



Robert "Bob" William Clark

September 9, 1954 - April 17, 2023

In the early morning hours of April 17, 2023, Robert "Bob" William Clark, age 68, passed away at home, after a courageous two-year battle with cancer. Bob was born September 9, 1954, to the late Robert Reid and Norma Cleone (Moore) Clark. Following graduation from Moline High School in Moline, Illinois, Bob continued his education at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan where he earned a Bachelor and Master of Music Education. He studied trombone with Joseph Skrzynski of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Bob was first hired to teach band at Roseville Jr. High School but spent most of his teaching career as the Director of Bands at Port Huron High School from 1983-1998. During his tenure, the PHHS bands actively participated in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) Festivals, earning a total of forty-one first division ratings. In addition, the bands won numerous awards and superior ratings at music festivals in Montreal, Boston, Chicago, Orlando and Nashville. Bob was awarded MSBOA District XVI Band Teacher of the Year in 1992, Port Huron Area Schools Most Influential Educator in 1995, Port Huron High School Essay Contest Teacher of the Year in 1996 and Outstanding Music Educator Award from the Nashville Festival of Music after the bands and color guards won the Grand Champion Award in 1996. He was inducted into the American School Band Directors Association in 1989 and remained an active member until his death. In 1998, Bob was hired as an assistant principal at Rochester High School. He stayed in this position until retirement in 2009. Although his passion was teaching music,

becoming an administrator provided him the opportunity to experience public education from a different perspective. He enjoyed his time in both the Port Huron and Rochester communities. In retirement, Bob had more time to pursue his musical interests. He was a member of the Motor City Brass Band, played in numerous small ensembles, and adjudicated for MSBOA solo and ensemble festivals. He developed a trombone studio with students from several area high schools including Chippewa Valley, Dakota, Eisenhower, and Anchor Bay. He cared deeply about his private students and enjoyed developing personalized lessons. For personal growth, he set a goal of practicing the trombone every day. Bob also loved theater, history, literature, traveling, and Michigan football. Bob was most proud of his family and loved spending time with them. He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Rebecca (Pontti) and two sons, Ben and Russell, who will miss him dearly. Bob was the kind of husband and father who always put others before himself and made sure that his family felt cherished and supported. A public memorial will be held on Thursday, April 27 at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home (8459 Hall Road, Utica, MI.) The memorial visitation will be at 6 PM with a memorial service at 7 PM. Memorial contributions may be directed to the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48201 ~ OR ~ the Motor City Brass Band, 24901 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 312, Southfield Michigan 48075. Please share a memory with his family at www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

APR **27**. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Memorial Service

APR **27**. 7:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors created a Tribute Video in memory of Robert "Bob" William Clark*



Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors - April 30, 2023 at 03:27 PM



“ *Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors created a Robert "Bob" Clark Livestream in memory of Robert "Bob" William Clark*



Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors - April 26, 2023 at 10:03 AM



“ *We were so sorry to hear of Bob's passing. He was one of the many friends who hung out in the lobby of the old Music Bldg. at WSU— fun times, great concerts (Cloverleaf pizza after the concerts, of course), and memorable band tours. Clearly Bob was a greatly influential teacher throughout his career, which is no surprise—his love of music was infectious. Our deepest sympathy to Rebecca and family. RIP, Bob*

Helen and Greg Near

Helen Near - April 27, 2023 at 04:56 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" William Clark.



April 26, 2023 at 11:27 PM



“ Truly enjoyed playing in the Motor City Brass Band with Bob. A great player and truly nice guy. He will be missed my so many.

Greg Burris - April 26, 2023 at 03:56 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" William Clark.



April 26, 2023 at 11:07 AM



“ Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" William Clark.

