



Virgil J. Svajda

September 23, 1929 - May 15, 2020

Virgil Joseph Svajda, 90, of El Campo, peacefully passed away at his home on Friday, May 15, 2020, with family at his side. He was one of two children (sons) born September 23, 1929 to Mary (Pechacek) and Vladimir (Ladgie) Svajda, where he was raised and went to Catholic and public school. He served in the U.S. Army as Corporal at Ft. Sam Houston from March 1951 – March 1953 as a clerical records typist during the Korean war. He attended Blinn Jr. College and Prairie View A&M University, receiving his BBA from Sam Houston State University, and his Master's degree of Administration from University of Houston in 1955.

Virgil married Bernadette Jurecek, also from Sealy, on November 26, 1953, Thanksgiving Day, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Sealy, Texas. Their wedding was the last one in the old painted church, before it was removed to build the new parish church.

Mr. Svajda was an Educator at El Campo High School for 34 years (1953-1987). For the first 13 years he taught bookkeeping and typing, as well as coaching girls' tennis. During these years he drove the school bus before and after school, as well as to football games, and helped his friend Anton Sevcik during the summers in building maintenance. From 1967 – 1975 he served as Director, teaching Office Education (VOE/OEA), and his last 13 years were spent as the Administrator of the Vocational School, after which he retired in 1987. Mr. Svajda taught at least 2200 students over the years, remaining lifetime friends with many of them, some of which he considered his adopted

children. His students placed in District, State, and National contests - multiple times - in every area of his career: bookkeeping, typing, tennis and office education.

He also was a life insurance agent in El Campo, for American Amicable/American General, from 1962-2006, where he worked hard to make at least one whole life policy sale every week for 19 years. All of his life, he felt that providing financial security for family was a top priority for his friends in the community.

He served on the Supervisory Committee of Wharton County Teachers Credit Union 1964-2004, and was a member and President of Wharton County Retired Teachers Association. He was a faithful and loyal member of St. Phillip the Apostle Catholic Church since 1953, where he served as Lector and Eucharistic Minister for 40 years – and was a member of the Knights of Columbus #2490.

His hobbies included vegetable and flower gardening, sometimes having four gardens at once in the El Campo area, including one at his acreage at Pin Oak. Everything was always started from seed and he always shared his plants and crops with family and friends. He enjoyed a lifetime of fishing with his dad and best friends, making barbeque, listening to his favorite music, and woodworking.

He was a loving and dedicated father to his three children, Donna (Thomas) Kaspar, Ginger (Christian) Butler, and Mark Svajda. He leaves two grandchildren Christopher Tzitzis and Carolynn Butler.

Mr. Svajda was preceded in death by his wife and parents, brother Ladgie Svajda and his wife Jean, and in-laws Henry and Helen Jurecek.

The family would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to Virgil's caregivers, Belinda Elledge and Veva Hernandez, for their dedicated long-term loving care. Special thanks to the nurses, doctors and staff at El Campo Memorial Hospital, and Hospice Inc-El Campo.

Visitation will be 4 pm to 6 pm Wednesday, May 20, 2020, at Triska Funeral Home with a Parish Rosary being offered at 6 pm. The Funeral Mass will be

11 am Thursday, May 21, 2020, at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church with Rev. Michael officiating. Entombment will follow at Holy Cross Memorial Park. Please note that due to CDC guidelines, there will be a limited amount of people allowed to attend the Rosary and Mass. Visitors are kindly asked to wear a mask both at the funeral home and Church.

Pallbearers will be Christopher Tzitzis, Ricardo Sosa, Jeff Svajda, Donald Sevcik, Craig Wright and Bill Goerig. Honorary bearers are his former ECHS students.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church or to Hospice Inc-El Campo.

