



Robert Louis Binette

September 17, 1930 - July 20, 2022

The Bear

Robert Louis Binette passed on to be with the Lord on July 20th, 2022. Known as 'The Bear' Bob Binette went home to be with the Lord in his Northwood's home in Lake Tomahawk, WI while he was napping. He was 2 months away from his 92nd birthday. He is survived by the love of his life, his wife Charlotte Binette. Bob and Char were married for 71 years, an amazing example of true love and commitment. He is also survived by his three children Gary, Jeff and Craig. He was blessed to be a part of the lives of six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. He was their devoted Papa Bear and he cherished every moment of it.

Bob was the youngest of two children from Louis and Marie Binette. He was born on September 17, 1930 in Harvey, IL. He spent his childhood years in Hazelcrest, IL and went to high school at Thornton Township High School. Bob excelled at both football and basketball in high school and received a scholarship from Drake University to play football. The four years he spent at Drake as a tight end earned him the nickname of T.D. Binette and All American status his senior year. His hard work and excellence on the field earned him a leadership role on the team. In his last two seasons he shared a Co-Captain status on the team with his best friend and unanimous first team All American Johnny Bright. Bob married his high school sweetheart Charlotte Fredrick on August 18, 1951 so he could bring her to Des Moines for his senior year at Drake. They moved back to Illinois shortly after his graduation.

Bob and Char both focused their passions on the field of education. Bob chose to utilize his gifts as a coach at Hillcrest High School. As the head coach at Hillcrest he created one of the most successful high school football programs in the state of IL. There were two back to back seasons in the early 1970's in which Hillcrest high school remained undefeated until the famous HF/Hillcrest battle for state playoffs in 1975. It was during this tenure at Hillcrest when the endearing nickname 'The Bear' became an appropriate fit. After his successful tenure as a teacher and coach he took a sabbatical break returning to College and earned his Master's Degree at Indiana State University. He went on to become an Athletic Director at Bremen high school before retiring at the young age of 55 years. Most of their retirement years were spent in Lake Tomahawk and travelling to Chicago, San Diego and Atlanta to visit their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

If all the stories about the Bear could be summed up in one sitting the traits of his character would weave a common theme. He was a self-determined man who did things his way. He believed in the integrity of a handshake to solidify an agreement. He believed in the ethics of hard work and delayed gratification. He was trustworthy and loyal and expected as much from those he loved. His ambitions drove him to be successful in all of his endeavors and naturally provided him with ample opportunity to be a leader and mentor to so many. He was well respected by his family, his peers and in the community. His charisma was magnetic; he could light up a room with his outgoing personality and bright blue eyes. And if you could coax him into singing he would steal the show. He lived life in full fashion, with gusto and passion. He was larger than life. But the real beauty of his character was his huge heart. His love and compassion for family and friends was deep and unrelenting. You could always receive a big bear hug whenever you just wanted it or needed it. You always knew how much he loved you. He was our HERO. We love you Papa Bear. You will always be with us.

If you feel compelled, we are recommending donations go to the HYF Lakeland Food Pantry, P.O. Box 470, Woodruff, WI 54568.

Tribute Wall

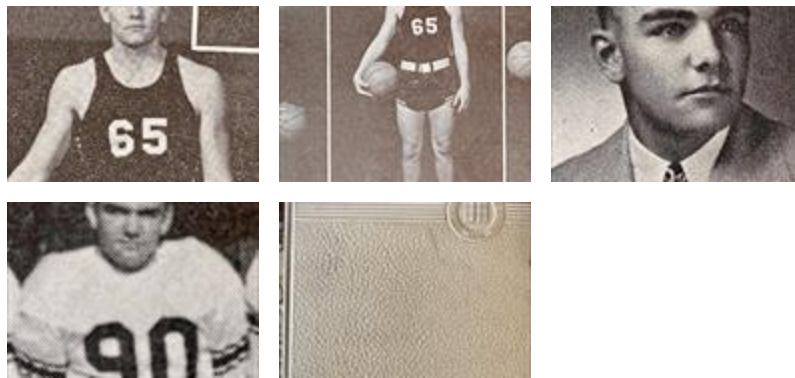
LG

“ I remember Bob as someone who brightened my day each time I saw him. When he learned our son was going to UW-Madison, he brought in a Wisconsin baseball cap for me to wear when I visited (and I have it yet today). He was always quick with a smile and a positive comment. Truly a wonderful role model for everyone.
Lloyd Glynn

Lloyd Glynn - July 29, 2022 at 08:20 PM

PP

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Paul Pelke - July 27, 2022 at 10:35 AM

DD

“ Coach Binette was bigger than life to us students... he was a man's man. God speed coach!



danny dilallo - July 26, 2022 at 06:47 PM