



Jon Alan Marshall

JUL 6, 1937 - MAR 30, 2026



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Jon Alan Marshall, beloved husband, father, grandfather, educator, and community voice, passed away peacefully on March 30, 2026, in Strongsville, Ohio, at the age of 88. Born on July 6, 1937, in White Township, Pennsylvania, Jon lived a life defined by curiosity, generosity, and a deep commitment to sharing knowledge with others.

Jon's love of learning began early, nurtured by student teachers who first introduced him to the wonder of education at the Keith Laboratory School in Indiana, PA. He went on to graduate from the College of Wooster, completed a specialized astronomy education program at San Diego State and then earned a master's degree from Michigan State University. His passion for the stars became a guiding force throughout his life.

For 32 years, Jon taught physics and astronomy at Strongsville High School, where he inspired generations of students to look upward and think bigger. He also welcomed countless younger students into the Strongsville planetarium, hosting field trips that became cherished memories for many in the community. Jon was an original member of the Great Lakes Planetarium Association (GLPA) and its Cleveland subchapter, the Cleveland Regional Association of Planetarians (affectionally known as "CRAP"), helping to shape regional astronomy education for decades.

His dedication to the community extended far beyond the classroom. Jon was a proud member of local astronomy groups and was well known for his annual Star of Bethlehem programs, which blended science, history, and storytelling. For four decades, he served as the unmistakable "Voice of the Mustangs," bringing energy and heart to Strongsville Mustangs football games. He also lent his voice and spirit to the Southwest Community Chorus and spent 30 years as the master of ceremonies for the Strongsville Community Band.

Jon's talents were as wide-ranging as his interests. He could fix anything and there was no limit to his ability to design and build things with wood. His crowning achievement is the family cabin on



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30 acres in Carroll County, a place that became a sanctuary for family gatherings, stargazing, and quiet reflection. He loved astronomy and music in equal measure, and he shared both passions freely with those around him.

Jon is survived by his devoted wife, Joan; his brother, Greg; his daughter Jennifer and son-in-law Jeff; his son Jeff and daughter-in-law Jeanette; and his grandchildren A.J., Jake and Helena. He is preceded in death by his parents, (Samuel) Frank Marshall and Anna Viola McAfoose and his brother Dennis.

A private ceremony will be held to honor Jon's life. His family takes comfort in knowing that his legacy lives on in the students he taught, the community he served, and the countless people whose lives were brightened by his voice, his humor, and his boundless curiosity about the universe. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Strongsville Community Band (<https://www.strongsvillecommunityband.com/#donate>).



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Susan Lin posted:

Mr. Marshall was one of my favorite teachers at SHS in the 1960s, and later my son enjoyed his classes in the early 1990s. I remember when he married our favorite phys ed teacher, Miss Kott - they were both so humorous and kind. He contributed to hundreds of young minds in his lifetime & we are fortunate & grateful. Susan (Reutter) Lin

April 4 at 12:12 PM



David Kanzeg posted:

Jon introduced me to The College of Wooster by taking me and George Pilcher to hear a Concert Choir performance of Beethoven's Missa Solemnis in the old Chapel, which he recorded and which the College turned into a purchasable recording. That was, I believe, in 1965. I eventually graduated from Wooster in 1970, having spent four years singing in that very same Concert Choir. Jon was an inspiration to me.

April 4 at 12:07 PM



Traci lit a candle in honor of Jon.

Oh Mr Marshall, I have so many fond memories of you ☐☐ but I have to say my favorites, are of you reading "Twas The Night Before Christmas" to the kids at the Strongsville Community Band Christmas Concerts ☐☐☐☐☐ (& I can say without a doubt it was my Mommas favorite memories of you too, God rest her soul ☐☐☐) You will be missed by many Mr Marshall, but you will remain in our memories & hearts for always 😊❤️ Rest easy in Paradise ☐☐☐



April 2 at 9:21 PM



Pamm Monyak posted:

In the mid 60s, my oldest brother was in high school and there was a program at the planetarium that the family attended. I was impressed with Mr. Marshall and his knowledge of astronomy and thoroughly enjoyed the program. I wasn't fortunate enough to have him for any classes when I got to high school (my brothers had him for physics), but always remembered that first introduction. Thoughts and prayers to his family.

April 2 at 6:10 PM



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Jim Royle posted:

I loved his Physics class! He made it so fun and interesting. He talked audiophile music equipment and sound with me, loaned me his electronics catalogs, helped me design and build my first stereo speakers and was inspirational in getting me started on a lifetime of audiophile music and equipment. I remain indebted to him and cherish the time, kindness and knowledge he so graciously shared with me! ❤️ Jim Royle

April 2 at 6:03 PM



David Maloney posted:

He was probably my 2nd favorite teacher at SHS and a good man. The world needs more educators like him in it. The kids today dont know what they missed by not having him teach. Class of 87.

April 2 at 4:41 PM



Jeff Acker posted:

Mr. Marshal was a most delightful man and science teacher. I looked forward to having him as a teacher from my first field trip to "his" planetarium. Wonderful man. (He always remembered my name}

April 2 at 4:30 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Jon by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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