



Dan Wells

February 29, 1948 - December 30, 2025

Dan Wells, 77, of Carrollton, passed away peacefully on December 30, 2025, at Aultman Hospital in Canton.

Born on February 29, 1948, to the late Harry and Virginia Heppner Wells, Dan graduated from Louisville High School in 1966. He earned his bachelor's degree from Kent State University in 1970 and his master's degree from the University of Dayton.

For 35 years, Dan dedicated himself to education as a Social Studies teacher at Carrollton Middle School. He also served as Cross Country and Track Coach for 30 years, leaving a lasting legacy on countless young athletes. He proudly coached Christina Talkington to Carrollton's first individual State Championship in cross country in 1990 — a milestone that marked the school's first state title in any sport. Dan was fondly remembered by runners and colleagues alike for his reliable white van, which became a familiar sight transporting team gear and supplies to meets and practices.

A member of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Carrollton, Dan lived a life rooted in community, education, and mentorship.

Dan is survived by three brothers: Dave Wells, Dale (Heidi) Wells, and Don Wells; one sister: Diane (Mike) Miller; and numerous nieces, nephews, great-

nieces, and great-nephews. Also surviving are his three beloved cats, Frick, Frack, and Frisky; and his numerous animals that lived around his pond, ducks, deer, squirrels, and birds.

Dan's commitment to his students, athletes, and family touched many lives, and he will be deeply missed.

A memorial Funeral Mass for Dan will be held Friday, January 16, 2025 at 11 a.m. in Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until time of Mass in the church. A luncheon for family and friends to remember him will be held at noon in the Our Lady of Mercy Parish Hall on Moody Avenue in Carrollton.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 16. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church
616 Roswell Road SW
Carrollton, OH 44615
(330) 627-4664

Service

JAN 16. 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church
616 Roswell Road SW
Carrollton, OH 44615
(330) 627-4664

Tribute Wall

PG

“ Dan was a classmate of mine at Louisville High. I didn't know of his death until after the fact. I live in Alaska half of the year and visited the North Pole nearby last week. There is a store called Santa Claus House which had a Bigfoot ornament that I would have bought and sent to him if he was still with us. RIP my friend.

Portia D Griggy - May 29 at 03:00 PM

TR

“ Dan and I were roommates our Freshman year at Kent State. I dropped out after that year. But a friendship had developed. We visited each other through the years. We talked on the phone several times a year.....This year when I called on his birthday I was surprised the phone had been disconnected. Thank goodness for the internet. I googled his name and learned he had passed. To his family and his many, many friends, please accept our deepest condolences. He was a true friend. He had a beautiful heart and soul. He will be missed. I am so grateful that we had spoken around the holidays. He expressed his love for my family and how we were fortunate to have a friendship that had remained strong over all the years. We will miss his pictures at Christmas time, we loved hearing the stories about the animals, the fish, the pond, his Corvette, his truck, his life. Rest in Peace dear gentle, kind, loving friend, with God's blessings we will meet again. Tony Raffin, Louise and all the kids.

Tony and Louise Raffin - March 11 at 12:24 AM

DS

“ Deborah S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dan Wells.

Deborah S. - January 31 at 12:01 PM



“ I met Dan when I was 5 years old and in all the time I knew him I never heard him say an unkind word to anyone. A part of me died when I found out about his passing. He was one of the "good guys" of this world. He was also a great fisherman. It is with a heavy heart I say "So long old buddy".

Jerry Poparad - January 19 at 06:12 PM

BH

“ Coach, you were such a big impact on so many of us over the years. Even though you were never my teacher in the classroom, you were my mentor in life. There were so many wonderful memories and moments during our time together that they are too many to reiterate. I have never forgotten the life lessons that you taught us over the years. You were more than a Coach to us on the team, you were part of our family! And, it was never about the Win, you taught us it was the adventure to get to the finish line. With all things in life it's about the hard work, the way you do the work and how you conduct yourself along the way. You lived that life everyday. Always going out of your way to help anyone in need. Never a harsh word to say about anything (except when they were digging up your hill LOL). I know your animal friends are going to miss you as well. I only hope someone takes over to feed the deer, ducks, fish birds etc around your lake. I'll miss seeing your beautiful pictures of them.

