



## Dr. Stefan Paul Krchniak

August 5, 1932 - March 25, 2023

Dr. Stefan Paul Krchniak of Bonita Springs, Florida passed away at his home on March 25, 2023, at age 90.

He was born in Little Falls, New York on August 5, 1932, the son of Martin and Suzanne Krchniak. He earned a BA in Music Education from SUNY Fredonia in 1954 and a Masters from Manhattan School of Music in 1957. From 1954-56 he served as a musician in the US Army, stationed in France during the Korean War.

As a professional trumpet player, his performance experiences included national radio broadcasts, musical theater, and symphony orchestras. He launched his teaching career as a band director in the public schools of Plainview, New York from 1957-68.

In 1961, he eloped with the love of his life, Nancy Spicer. They went on to have two children, Katy (1966) and Steven (1974).

He earned his Ph.D. in Educational Administration from New York University in 1968 and relocated to Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, where he became a Professor of Educational Leadership in the Graduate School of Education. He retired from SIUE in 1995 as an Emeritus Professor and is now honored at Builders of the University Plaza at Southern Illinois University

Edwardsville.

Retiring to Bonita Springs, Florida in 1996, Dr. Krchniak was a dedicated Rotarian for more than 40 years (Edwardsville, Illinois and Bonita Springs, Florida chapters) and a valued tenor and section leader with the Naples Philharmonic Chorale for 24 years. In his 80s, he became a CERT/FEMA volunteer and a member of The American Legion/USO.

He was an avid golfer and scored two hole-in-ones at his home course, Highland Woods. He loved the arts, nature, and sports - especially the New York Yankees. A true people person, he was a friend to everyone.

Dr. Krchniak is survived by his daughter Catherine (Katy) and son-in-law Daniel Katzenberger of Moss Beach, California; his son Steven Krchniak of Little Rock, Arkansas; his grandchildren Kurt and Claire Katzenberger of California, and nieces Susan Fordley and Heidi Flynn of New York. His wife Nancy, brothers Milan and Samuel Krchniak, and sister-in-law Joanne Krchniak preceded him in death.

Family and friends are invited to a Celebration of Life at his Bonita Springs home on July 15, 2023, from 1:00pm-4:00pm. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in his name be made to Rotary International ([rotary.org/donate](https://www.rotary.org/donate)) or a charity of choice. Stefan will be laid to rest with Nancy at Sarasota National Cemetery; military honors will be rendered.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home Family Owned and Operated Since 1978.

# Previous Events

## Gathering

JUL 15. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Highland Woods Golf and Country Club  
9100 Highland Woods Blvd.  
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Stefan Paul Krchniak*

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October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM