



Robert M. "Bob" Straight

January 8, 1926 - November 10, 2018

Robert M. "Bob" Straight, age 92, of Huntington, died at 10:00 p.m. Saturday, November 10, 2018 at Heritage Pointe of Huntington.

Visitation will be from 1 - 8 p.m. Friday, November 16, 2018 at Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 West Park Drive, Huntington, Indiana. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, November 17, 2018 at Huntington First Church of the Nazarene, 1555 Flaxmill Road, Huntington, Indiana with Rev. Dr. Marti Lundy officiating. Burial will be in Mt. Hope Cemetery in Huntington with military graveside rites performed by VFW Post #2689 of Huntington.

Preferred memorials are to Evangelical United Methodist Church or Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, in care of Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 West Park Drive, Huntington, Indiana, 46750.

Bob was born on January 8, 1926 in Hammond, Indiana, the son of Matthew and Stella (Blackburn) Straight. He began what would become his legacy as an icon in basketball as a talented player at Hammond High School, graduating in 1944. He served in the United States Navy on an LST in the Pacific Theatre during World War II. He studied Education at Ball State University, where he met his wife, Jean M. McCracken. They were married on September 1, 1949. In 1950, he began coaching high school basketball at Earl Park, then Hammond and Highland, landing in Huntington in 1959. With Bob at the helm over the following eight seasons, the Huntington High School boys' basketball team won eight sectionals, four regionals, and a semi-state title. A highlight of his coaching career was leading the 1963-64 team to the state finals game, finishing runner-up. While head coach, he held positions of athletic director and assistant principal. He traded his title as "coach" for "principal" in 1967 upon the opening of the new Huntington North High School, retiring in 1986 after 20 years. While serving as principal, he continued to contribute to the sport becoming a five-term member, and eventually the organization's only three-term president, of the Indiana High School Athletic Association's Board of Control. A 1979 inductee himself, he went on to become President of the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame

and was instrumental during the time the building was moved from Indianapolis to New Castle. The opening ceremony featured then-sitting Vice President Dan Quayle, whom Bob had cut from Huntington basketball during his school years. He also enjoyed his work as chairman of the banquet committee for the HOF for 25 years and served many terms on the HOF Board of Directors. He was president of the Indiana Coaches Association and organized clinics for basketball coaches throughout the country; one of these clinics brought him to meet Bob Knight, who became a close friend. The HOF honored him at a ceremony in 2014 for the many contributions he made to high school basketball throughout his life. In 2015, the Huntington North High School basketball court was named "Bob Straight" court, bearing graphics of his own signature. Bob also enjoyed watching sports, especially basketball. He was a member of Evangelical United Methodist Church in Huntington. He loved spending time with his family and friends, and while winning was great, his favorite thing about coaching was the extended family it gave him.

Survivors include his wife of 69 years, Jean M. Straight of Huntington, daughters Cheryl (Dan) Greene of Franklin, Indiana, Diane (Tim) Miller of Fort Wayne, Beth (Todd) Armstrong of Huntington, a son-in-law, Steve Hurrle of Franklin, 11 grandchildren, and 13 great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents, a daughter, Barb Hurrle, a sister, Doris Couch, a brother, Dick Straight, and a nephew, Rick Straight.

Cemetery

Mt. Hope Cemetery
1700 West Park Drive
Huntington, IN, 46750

Events

NOV 16 Visitation 01:00PM - 08:00PM
Bailey-Love Mortuary
35 West Park Drive, Huntington, IN, US, 46750

NOV 17 Service 11:00AM
Huntington Church of the Nazarene
1555 Flaxmill Rd., Huntington, IN, US

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Bailey-Love Mortuary - November 16, 2018 at 11:42 AM



“ To the entire extended Straight family:

We extend our deepest sympathy.

Tom & Judi Flora

Tom & Judi Flora - November 16, 2018 at 06:11 PM



“ Bob was our coach of the 1952, Earl Park basketball team . I'd like to offer a belated and respected thanks to his family....he was a one of a kind



Don Cherry,Marvin Hembree, Larry Ebel and O - January 06, 2019 at 03:36 PM



“ Our prayers and condolences to the Straight family. Mr. Straight's daughter, Beth, and I were good friends during our high school years when he was the principal at Huntington North. He was a great principal and always so kind. Our deepest sympathies.

Jenny Huesing Stachniak and family

Jennifer Huesing Stachniak - November 22, 2018 at 09:43 AM



“ Condolences to the family. Our firstborn son was named after Coach Straight, And we have the upmost respect for everything he did and stood for!

Hammel family - November 17, 2018 at 02:30 PM



“ What a Wonderful Man!! I never would have made it through High School without him! He was one in a million and there will never be another one like him. I have thought of him so many times since I left school. I always picture him with that sweet smile and he was never too busy to ask me, "How are You?" "Everything o.k.? I will never forget him! My prayers are with all of you!!!