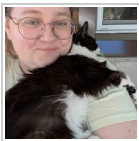


April 24, 2023 at 06:09 PM

SM

“ Bob was such a great man! He hired me for my first teaching job at RHS. He was always supportive. We loved to talk musicals and brass bands and sharing the joys of parenting. I am forever grateful for how he changed the course of my life by making me a falcon. Bob will be missed by so many. Prayer for your family. Savor the memories. 💙

Sarah Miesch - April 21, 2023 at 09:07 PM



“ Being the youngest of four consecutive Big Reds, I met Mr. Clark when I was around 7 years old. Watching my big brothers all march in the BRMM, play in concert band, and play in the jazz band had me convince, band was the cool place to be if you went to PHHS. Mr. Clark will always be remembered by his quick, dry, and sarcastic sense of humour. His hard work and dedication to getting it just right, making it work, and doing anything to help a student catch on to something difficult. He walked the fine line between teacher, mentor, and friend flawlessly. Rest In Peace, Mr. Clark.

Katie Payne - April 21, 2023 at 04:34 PM

YF

“ Your Iroquois Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Robert "Bob" William Clark.



Your Iroquois Family - April 21, 2023 at 08:35 AM

R(

“ Mr. Clark is probably the most influential music teacher I had growing up. He encouraged me to continue playing the clarinet when I was ready to give up after junior high. I still play professionally to this day and it's all thanks to him.

He encouraged me to explore music in any way that spoke to me. This included making arrangements for the jazz and marching bands, starting to write my own tunes, and even trying other instruments. He respected my ideas and believed in me, and for that, I will be forever grateful.

The world just lost a remarkable human being. Rest in peace, Mr. Clark.

Rachel Gorman (Flanigan) - April 20, 2023 at 09:24 PM

KW

“ I was a freshman in HS when Mr. Clark started at PHHS. In four years he taught me more than just notes on a page. I'm grateful for the memories I have from that time, especially a trip to Washington DC and the time we were able to roadtrip to his favorite pizza place in East Detroit. My will be praying for the hearts of those he leaves behind.

Kathi Knox Wheeler - April 20, 2023 at 06:38 PM

AK

“ My condolences. Bob was probably one of my best teachers at PHHS. Will never forget him setting up time for the basketball band geeks to play while on trips. RIP Bob

Andrew Kohl - April 20, 2023 at 03:59 PM



“ *Bob played in both CSO and MCBB which resulted in my getting know him and to enjoy his talent and his professionalism. He could be counted on to have creative ideas and consistent positive support. There were times in rehearsal or performance when something odd or interesting would happen and I could look over at Bob and see he was having the same reaction as I. I miss Bob.*
Craig Strain

Craig Strain - April 20, 2023 at 09:33 AM

JT

“ *Mr. Clark was one of the best teachers I ever had. Most importantly, he believed in his students. He let me join Jazz Band, even when the only instrument i knew was flute - He taught me how to play the trombone, so I didn't have to sit out any pieces. He encouraged everyone to expand their music influences - I'll never forget the time he had us listen to Jethro Tull in class. I'm proud to have known such a great man. My deepest condolences to the family.*
Janet (Bellgraph) Thayer, PHHS class of 1993, BRMM

Janet Thayer - April 20, 2023 at 01:39 AM

T(

“ It's hard to know the words to choose when you have so many memories and have been impacted so significantly by a person. Mr. Clark was my band director for four years in high school. But he wasn't just my band director, he was a trusted and supportive role model. He was there at my father's funeral two years after I graduated. He drove to Indiana to attend my trumpet senior recital during my senior year of college. That's just the kind of guy he was. He cared about more than teaching or music and it was evident. I was a shy, timid kid in high school, but I had a burning passion for music. Mr. Clark saw this and he nurtured it. He saw me, affirmed me, challenged and pushed me in a way that I needed. I truly believe he was part of what inspired me to major in music and become a music educator myself.

One of my favorite memories of Mr. Clark was one summer afternoon when we were having marching band practice before school started up. It was hot and we were all tired. He was looking at his chart and directing band members to different areas on the field labeled by letters. He came over to me and looked down at his chart. With a glint in his eyes, he said, "Hedberg, this is the only time you'll ever hear me say this to you, but go to H."

