



Robert Kerns

January 11, 1931 - November 15, 2020

Robert "Bob" P. Kerns (Doc), age 89, of Valparaiso, IN passed away on Sunday, November 15, 2020. He was born on January 11, 1931 in Valparaiso, IN to Paul Lewis and Oletha Mable (Sands) Kerns.

Bob played college football at Valparaiso University, where he earned a Bachelor Degree in Education. After graduation he served in the Armed Forces from 1953-1955, he was stationed in Germany and worked as an office clerk. When he returned home he married the love of his life, Marie Edman, on August 22, 1955 at Liberty Bible Church, where he was a charter member. He served as Sunday School Superintendent, a Deacon, and was on other numerous committees. He and his wife, Marie, loved cooking and catering for many large events. He completed his Masters Degree in Education at Indiana University. He also took classes in Athletic Training. He worked at Portage High School from 1956 until he retired in 1990. During these years at Portage he started by teaching math and being an assistance football coach and Jr. high basketball coach. In the early 1970's he became one of the first high school athletic trainers in Indiana which led to his induction into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame. In 1988 he served as one of the Athletic Trainers for the Indiana All-Star football game. He also served for over five years as an NATABOC practical test examiner. After Bob retired from teaching, he and Marie owned and operated Wild Birds Unlimited in Valparaiso for seven years.

Bob is survived by his beloved wife of 65 years, Marie Kerns; children, Cheryll (Dennis) Gamauf, Randy (Denise) Kerns, James (Amy) Kerns and Karen Montuori; grandchildren, Joshua (Shannon) Johnston, Lindsay (Jim) Green, Michael Johnston, Jessica (Rocco) Calipari, Christopher (Amanda) Kerns, Cassandra Kerns, Christine (Brennen) Hvezda, Ashley (Sean) Antell Jr, Shelina (Ryan) Samanas, Josiah Ketterman, Elizabeth (John) Maddox and James Ketterman; and 18 great grandchildren.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, November 21, 2020 from 9:00 am until 11:00 am at Liberty Bible Church, 824 N. Calumet Rd., Chesterton, IN 46304. Funeral Service will begin at 11:00 am at the church with Pastor Darrell Crots officiating. Burial will follow

services at Graceland Cemetery in Valparaiso, IN. Edmonds & Evans Funeral Home of Chesterton, IN entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.ee-fh.com.

Events

NOV **Visitation** 09:00AM - 11:00AM

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Liberty Bible Church

824 N Calumet Ave, Chesterton, IN, US, 46304

NOV **Service** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

21

Liberty Bible Church

824 N. Calumet Ave, Chesterton, IN, US, 46304

Comments



“ Bob was an outstanding athletic trainer and mentored to so many young ATs over the years. I first met him when he was an examiner for the BOC back in the 1970's. As a Hall of Fame member of the Indiana Athletic Trainers' Association, he will be greatly missed by his AT colleagues but his contributions to the athletic training profession will long be remembered and honored. So sorry for your loss Kerns family.

Marion Vruggink
West Lafayette, Indiana

Marion Vruggink - January 08 at 01:02 PM



“ Thank you Marion

Karen Montuori - January 11 at 05:57 PM



“ Doc was the one and only “Doc”! I was so proud to say that my high school had an athletic trainer – Doc Kerns, the best in the state! I entered high school at the beginning of the girl’s participation in the IHSAA tournaments. Often in the training room for my ankle or even a hug, he reminded the boys that ladies were present and should act accordingly. He always had a smile and an encouraging word whether in the training room, in class, or anywhere I saw him. I was fortunate to be able to see him most of my life as I came back to Portage to teach. I have fond memories of him catering my rehearsal dinner. He sold me birdseed after he retired. My heart hurts after learning he has left us. Deepest sympathies to his family and loved ones. I was blessed to have him in my life.

Cheryl Kovalow Girman

Cheryl Kovalow Girman - November 23, 2020 at 05:53 PM



“ Doc was a great colleague at Portage High. My favorite memories of him have nothing to do with athletics. He was also a great cook. He catered journalism banquets for us several times, working out of makeshift quarters in the teachers' dining room at PHS with school permission. His creations always got raves from students and parents alike. He always had a twinkle eye in his eye, and I enjoyed getting to know this side of him.

Debbie Heitmann
Educator

Debra Heitmann - November 23, 2020 at 09:47 AM



“ I was lucky enough to have "Doc" in my life from junior high school to the present day. He was my 8th grade math teacher and my 8th grade basketball coach. He was a member of the Portage High School football staff and I played football for Portage. Even back then we called him "Doc". He was the one we went to for any injury. After college I returned to Portage to teach. I taught math with him at Portage High School. He was also in a group of former teachers who had breakfast once a month. What a great guy. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.

Jim Samuel

Jim Samuel - November 22, 2020 at 12:01 PM



“ Thanks for your kind words Jim. Dad spoke of you often. Peace

Randy kerns - November 22, 2020 at 05:26 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers to the Kerns family during this difficult time. Doc was such a positive influence to everyone around him.

My memories of seeing Doc for treatment on Saturday mornings in the old Portage High School training room after a tough Friday night football game are priceless. Doc and Les Klein would discuss the game over a cup of coffee. Doc would provide the needed treatment and always would end on a positive note "You'll be all right". Doc was right and now all these years later when someone mentions the word "trainer" I picture and think of Doc Kerns.

God Bless you Robert "Doc" Kerns.

Mike Wishnevski

Mike Wishnevski - November 21, 2020 at 01:59 PM



“ Mike. Thanks for your kind words. Glad dad had a positive on your life. Be safe

Randy kerns - November 22, 2020 at 05:27 PM



“ Doc Bob Kerns was very dedicated teacher, coach and athletic trainer at Portage High School. I had the pleasure of working with Bob and observing his outstanding contributions that he made to the youth of Portage. May He Rest In Peace.

Bob Mattix

Bob Mattix - November 20, 2020 at 10:52 PM



“ Sotirios & Lefkie Bakas purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Robert Kerns.



Sotirios & Lefkie Bakas - November 20, 2020 at 03:05 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Robert Kerns.



November 20, 2020 at 01:33 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Robert Kerns.



November 20, 2020 at 10:08 AM



“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Robert Kerns.



November 19, 2020 at 09:37 PM



“ Mr. Kerns was a beloved teacher, coach, and mentor at PHS. His warm heart, dedication to his students and love of the game made one of the best. Sorry for your loss.

Jo Ann Nellessen - November 19, 2020 at 05:51 PM



“ Thank you Jo Ann, I appreciate your kind words. Dad will be missed by many

Karen Montuori - November 24, 2020 at 10:27 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Kerns.



November 19, 2020 at 03:17 PM



“ Alice Butrym lit a candle in memory of Robert Kerns



Alice Butrym - November 19, 2020 at 01:54 PM