, September 20, 2017 at 10:00 AM. Memorial Contributions may be made to Dublin Community Church 81 West Bridge Street Dublin, Ohio 43017. To send an online condolence, please visit www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com.

Previous Events

Calling Hours

SEP **19**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Dublin Community Church
81 West Bridge Street
Dublin, OH 43017
<http://www.dublincommunitychurch.org/>

Memorial Service

SEP **20**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Dublin Community Church
81 West Bridge Street
Dublin, OH 43017
<http://www.dublincommunitychurch.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Ed Sparks*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *I just learned of Ed's passing and extend my deepest condolences to all the family.*

I worked with Ed when he Served with Wil Jansen at FCCS. Wil was a demanding Executive but Ed handled him masterfully. Later we would serve on various State Committees and in meetings when I was a PCSAO Trustee.

Throughout Ed was a good man and always represented Children Well.

Roger Shooter MSW, LISW

Roger Shooter - October 14, 2017 at 09:02 PM



“ *"Kido", that was affectionately how Ed always addressed me. And I always felt a sense of peace and calm. He was my Boss, but I saw him more as a father. Do you know why? Because he could tell if you weren't right and he would give you that compassionate assurance: 'It will be alright. Hang in there'. This is one of his many legacies that keeps me going and even though he is no more, it's temporary, because he will rise again. Till then, my sincere condolences to all you family and keeping you in my prayers.*

Paul Donkor, NYAP.

Paul Donkor - September 20, 2017 at 10:36 AM

NN

“ NYAP Newark purchased the Lord Bless Digital Music Box for the family of Ed Sparks.



NYAP Newark - September 19, 2017 at 02:46 PM

AR

“ So sorry to hear the sad news, sincere condolences to Elaine and family. Anne Roth, MHS class '60

Anne Roth - September 19, 2017 at 12:04 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ed Sparks.



September 19, 2017 at 10:11 AM

RM

“ ruth MERCADO purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Ed Sparks.



ruth MERCADO - September 19, 2017 at 09:22 AM

DI

“ Hello Matt, Meghan and your family,
Please be assured of my sympathy and prayerful support for all of you on the death of your Dad. I remember meeting both your Dad and Mom a few times when our paths crossed at various events at St. Brigid.

I apologize for not being able to attend the calling hours or the memorial service. I have scheduled a Mass for your Dad next week at the Chapel of St. Pius X on the Campus of Bishop Watterson High School where I am the school Chaplain.

May your Dad Rest In Peace with our Risen Lord.

God bless you all,

Deacon Frank and Peggy Iannarino

St. Brigid of Kildare Parish, Dublin

Deacon Frank Iannarino - September 19, 2017 at 08:31 AM

GC

“ My heart goes out to Elaine and the whole Sparks family. Ed was a mentor and dear friend of mine. The only thing he spoke of with more heart and joy - other than his advocacy for children - was his own children and grandchildren. You were all his great love. I will carry Ed's loving spirit with me wherever I go. Thank you for sharing him with all of us. Sending love and light your way.

Gabriella Celeste

Gabriella Celeste - September 19, 2017 at 08:25 AM

SF

“ I was surprised and saddened to hear about Ed's passing. I worked with him when he first started at Franklin County Children Services. I continued to see him at different events over the years and last saw him in April at the Child Abuse Prevention Breakfast. Ed was family oriented and cared about the welfare of children. I will miss seeing him. My prayers go out to Elaine and the Sparks family. May your memories and the knowledge that Ed made a difference in the lives of others be of some comfort to you.

