



## Denis Whiteaker

March 20, 1950 - November 2, 2019

Denis Roi Whiteaker, 69, passed away on November 2, 2019 in Wadena, Minnesota.

Denis was born in Quincy, IL to Beulah and Earl Whiteaker on March 20, 1950. He graduated from Parkway Senior High School in St. Louis in 1968 and went on to attend Central Methodist University, where in 1971 he received his BA in Speech, English, Education and Theatre. He worked as a Branch Manager for Lance, Inc. for 13 years before moving to New Orleans to become a Director at the Vocational Training Center. After 7 years in that position, Denis moved on to work in the field for which he was most passionate: education. He taught English and Forensics at Slater High School in Slater, MO and coached a record-setting speech team that went to the MO state tournament every year during his tenure. Denis then spent several years in Kansas City working as Admissions Director for the Aviation Institute of Maintenance before moving to Wadena, Minnesota to be near his dear friend, the late Mary Brauch.

Denis is preceded in death by his mother Beulah (Ross) Whiteaker, his father Earl Roy Whiteaker, his brother Hal Von Whiteaker, and his sister-in-law, Janey (Mathis) Whiteaker.

Denis is survived by his niece, Kelly (Whiteaker) Stephens and his nephew

Aaron Mathis Whiteaker.

Memorials may be given to ASPCA ([www.aspca.org](http://www.aspca.org)).

The service and burial will be private with only family present.

Thank you to all who have reached out with condolences.

# Tribute Wall

TL

“ I got to meet Dennis when I started cleaning for him a couple years ago . He became a very good friend to my family. He loved my son Tanner and they always had wonderful and very interesting stories to share with us . You sure will be missed Dennis ❤️ Hope you are doing theatre up in heaven ❤️

trisha lehmkuhl - November 15, 2019 at 09:28 AM

CD

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Cathy Davis - November 13, 2019 at 10:07 AM

CD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Cathy Davis - November 13, 2019 at 10:04 AM

Cathy Davis

“ I taught with Denis at Slater High School. He taught my own children in school. He was very good at motivating students and getting them to preform in the classroom, on stage and at speech contests. He is probably organizing a play or a debate with the angels now!

Cathy Davis - November 13, 2019 at 09:49 AM

Melissa Johnson

“ Mr. Whiteaker was my teacher, along with many others, in high school. He was one of the best teachers we had. Everyone loved him as he loved all of us. If you were struggling in anything, he was always there to help even if he didn't know the answer. You will be forever missed by all of us from Slater High. Fly high until we meet again 🙏❤️



Melissa Johnson - November 12, 2019 at 08:04 PM

AH

“ ❤️ Mr Whitaker was a great teacher. He helped me when I struggled and saw such great potential in his students. His artistic talent glowed in the plays he put on every year. Fly high Mr. Whitaker. You will be missed.

Angie (LaGore) Harris - November 12, 2019 at 02:00 PM

SP

“ Mr. Whiteaker was my favorite teacher. He didn't care where you came from, what you looked like, how you dressed or how much money your family had. He supported and mentored every student the same. Mr. Whiteaker made learning fun. Many of my most fond memories of High School are because of Mr. Whiteaker. He was a treasure to many and will be missed.

Sonya Pitts - November 12, 2019 at 10:27 AM

JJ

“ Far too many memories for me to share. This man showed me who I was & made me who I am. He was not only the father of the SPA at Slater....but a father figure to many of us as well. I love you big guy! Knock down some 3s for me up there....I miss you greatly.

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**Jake Johnson** - November 12, 2019 at 09:59 AM

AG

“ Mr. Whiteaker was a great man and teacher. Like many have said, he gave me confidence to believe in myself. He believed in me and my abilities. I am now teaching and I feel he had a lot to do with that decision.

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**Angela Gochenour** - November 11, 2019 at 11:25 PM

GB

“ DR. Whiteaker, that was how he would sign into hotels, was an inspirational teacher and a great man. He was full of life and did so much for so many. I was truly blessed to have him as a teacher and mentor.

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**Gary Baker** - November 07, 2019 at 09:35 PM

BH

“ Mr Whiteaker was my High School English teacher, and my Drama Club sponsor at Slater High School in Slater MO. He taught in a way that everyone understood. I loved his classes. He taught me a lot on stage too. Mr Whiteaker helped me come out of my shell and have confidence in myself. He will be greatly missed.

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**Belinda Hupp** - November 07, 2019 at 07:01 PM

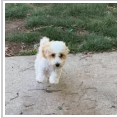
JM

“ Denis was very kind, generous and had a passion for life. I met him through my best friend, Mary Ellen Reed (Brauch) over 25 years ago. Denis always had great stories to share and always found the best in everyone. I'm so glad I was able to have conversations with him throughout this difficult year. He will certainly be missed. So very sorry for your loss.

Joyce M. Maher

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Joyce M. Maher - November 06, 2019 at 07:21 PM



Denis was a friend and supporter. I always reached out to him making sure he was doing good. He did the same with me. I will definitely miss him and our talks. I remember helping him move from Kansas City. It was hard but we kept the calls going back and forth. He had lots of people that looked up to him. He was very humble and willing to help anyone out. The best teacher that turned kids into greater kids showing they could step out and be themselves. True blessings in my life. Love you Denis!

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Brad Gastineau - November 11, 2019 at 11:19 AM

BL

“ Denis was a kind and generous person. And a good neighbor he will be missed here. So sorry for your loss.



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Barb Lehmkuhl - November 06, 2019 at 03:05 PM