Jane Hale Varney



Jane Hale Varney - November 16, 2018 at 07:06 PM



“ 37 files added to the album LifeTributes



Bailey-Love Mortuary - November 16, 2018 at 10:03 AM



“ I extend my condolences to the family. In the principal, teacher relationship Bob and I marched to the same drummer. There were times we were not in lock step. I have always believed. We had the upmost respected for each other. I felt it an honor to work in his presence. As to his sport of choice, there has been the loss of a powerful steering rudder. Kent Knight, Lexington, KY (Faculty 1966-1986)

Kent Knight - November 15, 2018 at 07:02 PM



“ Marvin & Claudette Bangs lit a candle in memory of Robert M. "Bob" Straight



Marvin & Claudette Bangs - November 15, 2018 at 02:48 PM



“ Always had respect for Bob as teacher, coach. Known as very nice, great contributor to the Huntington community. Was excited to see the semi state winning team as they returned to Huntington! He will be missed. Condolences to the family!

Diana Bonewitz Sell - November 15, 2018 at 09:38 AM



“ Robert Bob Straight was the best at whatever he did. My mother worked for Mr. Straight at the High School, of course my mother thought the world of Coach as well as the rest of our family did. Our families had lots of interaction, time at Webster Lake, their daughter Barb helping me with my decision with my cancer. My brother went to White Sox camp where Coach Straight was a counselor. Robert Straight mentored a lot of young people some he may never know, he is the best of the best RIP Coach Straight. God Bless the Straight Family



Thomas Tallman - November 14, 2018 at 08:08 PM



“ I knew coach straight in 63-65 as a girlfriend to one of his players. At the very start of each basketball season he called a lunchtime meeting with those of us who believed we were girlfriends. Not even sure how that was legal! But I went “representing “ Jim Schoeff. Coach eyeballed each of us. He made it severely clear (at least to me) that we were a pivotal part in the success of his team. He laid out the rules for his men: no driving, home by 9:30 pm(I think), no smoking, no drinking etc. always wear a warm hat. Amazing that it was followed. And it proved successful !

Susie Essig Knust - November 14, 2018 at 06:43 PM



“ To the family of Bob Straight,my thoughts and prayers are with you.



Terry E Scher - November 14, 2018 at 05:40 PM



“ I was truly saddened to hear of coach Straight’s passing this past weekend. I was truly privileged to have played for him that first year of consolidation at Huntington. As often happens, it took several years before I realized how special it was to be part of this team and to have him as my coach that year. It was back in 2005 when my mom passed that coach came to her funeral in Warren. When I saw him, I was overwhelmed with emotion that he would be there during that time honor my mom and to remember me as one of his boys. That encounter brought me on a journey of rediscovering my roots. From that time up through this past spring, I continued to visit with coach (now Bob) each time I would visit my dad in Warren and/or travel home to Warren for other events. I would intentionally stop by both Bob and Marv Tudor homes to have a chat and catch-up. These visits were a true highlight of coming home. Each time that I would stop by, I would remember just how blessed I was to have known and be coached by such a wonderful man. I will truly miss Bob and those times. He was always so happy and pleased to see his boys. He made sure to let us know how special we were to him. May your family be blessed by knowing that coach was truly one of the good (great) guys. Rich Cloud, Viking Basketball, 1966-67

Richard W. Cloud - November 14, 2018 at 03:07 PM



“ Prayers for your family. Mr. Straight was a wonderful person, I was a student at Huntington North HS 1966-1970 the 1st yrs of the new consolidation, it was difficult times and many county school kids had bad attitudes including me! When I met principal Mr. Straight my attitude changed as he treated me with respect and listened to my concerns and gave me excellent advise about class choices and from that day forward we would talk openly about school issues, policies, and sports. Bob always encouraged me to pursue my dream of earning a college degree, which I achieved later in life. I earned a principals degree IPFW 2004. Bob Straight will always be remembered as one of the most respected principals and coaches, but I remember him as a kind person that was so wonderful to talk to. Prayers... Cecil Baker...M-Ed...

Cecil Baker - November 14, 2018 at 12:13 PM



“ My Dad was part of that 1963-1964 basketball team, and we grew up hearing all about Coach Straight, that season, the semi-final game, and the ticker-tape parade they came home to. It's not every day that a Coach is so loved that he remains a part of the players lives long after the glory days have ended. But Coach Straight was that coach. I met him when I was young and he was Principal at Huntington North. My Dad was so excited to introduce me to him and I remember being very much at ease with him. There were reunions and dedications and various other celebrations that kept Coach and his team connected throughout the years. For him to have been so loved by the kids he coached in the 60's, for his name to be a common one in their homes over 50 years later, speaks volumes about the kind of man he was. My condolences to his family, the players who consider him family, and all whose lives he has touched. He will be remembered fondly, and missed greatly.