Coach, We will ALL miss you terribly, and if I did not say it enough, Thank You for always being there for me during my difficulties growing up! Your hugs, words of encouragement and empathy will never ever be forgotten!

Huffles

Barbara (Huffles) Huffman-Frischer - January 16 at 11:08 AM

B(

“ Barbara (. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dan Wells.

Barbara (. - January 16 at 11:04 AM

WJ

“ I was a college roommate of Dan our Senior year at Kent.State. Dan never had a bad word about anything. But he could sure end a sentence with his sarcasm! We enjoyed our experience with our other roommate and our adventures.We both did our student teaching in the spring and were there for May 4th shooting. I remember when Dan turned 20 and we gave him a rubber ducky ;since he was only 5(Nov 29). I would call him on Feb 28th every year. I remember when he was 72,I told him it was time to register to vote. Dan was a good man and now is resting in peace. My wife,(Cheryl) and myself send our prayers.Cheryl was my girlfriend while Dan was my roommate. We got along great.

William D Ingham Jr. - January 16 at 10:06 AM

KS

“ I met Dan in 1980 through church. He was a very kind and generous man who truly loved his church and family. With him the glass was always half full. A true inspiration.

Kristine Stenger - January 07 at 11:42 PM

MM

“ Mike and Marla Myers purchased the Love's Emb race Roses – Purple for the family of Dan Wells.



Mike and Marla Myers - January 07 at 03:07 PM

MM

“ Mike and Marla Myers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dan Wells.

Mike and Marla Myers - January 07 at 03:07 PM

DM

“ Don and Lynda Miller purchased the Healing Tears - Blue and White for the family of Dan Wells.



Don and Lynda Miller - January 05 at 03:52 PM

DS

“ I have such fond memories of Mr. Wells. He was such a thoughtful and kind teacher. He was one of those teachers that it became cool to call him by his first name after reaching adulthood. He will be missed. My condolences to his family.

Devon Stokes - January 04 at 02:09 PM

CH

“ I had the privilege of teaching with Dan at Bell-Herron for about 30 years. Dan was so great with his students as well as the staff. I am sure his former students will remember Dan wearing his red tie on test day. Also, he had a history hall of fame in his room that I am sure his former students will remember. Dan was a very caring staff member that we will all miss. Rest in peace!

Curt Hensley - January 04 at 12:43 PM

DP

“ I really can't say enough about how much Coach Wells meant to me... his constant encouragement, patience and wisdom got me started on a lifetime of running; great experiences and great friends all because of one truly great coach. He made so many of us better versions of ourselves, leading us to discipline and hard work, and, most importantly, to find joy in running. Rest in peace, Coach. You will be missed so very much!

Danny Princic - January 03 at 09:22 PM

 Mike
Myers

“ I remember going to Uncle Eugene and Aunt Ginny's house for family get together. We would play pool and pinball in the basement. Dan was a very good player. We always had a good time. We played basketball and baseball also. Great memories he will be missed by all.

Mike Myers - January 03 at 04:07 PM

CF

“ Danny was one of my favorite cousins. As grade school kids we got together frequently. We enjoyed the time together. The flying squirrel was a special treat. I am so glad I was able to experience a time with him in his environs in Sept 2024 after a 50 year absence. He was so upbeat about everything. We are all better because of his attitude. I miss him but surely hope to see him later in God's heaven.
Eddie

capt fitzhugh - January 03 at 03:43 PM

TS

“ oh, so many loving happy childhood memories when our families gathered at both Grandparents Wells and (my) Uncle Eugene & Aunt Ginny’s houses.
one of my most fond childhood memories was Dan and I hanging out on grandpa Wells’s front porch, and Dan making perfect imitations of Donald Duck, love you Dan. Love and hugs to my cousins 😭 Teresa

Teresa Speakman - January 03 at 02:57 PM

JR

“ Prayers to his family .He was a great man and friend of ours.

