

Dale J. Lonis, 67, of Clifton Springs, New York passed away after a 20-year battle with cancer on March 20, 2022, with his wife and daughter by his side.

He was born in Aurora, IL to Walter and Lucille (Vandever) Lonis. Dale grew up in Aurora and attended West Aurora High School, where he was active in music and theater. He graduated from the University of Illinois and Northwestern University. He became a highly successful teacher, coach, university professor, and international conductor. Later, he attended the University of Illinois and received a doctoral degree in education, with a focus on the psychology of learning and musical practice.

Dr. Dale Lonis spent a lifetime leading others by conducting, coaching, and teaching. He used humor, high energy, and passion to share his values and knowledge in the pursuit of beauty and excellence. He had a profound impact on the field of music education and his thousands of students and colleagues will be forever grateful for his mentoring and leadership.

Anyone who knew Dale was touched by his positive outlook, kindness, and spirit. He lived every day by his words, "Every day is a good day." Many will continue to use these words as strength for the future.

When he wasn't teaching, Dale liked watching and playing sports. He especially enjoyed rugby, as both a national-level player and a coach. Dale loved with his whole heart. His wife, daughter, son-in-law, and grandsons felt that love each day. His goal was to create memories together, and that he did. From wine by the fire to "Farm Camp," soccer and marching band camp to fluffer-nutters, Oreos, silly faces, songs, and jokes. His memory will live on through those experiences that he created for his family.

Dale is survived by his wife, Kelly Brown Lonis; daughter, Paige (Andrew) Bessick; grandsons, Owen and Benjamin Bessick; brothers, Walter (Joanne) Lonis and Larry (Rose) Lonis, sister-in-law, Cindy Lonis, as well as extended family, and an abundance of friends and students.

He is preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Jack Lonis.

There will be no services at this time. However, plans are in discussion to establish a scholarship in his name at the [Jerusalem Music Centre](#), where he taught and conducted. Please share memories, anecdotes, and pictures online at <https://bit.ly/DaleLonisMemories>.