



Roger D. Reas

February 2, 1936 - November 9, 2025

Roger D. Reas age 89, of Park Falls, died peacefully at home on Sunday November 9, 2025. He was born on February 2, 1936, the second child of 13 born to Emeron and Mae (Hatch) Reas. He graduated High School in 1954, graduated from UW-Superior in 1958. He taught in Winter, Wisconsin for two years, then received a full year scholarship to University of Northern Iowa and received his Master's in Science Teaching. He continued his education receiving a National Science Foundation scholarship to research organic chemistry for breast cancer in Tuskegee, Alabama during the summer of 1962. He taught general science, chemistry, physics, human anatomy, physiology and Timber and Game Management.

Following that summer, he received a telegram to come back to Park Falls to set up a science program at the High School and taught science until his retirement in 1994. During his tenure, he taught at the school forest and served as the supervisor of the school forest. He supervised the Youth Conservation Corp during the summer for the US Forest Service. He recruited and taught high school students firefighting with the Forest Service supervisors.

With inspiration from Maybell Hardy and with family funds in honor of Robert Markle, a game warden killed in action, Roger created a permanent wildlife display at the High School in 1980 and it is present in the current Park Falls

High School. Funding ultimately exceeded the cost of the display via donations and the additional funds were placed in a scholarship fund for students going on to secondary education in Natural Resources.

Roger's community contributions and dedication to his students did not go unnoticed as he received the Herb Kohl Award and Wisconsin Science Teacher of the Year Award in 1992-1993.

Following his retirement, Roger served on the Park Falls School Board for 14 years and served as President for several years.

In 1958 he married Phyllis Scott and together they raised three children. They shared 17 years of marriage until her passing. In 1979 he married Sharon Hanson and they were married for 46 years.

Roger was an intellectually gifted man who shared his wealth of knowledge through his teaching and commitment to his community. He was a 32nd Degree Mason for 65 years, served as a member of the Scottish Rite, and was a proud member of the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Park Falls.

He was one of the founding members and president of the Zor Shriners Flambeau Clowns; past Divan of the Madison Zor Temple Shriners; Chair of the Board for Northwoods Community Credit Union; founding member of the Snow Gypsies snowmobile club and lobbied at the state level to ensure that the Tuscobia Trail become a state trail ensuring that the trail received funding for maintenance and served on the Whitetails Unlimited and Ducks Unlimited banquet committees.

He was the Price county delegate to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress for over 10 years and Town of Lake Chairman for 13 years. He also served as

a member of the Price County Forward committee.

He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed all that the Northwoods has to offer, including hunting, fishing, archery, and time at his cabin and hunting land. Most of all, he enjoyed being with his family.

He is survived by his wife Sharon, three children; Carrie Reas, Kevin (Roxan) Reas, Christopher (Ester) Reas, (7) grandchildren, (3) great grandchildren, (9) siblings; Violet Dillon, Tina Gruber, Perry (Betty) Reas, Kathy Kotke, Larry (Judy) Reas, Ramona (Charlie) Wasrud, Dawn (Rick) Buboltz, John Reas, Christine (Mark) Moravec, brother-in-law Kelly (Linda) Scott, his special friend Russell (Carmen) Kapitz, and by numerous nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; both sets of parent-in-laws; his first wife Phyllis and three of her siblings and families; three siblings; Rosie Hilgart, Doug Reas, Carol Herbst, four sibling-in-laws; Jack Dillon, Pat Gruber, Jean Reas, Bernie Kotke, and his special friend Dick Kapitz.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00am on Friday November 21, 2025, at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Park Falls. Rev. Jill Lemke will officiate.

Interment to follow at Nola Cemetery.

A visitation will be held from 5:00pm – 7:00pm with masonic service at 7:00pm on Thursday November 20, 2025, at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Park Falls and on Friday November 21, from 10:00am until the hour of the service at the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Zor Flambeau Clowns for their annual gift to the Shriners Hospital in Minneapolis.

