



Bob Riley

November 13, 1934 - November 7, 2022

Robert ("Bob") Riley of Washington Township passed away unexpectedly on November 7, 2022. He is survived by his wife of almost 63 years Mary Ann (née Brozowski), his children Robert (Amy), Michael (Mary), Elizabeth, David (Jill), grandchildren Jonathan (Lisa), Nicholas, Andrew (Sabrina), Michael (Kelsey), Matthew, Mark, Christopher, Sam and Elise, great-grandchildren Carson, Aaron, Rebecca, Ella, Asher, the late River, Maddie, and Everett, sisters-in-laws Patricia (Richard) Brozowski and Patricia (Robert) Brozowski, and many, many nieces and nephews.

Born on November 13, 1934, Bob was the 11th child of Eva and Thomas Riley. Growing up on the east side of Detroit is where his love of sports began, playing in the streets and in community leagues with lifelong friends Gordie Clark and Denny White. He attended St. Charles Catholic Church and began altar boy service at age 5 (where he recalled that part of his job was to knock on the priest's door to wake him up before service). Bob attended St. Charles High School where he excelled at four sports, earning all-state in recognition in football. Bob was drafted into the Army and served two years at Fort Hood before returning to Michigan, marrying Mary Ann in 1959 and beginning his teaching and coaching career at Benedictine High School in Detroit. In 1965 Bob began his tenure in Utica Community Schools where he served in many roles including teacher, elementary principal (opening Magahay and Ebeling Elementaries), district Athletic Director, and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum before retiring in 1996 (though he continued to

step into various roles in Utica and Romeo as needed). In addition to his career as an educator, Bob also served his community as an elected official for many years on the Romeo Board of Education, Washington Township Board of Trustees and Planning Commission. He also volunteered with the local youth basketball and baseball leagues and served as a board member of the Four County Foundation and the Gerald C Friend Memorial Trust. Bob spent his life serving others and took great pride in the accomplishment of others and especially enjoyed watching his children and grandchildren be successful in their endeavors, on and off the athletic fields. During the later part of his career, he enjoyed traveling to learn about educational programs throughout the world, including Lithuania, Russia, Japan, Australia, China and Korea. He also enjoyed spending summers with family and friends in Bay View, Michigan. Family, friends, and co-workers knew they could always rely on Bob, and he will be profoundly missed. Visitation Sunday from 1-8 pm with a 7 pm Rosary at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Road (3 Blks E. of Van Dyke), Utica. Instate Monday 10:30 am until the time of the Funeral Mass 11 am at St. Clement of Rome Catholic Church, 343 S. Main Street, Romeo. Interment will take place following Mass at Mt. Vernon Cemetery in Washington Township, Michigan. Memorials appreciated to the Gerald C. Friend Memorial Trust, 8459 Hall Road Utica, Michigan. Please share a memory at SullivanFuneralDirectors.com

Cemetery Details

Mt. Vernon Cemetery

28 Mile (near Mt. Vernon)
Washington Township, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 13. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Rosary

NOV 13. 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/>

Visitation

NOV 14. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Clement of Rome Catholic Church
343 S. Main Street
Romeo, MI 48065

Funeral Mass

NOV 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Clement of Rome Catholic Church
343 S. Main Street
Romeo, MI 48065

Burial

NOV 14. 12:30 PM (ET)

Mt. Vernon Cemetery
28 Mile (near Mt. Vernon)
Washington Township, MI

Tribute Wall

NR

“ I am so sorry to have just heard of Bob’s passing. Mr. Rilley was a wonderful person to work for. One of my fondest memories is when the administrators from the UCS Board office came and covered the building I was working at so that the faculty could attend a fellow teacher’s funeral. Mr. Rilley actually covered my counseling secretary position for the entire funeral and luncheon afterwards. He so impressed me with his gentle and kind ways, and he always remembered my name when I would see him A true gentleman and a wonderful father and grandfather. I also had the great privilege of working with his son, Dave, a good number of years throughout my career. I could not have had a better boss. He and his wife raised a wonderful family and what better legacy could you have. My condolences to the entire Rilley family.

Nancy Rutledge - November 21, 2022 at 03:02 PM

NS

“ I am especially saddened to hear this news. Bob was about the nicest administrators I knew at the UCS Board of Education office. It was a pleasure to know him or to deal with him in the course of my job. I'm sorry I didn't know about his passing until now as I happened to see it on the computer. I hadn't been on it for a few days because of a death in my family. Please accept my condolences. My thoughts and prayers go with his family. RIP Bob, heaven awaits you.

Natalie Schaffer, November 16 at 7:00 pm

Natalie Schaffer - November 16, 2022 at 07:21 PM

RF

“ *Mr. Rilley was my Principal at Magahay elementary school back in the late 70's. Last I saw him was at the closing of Magahay in 2010. Even tho I was in elementary, I remember him being kind, helpful and always having a smile on his face. Thank you for the memories Mr Rilley. May you Rest Peacefully in Heaven. Sending prayers to his entire family. He will be missed my many.*

Renee (Stawski) Furlow - November 14, 2022 at 12:56 PM

MC

“ *While I did not know Mr. Rilley personally, I have worked with his son, Dave Rilley, for some time now. Our community owes Mr. Rilley and his wife sincere appreciation for raising such fine children that contribute mightily to the decency and kindness of our community.*

With Kind Regards in your time of loss,

Mark Cummins and Family

Mark Cummins - November 13, 2022 at 05:16 PM

TB

“ *Bob was a great fellow teacher at Jack Harvey Elem., fellow principal and a great boss in the Curriculum Dept. As a coach in the "Y" basketball and as a UCS employee he inspired all of us to do the best for children. He will be missed by all.*

Tom Bodell - November 13, 2022 at 01:49 PM

RW

“ *Extending my sincere sympathy and prayers to the entire Rilley family. It was an honor to know and work with Bob so many years ago.*

Rose Worobec

Rose Worobec - November 13, 2022 at 01:14 PM



I worked with Bob at Jack Harvey School. He was great to work with. Four of us taught fifth grade and worked as a team. I have moved away and cannot attend the service. I offer my sincere sympathy. Jean Stevenson

Jean Stevenson - November 14, 2022 at 08:05 AM

LP

“ *Mr. Rilley has been a dear friend of the Smith family since he & my father joined UCS the year I was born. We were all devastated to hear of his passing.*

Bob was a strong, honorable, highly respected role model-devoted to family, friends & education. He was also one of my dad's best friends and a great support to me throughout my career as a UCS teacher. I will always appreciate what he did for our family throughout Dad's illness (and after), and his friendship will always be treasured. He will be dearly missed and fondly remembered. Sending my condolences & love to the Rilley family and all who were fortunate to know him.

~Lisa (Smith) Prestininzi

Lisa Prestininzi - November 12, 2022 at 10:53 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Bob Riley.*



November 12, 2022 at 01:56 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bob Riley.*



November 12, 2022 at 01:46 AM



“ *Bob Riley thank you for your friendship, kind words, and caring for all of us at UCS. Prayers for his family. Sincerely, Dorothy Busch*

Dorothy Busch - November 11, 2022 at 11:57 PM



“ *We loved sorking with Bob....Art Linda Thomas*

Linda Thomas - November 11, 2022 at 08:01 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Bob Riley.*



November 11, 2022 at 05:46 PM

PC

“ I have wonderful memories of working with Bob...such a kind man, always sincere when he spoke to you. One memory that will always stay in my mind is, when I was setting up my classroom for the coming year and I had a surprise visit from Bob. He sat down at my desk and just started with some pleasant small talk. He told me that it was time I took on an administrative role and consider becoming a principal. I had some hesitation as I still had a teen attending school. So, he came back the next day and I believed his assuring words and smile to lead me into that direction. Thank you, Bob for helping me to make a most wonderful decision.

May God Bless him and all of his family:-)

Patti

Patti Connors - November 11, 2022 at 05:42 PM

JS

“ Bob Rilley was always a great leader in Utica Schools. He was also “Red Leader” with Susan Meyer and Joyce Spade in chaperoning high school students to Russia, two summers to the USSR ! Thank you Bob, for all the care you took of both groups and for the People-To-People memories . We love and miss you. Hugs to all in his family. Joyce Spade

Joyce Spade - November 11, 2022 at 03:47 PM

BF

“ Barbara King and Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Bob Rilley.