Pam Pondel (nee Schoeff) - November 14, 2018 at 09:56 AM



“ Mr. Straight was truly a gentleman. He left many memories for people of Huntington. RIP Mr. Straight. Susan (Hiner) Meyer HHS class of 1964

Susan Hiner Meyer - November 14, 2018 at 09:16 AM



“ Pam Pondel (nee Schoeff) lit a candle in memory of Robert M. "Bob" Straight



Pam Pondel (nee Schoeff) - November 14, 2018 at 09:00 AM



“ Nick Miller lit a candle in memory of Robert M. "Bob" Straight



Nick Miller - November 14, 2018 at 12:25 AM



“ A great man who will be missed by all. My husband's mentor who never let anyone down was always there. Coach came to our wedding, Booty's 50 Birthday party and to his viewing when Booty passed. We will never forget him for his loyalty to friends and family. Prayers for Jean and family.

Judy Fahrnow - November 13, 2018 at 11:20 PM



“ Bob Straight was one of the most decent and kind people that I have known. His leadership influenced many of us who were his students and made us better people because of the high standards he set. A life well lived.

Janet Houghton - November 13, 2018 at 04:33 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert M. "Bob" Straight.



November 13, 2018 at 03:28 PM



“ Cathy (Nowels) Anderson lit a candle in memory of Robert M. "Bob" Straight



Cathy (Nowels) Anderson - November 13, 2018 at 02:09 PM



“ In memory of a man who impacted so many lives in such a positive way. I so much enjoyed our interaction, albeit limited, over the years. Ed Holmes (HCHS '63).

Ed Holmes - November 13, 2018 at 01:45 PM



“ I always thought it was so "cool" that one of my best friends, Beth, was the daughter of my high school principal! My condolences to the Straight family.

Jo Anne (Haines) McKinzie - November 13, 2018 at 01:26 PM



“ Huntington North High School Class of 1979



Cathy (Nowels) Anderson - November 13, 2018 at 01:11 PM



“ Linda and I lived and worked at one of Huntington 's funeral homes in the mid 70s to early 80s and while there we witnessed many of Mr. Straights visits to pay his respects to friends and family members of students past and present. What we remember the most was when he came, he never ducked in and out, rather after his visit he would stay and sit and stay, often by himself, giving the bereaved the gift of his time and presence. A rare gesture indeed!
Mike and Linda Urschel

Mike Urschel - November 13, 2018 at 12:53 PM



“ Mr. Straight was a very good Principal. I'm glad I was at HNHS when he served as principal. My deepest sympathy to the family for your loss.

Betsy Boxell Partin (HNHS Class of 1981

Betsy Partin - November 13, 2018 at 12:50 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Robert M. "Bob" Straight.



November 13, 2018 at 11:12 AM



“ I always liked Bob and said if I ever owned a business ,I'd want him to manage it. We traded barbs, had a lot of laughs and enjoyed working for him Rosemary Schoeff

Rosemary Schoeff - November 13, 2018 at 10:06 AM



“ Doug and Ginny Ware purchased the Peace Eternal Wreath for the family of Robert M. "Bob" Straight.



Doug and Ginny Ware - November 13, 2018 at 09:49 AM



“ Doug (HHS 1966) and Ginny Ware purchased the Divine Light for the family of Robert M. "Bob" Straight.



Doug (HHS 1966) and Ginny Ware - November 13, 2018 at 09:37 AM



“ Kathy Harper lit a candle in memory of Robert M. "Bob" Straight



kathy harper - November 13, 2018 at 12:22 AM



“ Bob will certainly be missed...he was a very loved man..sincerely, Kathy lecount harper

kathy harper - November 13, 2018 at 12:22 AM



“ I am a 1966 graduate of HHS. I remember his greatness as a human being. My most memorable time is when he led the Vikings to be State Runner ups in basketball. ..He will be missed <3



Marsha Bonewitz Stolle - November 12, 2018 at 11:30 PM



“ Wonderful person and the best coach ever! Our prayers to his family.. Keith and Rita Disler class of 1965

Keith Disler - November 12, 2018 at 07:06 PM



“ One of the kindest men we have ever known. Always had a smile and a few words to share whenever he saw us. Enjoyed talking to him and Jean at church or whenever we saw them elsewhere. Those who were coached by him were certainly blessed! He will certainly be missed by family, friends and Huntington.

Danny and Lonna Dickey, Fishers



Lonna Dickey - November 12, 2018 at 05:39 PM



“ A greater man, there is known. A 2nd father to me always. My hero forever. Mike Shu

Mike Shumaker - November 12, 2018 at 01:47 PM