Mr. Clark, you will be missed and fondly remembered. No doubt you and my dad are having a few good laughs and playing trombone together in Heaven.

Praying God's peace and comfort over your family,

Tanya Eliason (Hedberg)- trumpet BRMM, jazz, and concert bands-
class of 1996

Tanya Eliason (Hedberg) - April 19, 2023 at 10:56 PM

DL

“ I took lessons with Mr. Clark throughout my time in high school. It is so rare to find a teacher so passionate about what they do, and he was an incredible musician as well. Mr. Clark was a great inspiration to me and without his help I most certainly would not be where I am in my musical journey today.
I hope one day I will be able to tell him how much his lessons meant to me.

Drew Lang - April 19, 2023 at 10:37 PM

MS

“ Fondlest memories of “Mr Clark” from PHHS 1992-1996. He was inspirational to me, and was a man and teacher that I looked up to. Truly saddened to hear of his passing. He touched many lives, and I wish peace to his family and friends left behind. Heaven gained one heck of an addition to the low brass section. Looking forward to sitting next to him some day. RIP Mr. Clark

Mike Smith - April 19, 2023 at 09:46 PM

DD

“ I worked with Bob for quite a few years as one of my assistant principals. He was always a good friend and gentleman. He was great with the kids and parents. I remember when Maria Linares passed away I was pretty upset. He brought me into his office and both of us with tears in our eyes and just talked about life in general until I calmed down and stopped crying. He was a great guy to work for. I will miss his Facebook posts about his family and his music.
Rest in peace dear friend!

Donna Dembinski - April 19, 2023 at 08:26 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" William Clark.*



April 19, 2023 at 06:44 PM



“ *Some teachers pass on knowledge, some inspire growth, some demand greatness, but very few can reach you so deep that their lessons reach kids for generations. Bob pushed me harder than any teacher I'd ever had, and in doing so reached my very soul. He showed me how music can touch your soul, can make you feel, and make you grow. He expanded my playlist to include Maynard and Doc, and Duke, as well as Holst, Dvorak and Mussorgsky. As my sons live out their journeys in band and beyond, his lessons to me will continue to inspire greatness. Until we meet again, in the great music hall in the sky, rest in peace Mr. Clark.*

Kevin Harvey - April 19, 2023 at 03:53 PM



“ *Goodbye Mr Clark! A great teacher and friend to all of his students. God rest your soul and thoughts and prayers with your family and loved ones. Dan Morden - tuba and sousaphone BRMM class of 1990.*



Dan Morden - April 19, 2023 at 03:29 PM

WZ

“ Bob was an incredibly dedicated Assistant Principal. I learned so much from him during the years we worked together and I always appreciated his dry sense of humor. There is no doubt that his two favorite things were music and his family. Bob's whole face would light up when talking about Rebecca, Ben and Russell. I hope everyone impacted by this tragic loss is able to be comforted by all the good memories.

Wendy Zdeb - April 19, 2023 at 03:26 PM

MS

“ Memories of The Marching Machine and Mr. Clark are loom large when I think about my time at PHHS. He was a very kind man and had a proud influence in so many of us. May the peace of God be present with his family as they grieve.

Mickey Morris Stinnett - April 19, 2023 at 12:44 PM

MS

Profound..excuse the typo.

Mickey Morris Stinnett - April 19, 2023 at 09:24 PM

MR

“ Bob was the hardest working person at RHS. He was always friendly. He was competant and organized. I enjoyed working with him. Marv Rubin

Marvin D Rubin - April 19, 2023 at 12:41 PM

GC

“ Bob was a great leader and a great man at RHS. I appreciated him very much as I was starting my career in teaching!

Gary Campbell - April 19, 2023 at 12:25 PM

LB

“ *I have lots of great memories of Mr. Clark & the BRMM! He was an inspiration.* ”

Lauri Bombard - April 19, 2023 at 12:19 PM