



J. Robert Ford

November 19, 2017

J. Robert "Bob" Ford

Most loved J. Robert Ford, 83, of Lehigh Acres, FL and West Hartford, CT died peacefully on Sunday, November 19, 2017 in West Hartford.

Born on April 9, 1934, Bob was the oldest son of the late John and Eva (Bonci) Ford. He was born and grew up in Palmer, MA. His brother Thomas Ford of Granby, MA, predeceased him.

Bob leaves Shirley (Maziarz), his loving wife of 61 years, and 3 devoted children and their families: Thomas and Donna Ford of Glastonbury, CT children, Matthew, Michael and Emily; Robert and Stephanie Ford of Berlin, CT children, Robert and Lamara Ford, Brian and Julia; Shannon and Michael Brennan of Leesburg, VA children, Michael and Sean. He also leaves his sister Joanne and Thomas Styspeck of Hadley, MA. He leaves brothers and sisters-in-laws Stephen and Gail Maziarz, Joan and Austin Sweet, Elizabeth and Thomas Terault, countless nieces and nephews along with many devoted dear friends.

Bob graduated in 1951 from Palmer High School where he met his beloved Shirley and they eventually married in 1956. He graduated from Wilbraham & Monson Academy in 1952 and then attended American International College

in Springfield, MA where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1956. He received his Master's of Education Degree from the State College at Bridgewater, MA in 1962. Bob played baseball in college and was a highly respected southpaw. Upon graduation, he was a talent scout for The Boston Red Sox and The Philadelphia Phillies. He started his career as a teacher at Norton High School in MA where he also coached both basketball and baseball and served as the Chairman of the Social Science Department. Bob moved his young family in 1965 to become the Assistant Principal of Glastonbury High School in CT. In 1976 he became the Principal of Ellington High School where he eventually retired in 1992. He served on several state evaluation committees for academics and was a high school basketball official throughout Southeastern MA and CT into his 40's. He served for 18 years as the Chair of the Boys Basketball Tournament Committee for the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference. Upon retirement as a principal, he became the Director of Development for the CT Association of Schools in 1992 until his eventual retirement in 2008.

Bob was a long time member of TPC River Highlands where he was an avid golfer shooting his age multiple times also winning numerous club championships. He loved to travel and was a passionate reader. Most of all, in addition to his family, he loved his friends.

Funeral services will be December 16th at 10am at St. Thomas the Apostle Church on 872 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, CT followed by a celebration of Bob's life at The TPC River Highlands at noon.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to The American Cancer Society by calling 1-800-227-2345.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

DEC **16**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Thomas the Apostle
872 Farmington Ave.
West Hartford, CT
(860) 233-8269

Tribute Wall

RG

“ Bob and I met 24 years ago, when I started at the TPC. He was always friendly and upbeat, always asking about you and what you were up too. Bob gave me a job one winter working the CIAC basketball games assisting the sponsors at games. It was very enjoyable,
Bob was a great person to know and enjoy in all those years

Ron Gilmore

Ron Gilmore - December 16, 2017 at 11:37 AM

YM

“ your friends at Admill Machine purchased the Sapphire Skies Bouquet for the family of J. Robert Ford.



your friends at Admill Machine - December 14, 2017 at 03:34 PM

JS

“ In 1974 Bob took a chance on me and hired me as a first-year English teacher at Glastonbury High School. He also introduced me to the ABC House program, a startup venture taking shape that same year, and where I served as the program's first resident director for the next 2 academic years. Needless to say, Bob helped to launch both my professional career and my exposure to a great community and many of its most selfless, inspiring leaders. I will be ever grateful for his vision and support in those early, formative years.

Jim Schepker - December 11, 2017 at 09:22 AM

BJ

“ Shirley & Family,

I was greatly saddened to hear about your loss of Bob. He was a great educator and advocate for students in Ellington and throughout the state of Connecticut. His leadership at CIAC and as the long time chair of the Boys' Basketball Committee will always be remembered by all of us who had the opportunity to work with Bob.

As a new assistant principal and later as a high school principal I appreciated his interest and guidance in my career. He enriched the lives of all of us who had the opportunity to be part of his life.

While we can not be present to pay our respects, please know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

*Bob & Kathy Johnson
Centerville, MA.
Venice , Florida*

Bob & Kathy Johnson - December 09, 2017 at 09:02 AM

NH

“ We will always remember Bob as one terrific teacher at Norton High who genuinely cared about his students. He inspired me to love ancient history throughout my life and for that I am grateful. I am greatly saddened to learn of his passing. My sincere sympathy to his family.

*Nancy Camara Hamilton
Class of 1961 NHS*



Nancy Camara Hamilton - December 04, 2017 at 06:14 PM