



Robert L. Murphy Jr.

May 28, 1935 - August 19, 2022

Robert Lee Murphy, Jr., (also known as Bob or Murf), of Clarion, passed away on Friday, August 19, 2022 at the age of 87. He was born along with his twin sister Carolyn, on May 28, 1935 in East Brady, PA, and was the son of the late Robert Lee Murphy Sr. and Martha Stanley Murphy.

Bob married Janice C. Sloan of New Bethlehem on August 24, 1956. They were 5 days short of celebrating their 66th Anniversary. Together they had seven children.

Bob graduated from East Brady Area High School in 1953, where he participated on four championship basketball teams. He also played baseball and golf. After high school he attended Slippery Rock State College where he played freshman basketball. He then transferred to Clarion State College for the second semester of his freshman year. While at Clarion he participated in basketball, tennis, and baseball for three years. His athletic background from high school and college led him into teaching and coaching. He graduated from Clarion State College in the spring of 1957, and soon after began a 36 year career at Clarion Area Junior Senior High School. He taught junior high science for three years, and driver education for 33, teaching approximately 6,200 students how to drive.

From 1960-1976 he was the Varsity Boy's Basketball Coach. During his tenure, his teams won 246 games and lost 139. His teams won two County Championships and finished second nine times. They also won three District 10 Championships and one Western PA Championship.

Murf started the Clarion High School's golf team in the late 50's and continued to coach them for 33 years. During that time there were 15 State qualifiers, two District 9 individual Boys Champions, one District 9 individual Girls Champion, and three individual State top 10 Champions. There were two District 9 Boys Championship teams and three League Championship teams. His final 17 years at Clarion Area were also spent as Athletic Director where he was in charge of 14 varsity boys and girls teams along with several junior high teams. As a "farewell" gift to the school, he commissioned the building and installation of ten trophy cases in 1993.

In addition to a very rewarding athletic and teaching career, Murf was a member of the P.I.A.A. District 9 Committee for 10 years. During this time he served on the Athletic Directors Executive Council. He assisted with game management of basketball, tennis, baseball, and golf, as well as being responsible for all of the team and individual awards presented to participants. He was also a member of the State Athletic Directors Association for 17 years and a representative to the board of Control of the P.I.A.A. from District 9. He was instrumental in getting District 9 into the playoff system for football.

Murf was an avid golfer with memberships at Mayfield, now Clarion Oaks, and Pinecrest Country Club in Brookville for over 50 years. He loved to compete in matches, tournaments, and scrambles. During his years as a member of Mayfield Golf Course, he won the Men's Championship and Senior Championship. Over the years he was also fortunate to have scored nine holes-in-one.

After his formal retirement in 1993, Bob and his wife Jan enjoyed traveling up and down the east coast from Pennsylvania to Florida visiting family and friends, usually spending winters in central and southwestern areas of the sunshine state. They had developed a love for the sun and sand during 17 years of family vacations on the Outer Banks in North Carolina.

Bob was a member of the Clarion First United Methodist Church for 63 years, where he served as an usher, sang in the choir, and was a member of the church board.

In addition to his wife and sister, Bob is survived by his seven children: Deborah (Mark) Whisner of Clarion; Robert M. Murphy of Sterling, VA; Diana (Bill) Hager of Hawthorn, PA; Brian (Marilee) Murphy of Sterling, VA; Julie (Bill) Brosius of Elverson, PA; Bradley Murphy of Orlando, FL; and Jennifer (David) MacInnes of Bonita Springs, FL. He is also survived by ten grandchildren: Stephanie (Steve Arose) Hager; Briana (David) Hawkins; William (Andrea) Hager; Garret Whisner; Luke Hager; Jacob (Natalie) Brosius; Joseph and Nicholas Brosius; Aidan and Evan MacInnes. He had three great-grandchildren: Lincoln and Charlotte Hawkins and William Hager.

Bob Murphy, known mostly as "Murf," lived a simple life and his philosophy was "Go as long as you can, and as hard as you can! Life is short- play hard! So Be It!"

Family and friends will be received from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 25, 2022 at the Robert V. Burns Funeral Home in Clarion. Additional viewing will be held from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Friday, August 26, 2022 at the Clarion First United Methodist Church where funeral services will follow at 11 a.m. with Rev. John E. Flower presiding.

Interment will take place in the Clarion Cemetery.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Clarion County YMCA, 499 Mayfield Road, Clarion, PA 16214 or to the Clarion First United Methodist Church designated "Living Stones" in memory of Robert Murphy, 600 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214.

Cemetery Details

Clarion Cemetery

Clarion, PA

Previous Events

Viewing

AUG 25. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Robert V. Burns Funeral Home
638 Wood Street
Clarion, PA 16214
(814) 226-6300
<https://www.rvburnsfuneralhome.com>

Viewing

AUG 26. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
600 Wood Street
Clarion, PA 16214

Service

AUG 26. 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
600 Wood Street
Clarion, PA 16214

Tribute Wall



“ Robert V Burns Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Robert L. Murphy Jr.



Robert V Burns Funeral Home - August 24, 2022 at 06:25 PM

RC

“ I came to know Murf when I was the sports director at WWCH in the late sixties. He was always willing to give me some time for interviews and insights into high school basketball. We played together in the Bruno Memorial one year after my wife and I moved to Missouri. I have very fond memories of Bob.

