



## Adalbert Zawada, 81



By [Staten Island Advance](#)

on January 12, 2013 at 8:17 AM, updated January 12, 2013 at 8:19 AM

[Print](#)

[View/Post Comments](#)

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - Adalbert M. Zawada, 81, of Randall Manor, a lifelong Staten Islander and a teacher and sports referee known to generations of borough students and athletes, died Wednesday in Staten Island University Hospital, Ocean Breeze.

Known as Al, Mr. Zawada was born in Elm Park, and moved to Randall Manor in 1965.

Mr. Zawada was a history and social studies instructor, and taught at schools throughout the borough for more than 30 years.

He taught at Egbert Intermediate School from 1965 to 1970; Susan Wagner High School from 1970 to 1979, and Port Richmond High School from 1979 to 1991, when he retired.

Mr. Zawada taught at the evening education center at Port Richmond from 1966 to 1976. He was also the teacher in charge of the "Big Apple" program at Wagner and New Dorp high schools, from 1976 to 1995.

Mr. Zawada received his bachelor's degree in education from Wagner College, Grymes Hill, and his master's degree in education from Hunter College, Manhattan.

He was a 1950 graduate of McKee High School, where he was consistently on the honor roll and played basketball.

Mr. Zawada refereed school basketball games for 40 years, and was a former president of the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials. He belonged to the New York City Board of Officials for Men's and Women's Sports - Basketball Division.

He was a member of the National Association of Sports Officials, and was an Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference official.

He also refereed girls volleyball games at high schools in New York and New Jersey, and was a softball umpire for the Public School Athletic League. For many years, he ran the Just for Kicks Co-Ed Softball League on the Island.

By 2007, it was estimated that Mr. Zawada had officiated more than 10,000 games.

Mr. Zawada had a deep interest in American history and also enjoyed visiting national historic sites around the world.

He spent his every birthday in Alaska, fishing for salmon and halibut. He was an avid crabber.

Mr. Zawada also liked to work with his hands, and made many of his own tools. His daughter, Nancy Zawada, said her father often quipped that he could "fix anything except a broken heart."

Mr. Zawada was a veteran of the Army, serving as a corporal with the 43rd Infantry Division in Nurnberg, Germany during the Korean War. He also played basketball during his time in the service, and was a member of the American Legion on Staten Island.

"He was a sturdy oak tree whose branches touched many lives," said his daughter, Nancy. "He was honest and was always there to give advice and share his wisdom."

In addition to his daughter, Mr. Zawada is survived by his son, Mark; two brothers, Michael and Frank; two sisters, Sister Rosemary Zawada and Irene Bilcher, and one granddaughter.

The funeral will be Monday from the Harmon Home for Funerals, West Brighton, with a mass at 9:45 a.m. in St. Adalbert's R.C. Church, Elm Park. Burial will be in St. Peter's Cemetery, West Brighton.

[View/Post Comments](#)

© SILive.com. All rights reserved.