Birch Street Funeral Service is assisting the family
www.birchstreetfuneralservice.com

Cemetery Details

Nola Cemetery

Park Falls, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **20**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

First Congregational United Church of Christ
279 North 1st Ave
Park Falls, WI 54552

Visitation

NOV **21**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Congregational United Church of Christ
279 North 1st Ave
Park Falls, WI 54552

Memorial Service

NOV **21**. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Congregational United Church of Christ
279 North 1st Ave
Park Falls, WI 54552

Tribute Wall

JS

“ *Mr. Reas was one of my very favorite teachers. He made chemistry come alive for me and that led me to my career in Food Chemistry. He told impactful stories (like sitting in the back seat of the car when being driven around by his friend of color in Tuskegee). He was inspirational and admired. Jean Koshak Schieffer*

Jean Koshak Schieffer - November 26, 2025 at 07:26 PM

RD

“ *Reginald D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Roger D. Reas.*

Reginald D. - November 19, 2025 at 04:38 PM

JJ

“ *So sorry for your loss. We enjoyed you guys so much over our Shriners's years. Janet and Kevin*

Janet and Kevin Johnson - November 13, 2025 at 09:28 AM



“ *Roger Reas was one of my very favorite teachers. He will be greatly missed. My condolences to his family. So sorry for your loss. Karla Seifert Raleigh*

Karla Raleigh - November 13, 2025 at 07:41 AM

LB

“ *I had forgotten that Mr. Reas was my chemistry teacher! What an extraordinary life he led. Our deepest condolences to Sharon and his entire family. Laurie Behreandt & Daniel*

Laurie Behreandt - November 12, 2025 at 07:14 AM

LK

“ Oh, Mr. Reas! You were the best! It was a privilege knowing you and Sharon. My sympathy and love to all... Lori Gunderson Krueger

Lori A. Krueger - November 11, 2025 at 05:49 PM

DE

“ When your Uncle Roger is now your Chemistry teacher and later your Physics teacher, it definitely made for some wonderful memories. Not the most exciting classes, but he made them interesting. In fact, I loved Chemistry! Roger was an incredible teacher and he was willing to go the extra mile to ensure his students were successful. Teaching and storytelling were just a few things he excelled at and he would often mix them together. Sometimes when he brought out the slide projector in class, you never knew when he would slip in a slide of one of us at a Reas clan gathering. He definitely kept it interesting. Students loved him. I remember we threw him an engagement party in our class! Over the next 45 years, Roger and Sharon were always two that I would seek out at family gatherings. They always had a hug and a multitude of stories to share. i will miss your stories Uncle Roger. I can imagine the all stories that you are sharing with those that have gone before you. Hug them for me! Love you. Rest in peace.

Debbie - November 11, 2025 at 03:07 PM

KP

“ This is heartbreaking to read! Roger was a gem and a great teacher! He touched so many lives and will be missed by many! Earth Weeps, Heaven Rejoices!

Kristin Pritzl - November 11, 2025 at 02:14 PM

CM

*Our sympathies to you Sharon and your entire family.
May Roger rest in peace.
Dan and Connie Marsh*

Connie and Dan Marsh - November 12, 2025 at 09:47 PM

DF

Mr. Reas was a great teacher and even greater man. I enjoyed this classes and his stories. I had him for chemistry, physics, and advanced science. He was knowledgeable and very inspiring. It is no coincidence that I had a double major in chemistry and physics at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. He was the main reason for my interest in those subjects. I have used that knowledge to my benefit as a surgeon. He and Sharon were nice enough to come to my wedding in North Dakota and my wife, and I, really appreciated them being there. I know that my father and mother always considered him to be a valuable and trusted colleague and friend. My condolences to Sharon and the family.

Dr. Greg M Frokjer

Dr. Greg M Frokjer - November 13, 2025 at 03:45 PM