Robert Craig - February 02, 2023 at 03:52 PM

SL

“ My sincere condolences to the family and friends of Bob Murphy. I met Bob about a dozen years ago at Clarion Senior golf league. I enjoyed his company and his many stories. We have missed him for the past few years.

*Sam Leonard
Sarasota*

Sam Leonard - September 06, 2022 at 11:30 PM

KK

“ *Teacher, Coach, and Mentor. We have lots of good memories of Mr. Murphy. I delivered newspaper boy and remember the first time I went to collect. His eyes got wide at the sight of a six-foot-tall 7th grader paper boy. Later he would say that as a basketball player I used to trip over the lines on the basketball court but thanks to him I got better, and we went to the PA Final Four. And even now when Gail and I see an erratic driver who does not know the right of way, we remark “he must not have had Mr. Murphy for Driver’s Ed.” So glad that he cared enough to come to our 55th Class Reunion. A good man and a life well lived. Thank you, Coach.*

Gail and Kendall King

Kendall James King - August 26, 2022 at 12:13 PM

MH

“ *My condolences to the entire family. Coach always believed in me and encouraged me to give it my all. He prepared me for life after high school. That’s a great mentor. May he Rest In Peace.*

Mark Heagerty - August 25, 2022 at 07:27 PM

MA

“ *Rest in Peace Coach Murphy. You were always smiling and patient while you were teaching me to drive. My thoughts and prayers go out to Jan, Debbie, and all of your children and grandchildren.*



Mary Duffy Adams - August 25, 2022 at 11:57 AM

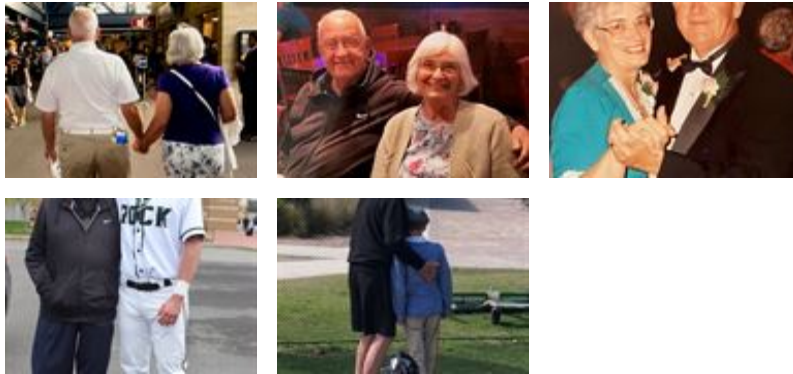
DL

“ My deepest condolences go out the friends, neighbors & family of Mr Murphy. I knew Jan & Bob Murphy for many years. As a Clarion Area graduate; 1989, I recall Bob's hard work & dedication to the many student athletes over the years. Robert L Murphy will always be honored & remembered by the Clarion Area community. - David L Lambert

David L Lambert - August 25, 2022 at 05:10 AM



“ 126 files added to the album LifeTributes



Robert V Burns Funeral Home - August 24, 2022 at 06:22 PM

DM

“ I am sorry to hear of Mr. Murphy's passing. He was a wonderful educator and a good friend of my Dad's. My condolences to all of his family.



Dr Dawn Lavelly Martin - August 24, 2022 at 02:20 PM



“ *Shades of Purple was purchased for the family of Robert L. Murphy Jr..*



August 23, 2022 at 10:04 PM



“ *All my love to the Murphy family. I was one of those many drivers ed students!! I have wonderful memories of him as a teacher and as a great Dad to his 7 children. Diana holding you and your family in my heart.*

Diane Warner-Canova - August 23, 2022 at 08:15 PM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. My deepest sympathy to your family Diane. May God comfort you at this time.*

April Smail - August 23, 2022 at 07:12 PM



“ *Love, Andrea and Anita purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Robert L. Murphy Jr..*



Love, Andrea and Anita - August 23, 2022 at 12:16 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert L. Murphy Jr..



August 23, 2022 at 09:41 AM



“ I'll always think of him when I wear my white belt or when I see a Splenda packet. May he rest in sweet peace. He was a wonderful dad to my dear friend, Brad, who was a wonderful son. I'm glad I got to know Robert Lee Murphy.

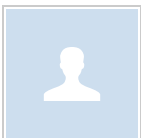
Carol Benanti - August 23, 2022 at 08:55 AM



“ Carol Benanti purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Robert L. Murphy Jr..



Carol Benanti - August 23, 2022 at 08:50 AM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Robert L. Murphy Jr..



August 23, 2022 at 08:47 AM



“ *Healing Tears - Blue and White* was purchased for the family of Robert L. Murphy Jr..



August 22, 2022 at 07:35 PM



“ *I remember on our way to basketball camp at Duke University with the top down in his convertible. This was our senior year. Coach was a Great Guy and a wonderful Coach and Mentor.*

Leon Shingledecker - August 22, 2022 at 07:08 PM



“ *Sorry for your loss.*

Maria Stitt - August 22, 2022 at 03:37 PM



“ *SENDING OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS WIFE & ALL HIS FAMILY!! MAY HE REST IN PEACE!! PRAYERS FOR ALL!!*



Regis & Pat Walters - August 22, 2022 at 01:17 PM



“ *Healing Tears - Blue and White* was purchased for the family of Robert L. Murphy Jr..



August 22, 2022 at 12:07 PM