Joel & Juanita Rogers - January 03 at 01:34 PM

K"

“ He was my cross country coach and friend over the years. I sent him a Christmas card every year and always got one as well. Just one of the most caring and humble human beings to ever walk this earth. He is also the only person I know born on leap year and I think everyone knows that about him. He was an amazing person and will be missed by all. Love you coach!!

Kelly Green "Greener" - January 03 at 01:20 PM



“ He always joked that we were graduating together. He retired the year I graduated. He coached me in cross country and track. Even though he wasn't my cross county coach my senior year he went to regionals to cheer me on. As years went by coach Wells became a friend who I would occasionally stop by his home to say hi and shoot the breeze. I'm thankful for teachers like him! Blessed to have known him!

Jennifer Maroni - January 03 at 10:53 AM

JW

“ Not enough words to describe what an extraordinary human being Dan Wells was. He NEVER allowed his physical challenges to keep him from doing the things he loved. He couldn't run so he became a Track and Cross Country Coach. He inspired thousands of kids as a mentor, a coach and a teacher. He made you feel important and seen. He loved his land and all the inhabitants of it. He cared for animals and humans alike. He left this place better than it was before. Rest well, Mr. Wells, if anyone deserves it, it's you.

Joan Wiseman - January 03 at 09:31 AM

CC

“ A wonderful man who no doubt left a legacy by touching the lives of so many students and athletes. He believed in you, even when you didn't believe in yourself. Found my joy in track because of him and pushed myself to be a long jumper even with my short stature. In history class, he let us copy directly from the encyclopedia to earn extra credit points. I never understood why he allowed that until much later in life when it became clear. God bless!

Christa (Place) Clapper - January 02 at 10:25 PM

JC

A great guy and smart. He was my teacher in school. May he be at rest now with the Lord

Jodi coverdale - January 03 at 12:37 PM

CR

“ Christina R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dan Wells.

Christina R. - January 02 at 09:08 PM

RH

“ *The best neighbor! Always thinking of others! No more pain my friend 💔*

Rhonda Harris - January 02 at 08:16 PM

FJ

“ *Wow, coach Wells was the best, he pushed for your maximum effort, but was human in understanding if you couldn't make it. His encouragement was enough for you to try, so you did. I will never forget those times on the Carrollton Cross Country team. It made me the man I am today, so sad to see him go. GOD BLESS THIS MAN, Frank Jarosz*

Frank Jarosz - January 02 at 07:50 PM

MJ

“ *So very sorry to hear this news. Dan & I shared a birthday and Tim has fond memories of their teaching time together. We pray that happy memories of him will bring all of you comfort. Tim & Margaret Johnston*

margaret johnston - January 02 at 07:41 PM

SL

“ *Dan was always such a kind, supportive man who had such a huge impact on the Carrollton community. My prayers are with all who loved Dan. Rest in Peace.*

Sandi Lyon - January 02 at 07:27 PM



“ *Coach Wells was a one of a kind man. He will be so missed by many. Rip Coach, until I see you again someday*

Robin Rector - January 02 at 06:34 PM



“ *Coach wells was my coach and a good friend. He loved his students and the kids he coached. Rest in peace coach.*

Jeff McClelland - January 02 at 06:26 PM

DG

“ *Peace be with all of his family and friends. I can remember Mr. Wells driving up and down my road during cross country season from the vets club. He was an amazing teacher and coach. I hope he knew the many lives he touched through his years of teaching. Rejoice in heaven Mr. Wells.*

Darren Gartrell - January 02 at 06:18 PM

CH

“ *Craig and Nancy Hicks purchased the Heartfelt Sympathies Blue & White Funeral Standing Basket for the family of Dan Wells.*



Craig and Nancy Hicks - January 02 at 05:39 PM

CH

“ *Craig and Nancy Hicks planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dan Wells.*

Craig and Nancy Hicks - January 02 at 05:39 PM