Cemetery Details

Holy Cross Memorial Park

US Hwy 59 and Mechanic St.
El Campo, TX 77437

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 20. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Triska Funeral Home
612 Merchant Street
El Campo, TX 77437-3440
(979) 543-3681
triskafh@sbcglobal.net

Rosary

MAY 20. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Triska Funeral Home
612 Merchant Street
El Campo, TX 77437-3440
(979) 543-3681
triskafh@sbcglobal.net

Mass of Christian Burial

MAY 21. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Philip Catholic Church
304 W. Church Street
El Campo, TX 77437
<http://stphilipapostle.org/>

Entombment

MAY 21 (CT)

Holy Cross Memorial Park
US Hwy 59 and Mechanic St.
El Campo, TX 77437

Tribute Wall

PV

“ Pam Vesely lit a candle in memory of Virgil J. Svajda



Pam Vesely - May 23, 2020 at 10:41 PM

AT

“ ...with a unique sense of humor and a special for everyone...
Arliss Treybig

Arliss Treybig - May 20, 2020 at 03:40 PM

RJ

“ Ray And Linda Jaksch lit a candle in memory of Virgil J. Svajda



Ray and Linda Jaksch - May 20, 2020 at 03:13 PM

MN

“ I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your wonderful father... He was a special friend and neighbor of mine and taught me most of what I know about flowers and plants. He seemed to have an unlimited amount of information to share, not to mention all the plants he so freely gave away. I have numerous plants in my yard that came from him.

A special memory of Mr. Virgil is how much he and Miss Bernadette loved each other. I will always greatly treasure the time I spent with both of them. Also, he always bragged about his family and what wonderful children he had.

Much love to the family as you lay your father to rest,
Michelle Nichols

Michelle Nichols - May 20, 2020 at 03:05 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Virgil J. Svajda.



May 20, 2020 at 02:15 PM

IR

“ I am so sorry to hear about Mr. Svajda. He was my teacher in High School and taught me typing. I firmly believe that had it not been for him teaching me how to type, I would have never landed the job that I have had for almost 54 years. He was such a nice and gentle person. May he rest in peace and condolences to his family.

Irma Rocha - May 19, 2020 at 05:59 PM

AS

He will be missed by all who knew him. We loved having them attend our class reunions for the past 60 years. Such a kind man. Doyle and Ann Schaer

Ann Schaer - May 21, 2020 at 08:28 AM

JS

“ *Julie Strnadel lit a candle in memory of Virgil J. Svajda*



Julie Strnadel - May 19, 2020 at 02:28 PM

NP

“ *Nancy Pisarik lit a candle in memory of Virgil J. Svajda*



Nancy Pisarik - May 19, 2020 at 12:45 PM

TC

“ *The Tzitzis families from across the country. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Virgil J. Svajda.*



The Tzitzis families from across the country. - May 19, 2020 at 11:18 AM

NI

“ Nick purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Virgil J. Svajda.



Nick - May 19, 2020 at 11:06 AM

GC

“ Gary & Jan Charbula lit a candle in memory of Virgil J. Svajda



Gary & Jan Charbula - May 19, 2020 at 10:56 AM

MS

“ Martin Strarup lit a candle in memory of Virgil J. Svajda



Martin Strarup - May 19, 2020 at 08:46 AM

RK

“ Rosalie Knebel lit a candle in memory of Virgil J. Svajda



rosalie knebel - May 18, 2020 at 07:05 PM

MK

“*Virgil was a kind, loving friend & cousin. He was a wonderful educator, both teacher & administrator. He implored some of us to call him our sponsor, not our tennis coach when we played in tournaments. We send our love & heartfelt sympathy. Love, Hubert & Mary Jane Kaiser*

Mary Jane Kaiser - May 18, 2020 at 06:44 PM

TR

“*Tony & Jessica Wheat and Vilma Raty purchased the Beautiful Whisper for the family of Virgil J. Svajda.*



Tony & Jessica Wheat and Vilma Raty - May 18, 2020 at 02:43 PM

AH

“*Ally, Paul, and Daniel Hanna purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Virgil J. Svajda.*



Ally, Paul, and Daniel Hanna - May 18, 2020 at 01:35 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Virgil J. Svajda.*



May 18, 2020 at 11:23 AM



“ *Such a wonderful, caring, kind person. He was my bus driver, teacher and friend. He will be missed. Prayers to your family. Leigh Ann Neel*

Leigh Ann Neel - May 18, 2020 at 09:40 AM



“ *We have lost a special man and a good friend to many. God bless him for all the wonderful contributions he made to his community, church and fellow man. Jeannette and Leon Macha*

