

# David Phillip Regalado, 61

Staff Writer  
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David Phillip Regalado touched many lives through his involvement with community organizations and years as a teacher and principal at local schools.

A Redlands resident for 59 years, he died Nov. 19 at the age of 61 at Loma Linda University Medical Center, from complications of surgery following a prolonged illness. Many family members were with him when he died.

Regalado was born July 8, 1947, in Loma Linda and graduated from Redlands High School in 1965. He attended the University of Redlands, where he received a bachelor's degree in political science in 1969 and a master's degree in school administration in 1975.

He received his teaching credential from the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 1971 and then taught at Moore Junior High in Redlands until 1977, when he became assistant principal of Cope Junior High School.

In 1981 he became an American Youth Soccer Organization soccer coach and continued coaching for 14 years.

In 1982 he became the principal of Lugonia Elementary School, continuing there for 14 years before he became principal of Moore Middle School and then of Bryn Mawr Elementary School, retiring in 2007.

"He was such a wonderful person," said Faith Shipp, a kindergarten teacher at Bryn Mawr Elementary. "Our whole school is in shock."

The whole school had celebrated Regalado's retirement in 2007. He and his wife Sharon retired at the same time, with plans to travel.

"He and his wife, they were so close," Shipp said.

Fourth- and fifth-grade students who had known Regalado since they were kindergartners were upset when they heard the news Thursday. Shipp told of one student who had come to her after she heard the news.

"She came running over with tears streaming from her eyes," Shipp said. She believes that for some students, this was their first experience with death.

"To them, he was like the god of the school he would be there forever," she said.

The faculty and staff are just as upset as the students.

"He was so compassionate," Shipp said. "He never yelled at anybody, everyone loved him."

"He always wanted the best for the school," said Debbie Martin, school clerk at Bryn Mawr. "He was a very calm and efficient principal."

Martin remembered former students coming in as substitute teachers at Bryn Mawr and Regalado having fond conversation with them.

"He recalled lots of special memories with people," she said.

Redlands Noon Kiwanis president George Barich had fellow Kiwanian Regalado as his ninth-grade history teacher at Moore Junior High.

"He was just one of those special guys who could communicate and motivate youth," Barich said.

Regalado had been a supportive member of the Kiwanis since 2001, and was involved with the youth programs, including the K-Kids at Bryn Mawr Elementary.

"Just an outstanding member a very active member serving the youth of the community. Very well liked by all of the members and will be dearly missed," Barich said.

Regalado was also a member of the Boys & Girls Club board before he stepped down due to his illness. He and his wife were involved with the Chocolate Fantasy fundraiser every year.

"He had a serious air about him, but once you got to know him, he was very funny," said P.T McEwen, chief professional officer of the Boys & Girls Club.

"It's a loss for the organization, for someone who contributes and supports the organization for a number of years passes," he said.

Regalado was also active with the Fortnightly Club and the Boy Scouts of America, including being cubmaster and Webelos leader for Pack 5.

Regalado was active at First United Methodist Church in Redlands, including being a Sunday school teacher, youth adviser, and a chairman on several church committees.

Lead pastor Carolyn Bohler recalls Regalado being the first person she met at the church. He was chairman of the committee that hired her this last spring.

"He was very outgoing, and the first thing he said to me was that I better do a good job because 'I told so many people you would,' " she said, thinking that would be something he would have said to others during his time as an coach, teacher and other activities that brought him in contact with youths.

"He had a strong interior strength and peace," Bohler said.

She said the whole congregation had been praying for him many times during his liver transplant and after, when complications from the surgery had kept him at Loma Linda University Medical Center.

Regalado had been recognized many times for his success as an educator and beyond with awards such as the 2004 Redlands Latino of the Year award, the Bilingual Educator Award and the Association of California School Administrators' Elementary Principal of the Year award in 1991.

He is survived by his wife Sharon Regalado, sons, Todd Regalado of Los Angeles and Sean Regalado and his wife Maureen; brother Bennie Regalado of Riverside; sisters Stella Carrillo and husband Al of Redlands, Vee Warner of Las Vegas, Pat Gonzales and husband Rick of Redlands, Carol Nava and husband Mandy of Redlands.

The memorial service will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29, at the First United Methodist Church of Redlands.

Memorial donations may be made to the Boys & Girls Club of Redlands.