

Hugh Kirwan, former principal of Christ the King R.H.S., Middle Village, and resident of Park Ridge, N.J., died Feb. 12, 2006. He was 69.

Born in Manhattan, Kirwan attended Incarnation Elementary School, St. Ann's Academy and St. John's University.

He taught business law and social studies and coached basketball at St. Augustine Diocesan H.S., Park Slope, from 1960-1961.

From 1961-1971, he taught social studies, coached the boys' varsity baseball and basketball teams and then became assistant principal at Mater Christi H.S. (now St. John's Prep), Astoria.

Kirwan joined Christ the King as principal of the girls' division in 1971.

When the school became co-educational in 1973, he was appointed principal and served in that position until he retired in 1996.

The Association of New York Teachers named Kirwan "Educator of the Year" in 1981. The CHSAA honored him in 2000 at its Hall of Fame dinner for his contributions and support of high school athletics.

"Hugh was an exceptional leader of our school, particularly during the transition when the school changed from a diocesan to a private school.

"His patience, loyalty and honor were the hallmarks of his leadership at Christ the King. ... He will be missed by all whose lives he touched," said Senator Serphin R. Maltese, chairman of the Board of Christ the King H.S.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 15 at the Church of the Assumption, Emerson, N.J. Burial was in George Washington Memorial Park, Paramus, N.J.

He is survived by his wife Alice and their four children.