Jeannette Macha - May 18, 2020 at 08:59 AM



“ *With our deepest sympathy from The Wier's. Your parents were fun and friendly neighbors on Peach St for years. They were wonderful people. May they both Rest In Peace together again. Pee Wee, Betty, Cherie and Kim.*

Kim Denton - May 18, 2020 at 07:33 AM

LK

“ *Linda Kram sent a virtual gift in memory of Virgil J. Svajda*



Linda Kram - May 18, 2020 at 12:55 AM

LK

Prayers sent to family and friends. He was such a kind person. He was one of my teachers in High School. He will be missed by so many people. May he Rest In Peace. 🙏🙏 Linda & Ken Kram

Linda Kram - May 18, 2020 at 01:00 AM

JS

“ *Judy Sefcik lit a candle in memory of Virgil J. Svajda*



Judy Sefcik - May 17, 2020 at 10:41 PM

VH

“ Mr Svajda was a wonderful man. He drove Bus 12, the bus I took with my siblings to school each day, for many years. I can still remember his voice. He always talked to us and often had a joke for us. He would give us tennis balls, which we thought were such a treat! He kept us safe on all those bus rides, all those years. He always sported a crew cut. I never got to take a class with him, but I'm sure it would have been fun. He had a quick sense of humor. I ended up taking typing from Mr Rudloff, who took over after Mr Svajda went on to teach other things. I wasn't too fast a typist and Mr Rudloff used to say with a smile of encouragement, "Miss Prochazka, you are burning up that machine". I'm sure Mr Svajda would have noticed my never 'speedy' typing too, and he would have had a kind word for my effort also. That is just who he was. I was lucky to know Mr Svajda. May he rest in peace. Veronica Prochazka Hood, ECHS class of '72

Veronica Hood - May 17, 2020 at 06:41 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Virgil J. Svajda.



May 17, 2020 at 04:48 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Virgil J. Svajda.



May 17, 2020 at 03:07 PM

KP

“ *Mr. Svajda was a very special person. I was in his VOE class my senior year and through the program I obtained a job at Commercial State Bank. After graduation I was hired full time and went on to become head bookkeeper. It was a job I loved. Another memory I have is him teasing me about Mark. Mark walked me to class everyday and after I set down in my desk he would look out the window and say I wonder who that blonde is that Mark is walking with now. Of course I would always jump up and there wouldn't be a blonde but he thought it was so funny. He was a great teacher and I loved the class. My deepest sympathy to all of his family and friends.*

Kay Pratka - May 17, 2020 at 11:42 AM

EC

“ *Elaine Cook lit a candle in memory of Virgil J. Svajda*



Elaine Cook - May 17, 2020 at 11:30 AM

FT

“ I will always remember my Freshman year and Coach Svajda. I rode my sister Margaret’s coattails to get on his tennis team that year. She was great, but I was not, and he was always patient, kind, and supportive, even though I never mastered tennis.

I also grew up about a block away from him and he would always stop to talk when we would be outside. Years later, he still stopped to talk whenever we were outside at Mom’s. One day I was there, cleaning out the garage after my mother died, and I had dirt from head to toe, and he stopped to talk. He asked me which one I was, and knowing how I looked, I quickly said, “Margaret!” He was one of a kind with a special personality...he will be missed.

Frances Moore Toman



Frances Toman - May 17, 2020 at 10:25 AM

KP

“ Sweet man who really cared about us in VOE, and after. RIP Mr Svajda. Kay Mozisek Pruett

Kay Pruett - May 17, 2020 at 10:00 AM

PW

“ I had Mr. Svajda for a couple of classes back in 67. I and a group of other classmates also traveled with him to a VOE convention. He was an amazing educator as well as a remarkable person. He made a difference to those of us in his class.

Patsy Veselka Wells - May 17, 2020 at 09:47 AM

CF

“ Your Dad was my Teacher (1967-68) & dear friend all through my life...he was a remarkable teacher who sent me off to my lifetime career with confidence & stability. I will never forget this sweet man. It's a pleasure to see his & your Mother's Crypt next to my Mother's & Dad's at Holy Cross. Please accept my deepest sympathy...He was a treasured friend 🥺🙏

Cindy (Chovanec) Fontana - May 17, 2020 at 09:43 AM

LM

“ So many fond memories of Mr. Svajda during my years at ECHS. He was a joy to know and was a dear and caring man. Just seeing him and his wonderful smile always brightened my day.