Sylyna France

Sylyna France - September 19, 2017 at 08:23 AM

SF

“ *Sylyna France lit a candle in memory of Ed Sparks*



Sylyna France - September 19, 2017 at 08:22 AM

KL

“ *Our deepest condolences to you Matt and the entire Sparks family on the recent passing of your dad. I truly hope it was your dad who gave you your wit and sense of humour. Laughter with him will have a new meaning in heaven. May a piece of him remain in each of you and his memory be a great comfort in the days ahead.*

*God bless
Ken Leitch and family*

Ken Leitch - September 18, 2017 at 08:40 PM

MJ

“ I have very fond memories of spending time with Ed and his family, on Ft. Myers Beach, over the course of many winter vacations. My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time. Ed will be missed.

Sincerely,
Matt Johnson

Matt Johnson - September 18, 2017 at 06:30 PM



“ Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Ed Sparks.



September 18, 2017 at 02:36 PM

CM

“ Ed's great smile, comforting support and intuition made for an extraordinary leader at NYAP. I am honored to have worked for him and from the bottom of my heart send his family our deepest condolences, comfort and love. His spirit will continue to grow and flourish at the Center for Adolescents & Families in Columbus. We'll always love & remember you Ed. Thank you for everything you've done for us.”

Candelaria Mota, Assistant Director at NYAP's Center for Adolescents & Families.

Candelaria Mota - September 18, 2017 at 02:16 PM

JT

“ I worked for Ed at FCCS in HR. I had the wonderful opportunity to get to know him. What an extraordinary and caring man! He was a real blessing to my life, and a light for others. Godspeed my good friend. Help us all be a little like you!

John Tornes - September 18, 2017 at 01:59 PM

NP

“ NYAP's Dayton Adoption Program purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ed Sparks.



NYAP's Dayton Adoption Program - September 18, 2017 at 11:56 AM

CM

“ Over the years I had many opportunities to connect with Ed beginning with his tenure at Franklin County Children's Services and last through the Compassionate Communication Center of Ohio. His kindness, compassion, humanity and sense of humor were present in every interaction. His love and dedication to his own family was paramount yet his drive to contribute to all families' well being was a near rival.

With gratitude to the Sparks' Family for sharing Ed with us. We, as individuals, families and communities, are all better for having had him in our lives.

*Heartfelt appreciation,
Carole Menge*

Carole Menge - September 18, 2017 at 11:37 AM

KL

“ I, like so many others, am so saddened at the loss of our beloved Ed. He was one of the first NYAP staff members I met 10 years ago when I began working for this organization. He immediately took me under his wing and made me feel a part of the family. He called frequently just to ask how I was doing and see if he could help me in any way. Ed was truly one of the kindest souls I have ever known and I'm honored to have been a small part of his life. I miss him and his smile already. I am so sorry for your loss Sparks family. I know nothing can take the pain away right now. I pray for you that time heals and your memories of Ed will keep you smiling.

Sincerely,
Katie LaMarco, Executive Director of Florida

Katie LaMarco - September 18, 2017 at 11:33 AM

LC

“ Love, the NYAP Florida Crew purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Ed Sparks.



Love, the NYAP Florida Crew - September 18, 2017 at 11:27 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Ed Sparks.



September 18, 2017 at 11:15 AM



“ *Ed was an extraordinary advocate, and was able to find the "good" in everyone he was around. I am so happy that I was able to meet and know such an extraordinary human being. He will be greatly missed but his legacy will continue as he has made an impact on many lives in the NYAP family.*



*Love,
Izzy*

Izzy Yusef - September 18, 2017 at 09:47 AM

BG

“ *Barbara Graham lit a candle in memory of Ed Sparks*



Barbara Graham - September 18, 2017 at 09:11 AM

BG

Words can not express the sense of sorry felt within my heart when I heard of your departure. To the family my prayers are with you. Rest my friend

Barbara Graham - September 18, 2017 at 09:16 AM

SL

“ *Sparks Family,*

Elaine, Wade sent me the notification of Ed's passing. Sadly I never knew Ed, but with a 51 year marriage you two most assuredly had a wonderful life together. Sincere sympathies to your family and best wishes.

