



Robert S. O'Brien

July 22, 2021

Robert Stephen O'Brien ("OBie"), died on July 22nd after a brief illness. Born in New Haven on April 29, 1930 to Stephen and Cathleen O'Brien, Bob graduated from Hopkins School in New Haven and earned BA and MA degrees in the Classics from Trinity College. Following college he married Elizabeth ("Ceil") Reidy, his wife of 51 years, and moved to Las Vegas to serve in the Air Force for two years. In 1955 Bob joined the faculty of Kingswood School (later, Kingswood Oxford) and taught Latin, Greek and sometimes Spanish for 40 years and ultimately served as Chairperson of the Classics Department. He did the impossible - made Latin fun and exciting utilizing his legendary humor and storytelling skills. He also served as the head varsity coach for baseball for 30 years and varsity/jv basketball for 20 years and assistant varsity coach for football for 25 years. He was inducted into the Kingswood Oxford Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007. Bob also was the head coach for West Hartford's American Legion baseball team for many years and brought the team to the Legion's World Series in Idaho in 1973, an event recorded in the Baseball Hall of Fame, and for which he was awarded the West Hartford Outstanding Citizen award. His wife Ceil died after a long illness in 2003 and a few years later he married Victoria Roy and they wintered in Gulfport, FL for several years during which time he golfed, joined a shuffleboard league, wrote short stories and tutored, until she predeceased him. Bob moved back to West Hartford to live with his dear son Steve who sadly, died suddenly in 2017. Bob adopted Steve's dog Bubba and the two

lived comfortably together for four years, enjoying their walks together, listening to audio books and music and watching the Mets, Giants and UCONN games before Bob succumbed to a brief illness at age 91. Described as “a gentleman and a scholar”, Bob was a lifetime learner and coach, mentoring young people and taking Italian lessons well into his eighties. His grace, quiet strength, integrity, humility, humor and intellect were well-known and appreciated by all, especially his children and grandchildren who loved his endless storytelling and corny jokes. He is survived by his daughter Jane O’Brien and husband Alec Finley of Needham, MA, daughter Bobbie Stimpson and husband Al of Simsbury, grandchildren Katie Kelley, Chris O’Brien and wife Colleen, John Kelley, Tim Stimpson and wife Maggie, Garret Stimpson and wife Liane, Drew Stimpson, Ted Stimpson, Graham Finley, and Gennie Stimpson, and great grandchildren Lily Skinner, Harper Stimpson and Carter, Cam and Kaylee O’Brien, who all miss their Papa terribly already and will remember him always. Papa is their one of a kind treasure. A gathering of family and friends will be held at Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave., West Hartford from 4:00 to 8:00 on Thursday, July 29th. A funeral mass will be held on July 30th at 10:00 at St. Peter Claver Church, 47 Pleasant St., West Hartford. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Kingswood Oxford School to fund a scholarship in Bob’s name and improvements to sports facilities. Directions and online expressions of sympathy may be made at www.molloyfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Fairview Cemetery

200 Whitman Ave.
West Hartford, CT

Previous Events

Calling Hours

JUL **29.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home
906 Farmington Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06119
(860) 232-1322

Mass of Christian Burial

JUL **30.** 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Peter Claver Church
47 Pleasant St.
West Hartford, CT 06107

Tribute Wall



“ *Molloy Funeral Home created a Funeral Mass Stream in memory of Robert S. O'Brien*



Molloy Funeral Home - July 26, 2021 at 02:08 PM

TR

“ *OB was a great coach, teacher, mentor and friend. A number of us K-O types traveled many roads to many games and shared adventures both large and small with OB. He was unfailing in his steadfastness, grace, modesty and humor. He taught us many life lessons about what was important in this world and stood as a model for all of us as a man of integrity, commitment and loyalty to friend and family alike. Thank you OB for the gift of your wisdom and caring. We will miss you.*

*With deep gratitude and love,
Tommy Redden*

Tom Redden - July 29, 2021 at 09:36 PM

LW

“ Our prayers go out to your family. We only know of Robert O’Brien through his daughter Jane. All of his grand children will continue to be blessed by having had a grandparent who was also a teacher. Those memories will last forever.

Lorraine and Bernard
Wellesley Breakfast Group

Lorraine Payne Wheeler - July 29, 2021 at 06:22 AM

BS

“ Bob was a great colleague and a true Wyvern from the moment he began his career at Kingswood- later, Kingswood Oxford School. He was respected by all. He showed true dedication, commitment and enthusiasm for teaching and coaching. I have fond memories of a fairly recent trip with him & other veteran faculty to Boston for an alumni reception. We shared some fond memories as well at the KO Gala in December of 2019. My deepest sympathy... 🙏
Brenda Semmelrock
KO Faculty

Brenda Semmelrock - July 27, 2021 at 12:51 PM

TB

Bob O'Brien was the best baseball coach I played for. I was a member of the 1973 and 1974 West Hartford Legion teams. He was so organized in every aspect and had a sixth sense about putting players in the right position and in the right order. We were 39-10-2 in 1973, including 10-2 in the post season. One of the most respect coaches I have been around. And he made it fun. He always made his signs easy to remember. The sign for the pickoff steal?....he would pick his nose. Lol. Wonderful person.

Tim Bourret - July 27, 2021 at 09:01 PM

BO

*O'B was a wonderful coach, a scholar and a true gentleman.
Condolences to his family.*
Bob O'Brien

Bob O'Brien - July 28, 2021 at 08:39 PM

FF

Bob was a colleague of my father, and a mentor to me. He was a "one of a kind" -- smart, wryly funny, empathetic, dedicated and loyal. He touched many lives in many ways, and we are all better for having had him in our lives. Thanks, OBie.

Fritz Farquhar - July 30, 2021 at 04:27 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert S. O'Brien.*



July 26, 2021 at 05:04 PM