My deepest sympathy to the family along with prayers that you find peace in His word and love during this difficult time.

Lora Shulr Mount

lora mount - May 17, 2020 at 09:01 AM

RE

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Your Dad was one of the most wonderful people I have ever known. He was kind, caring and always a positive influence.



Rhonda Glaze Edmonds - May 17, 2020 at 02:19 AM

DS

“ So sorry to hear of his passing. I didn't have him for any of my classes, but it was apparent he was well liked and highly respected and was a man of integrity. And his children that I know are the same way. I know his family must be hurting right now, but know he is reunited with his soulmate. Peace be with you.

Diane Gregory Stewart - May 17, 2020 at 12:54 AM

DS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Don Sevcik - May 17, 2020 at 12:41 AM

DS

“ I will always love and remember the Svajda family. We had so many 4th of July BBQ's together and more.



Don Sevcik - May 17, 2020 at 12:39 AM

DT

Partners together again - I know it's wonderful for them <3

Donna R Tzitzis - May 17, 2020 at 08:41 AM

PD

“ Patricia Dybala lit a candle in memory of Virgil J. Svajda



Patricia Dybala - May 16, 2020 at 09:49 PM

MM

“ So sorry to hear about Mr. Svajda, my teacher, my insurance man, my friend. He was such a good guy and he taught me skills that I still use 55 years later. Visited with him again about 12 years ago. He never changed, always a good, good guy! God have mercy on his soul.

Mike Meisner - May 16, 2020 at 09:43 PM

BC

“ I loved this man. Many of us old folks will remember him in High School. He always had a smile and a friendly "hello". He was my tennis coach, but I knew better at Burton's Grocery. My mother and dad loved him too and always would be greeted w/ his friendly smile. So sorry for your loss.
Betty (Burton) Cooke

Betty Cooke - May 16, 2020 at 09:09 PM

CB

“ Charlene Borak lit a candle in memory of Virgil J. Svajda



Charlene Borak - May 16, 2020 at 07:30 PM

JE

“ I loved working in the office as a high school student. Mr. Svajda was the BEST!! He was a great mentor and friend. My senior pictures in 1980 were taken in his beautiful backyard. He and Bernadette were both loving and caring individuals. Now, they are together again! May the LORD be with his family during this time of sorrow. God bless you all!



Jeanne Elder - May 16, 2020 at 05:16 PM

CC

“ Virgil was a sweet and kind person who was a joy to know. Rest in peace and know your legacy of love lives on. My deepest sympathy to his family.



Cathie Cerny - May 16, 2020 at 05:08 PM

TB

“ Virgil was a man who taught and influenced many children in such a Godly way. He always had a smile with his discipline in the classroom. Virgil was a good and loved man. He will be missed by many.

Toodie Brady - May 16, 2020 at 04:54 PM

EH

Mr. Svajda. Aka my typing teacher and my tennis coach. Great man! Always kind! Always friendly! He loved being a lector at Mass. I bet he loved to eat cheese rolls because Bernadette made the best ones ever!!! My love to the family. God bless you and God bless your father. With love from Ellwood and Dot Hermansen

Ellwood Hermansen - May 17, 2020 at 12:25 AM

GD

The many comments above show the love and admiration of this charming man, Virgil. He was never without a smile and warm greeting and was our friend for more years than I can remember. I, among many, will always remember him with love and respect. Rest In Peace dear Virgil. Prayers for his family and his friends.

*Gloria Dowden
Shreveport, La.*

Gloria Dowden - May 17, 2020 at 10:40 AM

SP

Mr. Svajda was my VOE teacher my jr and sr year. He was a very caring teacher and friend. He would always tease me about being kin to him because my mom's sister married a Juracek from East Bernard and Mrs. Svajda was a Juracek. Always a smile and a hug! RIP May his memories be in your hearts forever!

Susie Priesmeyer

Susie Priesmeyer - May 18, 2020 at 08:22 AM