



Mr. Louis C. "Lou" Kota

May 9, 2012

KOTA, Louis C. "Lou", 84, of Durant, Florida, went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, May 9, 2012, after battling cancer for 4 years. He was born October 9, 1927 in Franklin, New Jersey, to Joseph and Julia Kota, and was the youngest of 9 children. After high school he joined the Navy where he served for 3 years. On the G.I. Bill, he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Rider College in Trenton, New Jersey. After accepting Christ as his Savior, he felt led to attend Southeastern Bible College in Lakeland, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Theology. At the invitation of several classmates, he came to Pleasant Grove Assembly of God church, where he met his wife of 58 years, Reba "Porter". While pastoring a church in Tennessee, he also became certified to teach. He pastored several churches and taught in several different states, the last being Yates Elementary in Brandon. In 1968, he earned his Master's Degree in Education Administration at the University of South Florida in Tampa. His first appointment as principal was at Ruskin Elementary, and later at Palm River and Thonotosassa Elementary. He retired from education after 37 years of service. He was very involved in Pleasant Grove Assembly of God Church, where he served as deacon, Sunday school teacher and on numerous committees. He touched and made an impact on many adult and children's lives including several prominent people in Hillsborough County. He was preceded in death by his parents; 8 siblings; and precious oldest son Chuck Kota. He is survived by his wife Reba; daughter-in-law Pam (Chuck's wife); children Tom (Mimi) and Kim

Hendricks; grandchildren Travis, Ashley Hernandez (Keith), Kaity Hendricks, and John; and many loving family members and friends. He lived for his family and will be loved always and greatly missed. A Celebration of Life will be held on Monday, May 14 at 3:00 P.M. at Hopewell Funeral Home, 6005 CR 39 S, Plant City, where the family will receive friends beginning at 2:00 P.M. A covered dish dinner will immediately follow the interment at Pleasant Grove Assembly of God Church, 7051 S. Turkey Creek Road, Plant City. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to LifePath Hospice, 12973 Telecom Parkway, Suite 100, Temple Terrace, 33637. Expressions of condolence at www.hopewellfuneral.com.

Cemetery Details

Pleasant Grove Cemetery

East County Civic Group
FL 33567

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 14. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Hopewell Funeral Home
6005 County Road 39 South
Plant City, FL 33567
(813) 737-3128
office@hopewellfuneral.com
<http://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

Celebration of Life

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Tribute Wall



“ Hopewell Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Louis C. "Lou" Kota



Hopewell Funeral Home - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Mr. Kota was my fifth-grade teacher at Yates Elementary, and truly was my favorite teacher of all time. He taught more than the regular things; a fun memory is when he taught us to draw facial profiles, including the side view of an eye. We had lively and interesting class discussions on various topics, and his gentle kindness was always present. I was learning to bake, and brought him in a loaf of homemade bread that I hope didn't break any teeth. We went on a field trip to Busch Gardens, and I was excited to be one of the students who got to sit in the monorail ride with him. I wanted to let you know that I think of him often and will always love him.
Lee Ann Ostermann

Lee Ostermann - January 31, 2021 at 01:41 PM



“ Lou was a great man of God. I say under his sunday school teachers. This was one of the most insightful times. You will be missed. We will see you in heaven one day. Prayers and Love are with his family during this time,

Darrell Bailey - May 16, 2012 at 07:52 AM

WD

“ Wilson Dry lit a candle in memory of Mr. Louis C. "Lou" Kota



Wilson Dry - May 14, 2012 at 04:08 PM

JP

“ Tom: You and your sister are experiencing a heartbreaking time with the passing of your dad, and I don't want to minimise it,,,,, but I want you to remember that your father is in a much,much, better place than we have here. Your love for him is not lost and shall always be everlasting until you, your mother, and your sister see him again. And,,,I am quite sure that he will be waiting for you with open arms, And that time will be sooner than anyone can imagine..... We love ya,, Mike and Molly

james and molly phillips - May 14, 2012 at 10:38 AM

VD

“ Mr. Kota was my first male teacher in the 6th grade at Yates Elementary. I got in trouble in his class a few times, because I was bad about giggling. I always thought the world of him and he will be missed. Virginia Freeman DuBose

Virginia L. Dubose - May 12, 2012 at 07:59 PM

JD

“ To the family; I taught with Lou for many years at Yates Elementary, where he was one of my favorite fellow teachers. He was greatly missed when he moved on. My prayers are with the family. All my best wishes, Joyce Mac Donald

Joyce Mac Donald - May 12, 2012 at 05:58 PM

NN

“ Mr. Kota hired me as a guidance counselor. His love for children was obvious to all around. He always seemed to be smiling and he never changed as evidenced by his photo. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. Nan Norquist

Nan Norquist - May 12, 2012 at 03:28 PM



“ Back when I was still working as a school psychologist, I had the good fortune to work with Mr. Kota at Palm River Elementary (in the early 1980's). He was a good and caring man and the students, staff and I were lucky to have him as principal. May he rest in peace. Barb Kovats Tuttle

Barb Tuttle - May 12, 2012 at 01:42 PM

ML

“ I was blessed to have been a teacher at Palm River Elementary School when Mr. Kota was principal. He was a wonderful man. While I am saddened to hear of his passing, I know he is in the arms of God. He will be missed.

Mary Lewis

Mary Lewis - May 12, 2012 at 12:57 PM

LP

“ Such a Man of God. Great Friend. Full of Love for Others. Awesome Bible Teacher. What a Privilege for the Powell family to be part of his life for 13 years. Our lives were Spiritually enriched because of him. Brother Lou Kota you will be missed, but a Heavenly Reunion will one day bring us back together. While you Rejoice with Jesus, our Prayers are for the family and friends who are left behind. You will always be Loved by the Powell Family.

Larry Powell - May 12, 2012 at 12:27 PM



This wonderful man hired me to be a part of the Ruskin faculty in 1968; my first job with the Hillsborough County School System. I will always be grateful to him for his kindness and support. I remember him fondly. Special blessings to his family and friends in this time of sorrow.
Julia Jennings

Julia M. Jennings - May 12, 2012 at 04:30 PM