*Love,
Steve and family*

Steve Leakey - September 17, 2017 at 11:17 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ed Sparks.*



September 17, 2017 at 09:12 PM

RE

“ *Sparks family,*

As you know, Ed truly was a gem. One of the nicest, most fun guys in the world. His wisdom and kindness that he bestowed upon me will not go in vein, and his laugh and fun spirit will not be forgotten.

We send you our deepest condolences and prayers through this difficult time. God bless you all!

-Reyahd and Anna

reyahd - September 17, 2017 at 03:44 PM

RK

“ *Reyahd and Anna Kazmi purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Ed Sparks.*



Reyahd and Anna Kazmi - September 17, 2017 at 03:41 PM

LW

“ *I am so sorry to learn the news of Ed's passing. He absolutely was dedicated to children. His work at Franklin County Children Services was well known and he was respected in the community. My sincere condolences to his wife and family.*



*Linda Walters
Grove City*

Linda Walters - September 17, 2017 at 01:21 PM

GK

“ *God's Girls Group from St. Brigid of Kildare purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Ed Sparks.*



God's Girls Group from St. Brigid of Kildare - September 17, 2017 at 11:25 AM

KC

“ Matt, Meg, and all the Sparks Family,

How very sad I am for your sudden loss. What a remarkable husband, dad, grandfather, and friend it sounds like Ed was! You must miss him terribly. May the love of your family and friends and the hope of your faith support you at this difficult time. Know that he leaves behind a beautiful legacy in ALL of you.

Hugs and prayers,

Kathleen Cianca and Family

Kathleen Cianca - September 17, 2017 at 11:05 AM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Ed Sparks.



September 16, 2017 at 12:46 PM

VT

“ Working with Ed was always a pleasure. His endless 50 years of ministry on behalf of the youth at FCCS and NYAP will never be forgotten. God bless the family. Valerie Thomas FCCS Retiree

Valerie Thomas - September 15, 2017 at 11:35 AM



“ *Written in the Stars was purchased for the family of Ed Sparks.*



September 15, 2017 at 11:07 AM



“ *Having dealt with the impact of the loss of a spouse, I can relate to your loss. Ed was a Gentle and caring man who touched so many lives during his personal life and professional career. Ed was always there for you in a moment of crisis or just to lend a sympathetic ear. Ed will be truly missed by those that knew him personally, and the void that he leaves behind can never be filled. A special blessing and prayer for Elaine in her time of sorrow, and thoughts of comfort for her family. With deepest sympathy,
Jim Wamsley*



Jim Wamsley - September 15, 2017 at 09:50 AM



Ed has been my colleague and especially my friend for the majority of my career. I had the opportunity to serve with Ed on the board of FFTA and participate with him in numerous national associations. This past year I had the privilege of working with Ed at NYAP and his passion for children and families remained foremost and steadfast. Ed is a true advocate and humanitarian. He will be greatly missed by all who know him. Many blessings to Ed's family. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Dru Whitaker

Dru Whitaker - September 15, 2017 at 01:46 PM

NS

Elaine and Family, Our sincere sorrow for your loss. Ed was always a fun, caring person. I have known him since our days in nursery class at the Congregational Church in Monroeville. We went all through school together. He and his parents gave all of our classmates many wonderful memories. I and sure he will be missed by all his family and friends. God's blessing to you all.

Sincerely, Nancy (Homan) and Chuck Stallkamp

Nancy Stallkamp - September 16, 2017 at 11:34 AM

JG

My condolences to Elaine and the whole Sparks family. I met Ed 11 years ago when I started at NYAP. I can't think of one bad thing to say about this man. Ed was all good! He dedicated his life to helping children and families. Ed is a man who made the world a better place for so many others. I'll never forget his gentle smile, kindness, and the passion he had when it came to helping others. He inspired so many including myself. He loved what he did and it showed to everyone who was lucky enough to have known him. I will greatly miss him.

Jennifer Geiger - September 19, 2017 at 02:13 PM