Barbara King and Family - November 11, 2022 at 12:09 PM

JS

“ *Joan, Mark, Lisa, and Brad Smith purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Bob Riley.*



Joan, Mark, Lisa, and Brad Smith - November 11, 2022 at 09:50 AM

JS

“ *My wonderful memories of Bob go back over 50 years when he and Larry became friends as the new "rookies" at UCS.*

More recently, during Larry's last illness, it was Bob's daily phone calls that would get a laugh or a smile from a bit of news he would share to keep Larry "in the loop".

During these past three years, he has continued his phone calls. He became the glue that would keep me "in the loop", the shoulder to cry on, the string that tied all our wonderful memories close to my heart.

He made this world a better place and he will be profoundly missed by our family. Rest in peace my dear friend.

Joan Smith and family

Joan Smith - November 11, 2022 at 09:35 AM

BL

“ *Betty Lake lit a candle in memory of Bob Riley*



Betty Lake - November 11, 2022 at 07:18 AM

BL

Mr. Riley was one person who listened and helped the UCS Busdrivers. A very kind and thoughtful man. My condolences to his family.

Betty Lake - November 11, 2022 at 07:20 AM

BS

“ *Mr. Riley meant so much to us growing up; maybe more so when Dad was sick, and then after he passed.*

He called Dad every day, to check up on him. Not only did this mean the world to Dad, it helped Mom get through it all. He continued to call, checking up on Mom.

Mr. Riley was a solid friend, a great asset to the Utica Schools, and a role model for all to follow.

Brad Smith - November 10, 2022 at 08:35 PM

KD

“ *Kitty and Denny Delaney purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Bob Riley.*



Kitty and Denny Delaney - November 10, 2022 at 06:21 PM



“ *Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of Bob Rilley.*



November 10, 2022 at 06:10 PM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Bob Rilley.*



November 10, 2022 at 04:47 PM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Bob Rilley.*



November 10, 2022 at 04:09 PM



“ *Mr. Rilley was such a kind man. I first met him when I subbed at the Board Office in Pupil Services. He would stop by frequently (particularly when Larry Smith was in a meeting or out of the building) to make sure I was doing o.k. or had any questions. He was always so encouraging and friendly. Sending my condolences to his family. Barbara Bindle*

Barbara Bindle - November 10, 2022 at 04:02 PM

BB

Sending thoughts and prayers to the Rilley family. Mr. Rilley was an amazing Administrator.

Barbara Bair - November 10, 2022 at 04:12 PM

MB

Bob Rilley was one of the kindest and caring men at UCS. He always had a smile for everyone. My prayers and thoughts are with the Rilley family at this sad and difficult time.

*Maureen Brown
Human Resources*

Maureen Brown - November 10, 2022 at 06:30 PM

DA

“ Mr. Rilley was my Principal at Magahay way back when. And I had the opportunity to see him at the closing of the school. Sending prayers to his family.

Debbie Aiuto - November 10, 2022 at 03:43 PM

DT

“ I enjoyed working with Bob and his friendship. He was honest and trustworthy and always would find time to visit. His devotion to the community was outstanding. We have lost a good person. Prayers to the family.

Dave Turrel

Dave Turrel - November 10, 2022 at 03:35 PM

PY

“ Bob was a “lighthouse” for me in our Utica years. He was always there when you needed him, providing guidance and a beacon of light to show the way. He will be missed!

Paul Yelensky - November 10, 2022 at 03:31 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Bob Riley.* ”



November 10, 2022 at 01:38 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Bob Riley.* ”



November 10, 2022 at 11:27 AM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Bob Riley.* ”



November 10, 2022 at 08:07 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bob Riley.* ”



November 09, 2022 at 06:06 PM

RL

“ *Richard, Joellen, Paul and Patty LaBaere purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Bob Riley.*



Richard, Joellen, Paul and Patty LaBaere - November 09, 2022 at 04:27 PM