

Kochville Township native's life multiplied his love of math, community

by Deborah Brown | The Saginaw News
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Edward H. Allington had a passion for social justice.

It didn't matter if you had a dollar or a dime in your pocket, you were an equal in his eyes, family and friends say.

Allington died of lung disease Monday at Brian's House Hospice of Bay City. He was 74.

Allington, of Kochville Township, graduated from the former SS. Peter and Paul High School in Saginaw and Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant.

Early in his career, Allington taught mathematics in Mayville, where he experienced disdain for social inequities when he was offered a salary higher than the existing teachers.

Peter Allington, his oldest son, recalled his father talking about such inequities.

"His biggest problem was when colleges let teachers go after they got tenure because of their large salaries," the son said. "He wanted equality across the board."

That passion drove him to help organize a teacher's association in the Saginaw Township Community Schools district, said Kathleen, his wife of 51 years. The couple's Kochville Township home received a Centennial Farm designation 20 years ago.

Allington served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Thailand, but he probably was best known as a math instructor, family members said.

He could explain math to people who could not understand math, Peter Allington said.

"People who hated math did better learning from my father," he said.

Allington taught at the former Douglas MacArthur High School as well as night classes at Delta College and Saginaw Valley State University during a teaching career that spanned more than 30 years.

Kathleen Allington said his philosophy for students complaining about their homework was, "Don't tell me your problems; I've got a wife and 10 children at home."

Allington served as a firefighter for Kochville Township from 1983 to 1997 and was its supervisor from 1992 to 2000.

Township Fire Chief Al Malesky remembered Allington as a good person to work with.

"He wanted to know where every dime was spent," Malesky said.

Kochville Township Office Manager Sharon Schafer was a secretary for Allington during his days as supervisor.

"He was very dedicated to the township," Schafer said. "He was there every single day. And if I got too busy, he thought nothing of stepping in and helping me out by taking tax bills or water bills."

Allington had a passion for fishing and sailing and was a member of the Bay City Yacht Club, his widow said.

He joined Knights of Columbus Council No. 4232, 4840 Shattuck in Saginaw Township, whose members will pray the Rosary at 3 p.m. today. Rod Cheflo will lead a vigil at 7 p.m.

Visitation is from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. today at the McIntyre Funeral Chapel, 500 N. Michigan, and at 10 a.m. Thursday until the service at 11 a.m. at St. John Vianney Catholic Church, 6400 McCarty, with burial in St. Andrew Cemetery, 381 St. Andrews.