



Robert L. Wadsworth

January 20, 1938 - January 20, 2019

CROWN POINT, IN - Robert L. Wadsworth left his loving family on his 81st birthday. A year ago, family, friends and co-workers gathered to celebrate this man who has left an indelible and precious mark on many throughout his rich and engaged life.

Bob truly lived life on his own terms, and he worked day and night until his last days, exactly as he wanted. The last days were hard and it took some time to discover that he had MDS but he was surrounded by family every moment. Bob promoted the value of celebrations as a way to bring together family, friends and strangers to create and strengthen lifelong bonds. We are forever grateful to this man -- our legend -- who grabbed life and took all of us along for the ride.

Born in 1938 as a twin, Bob lived his formative years in Dixon, IL, where extended family relationships were critical to his upbringing. At the start of high school, the family moved to Evanston, IL, where he met his wife, Mary. After graduation, he attended University of Illinois and Northwestern before landing with Berry Tire. He managed the Blue Island location until his retirement in 1997, Bob would not stop, He launched his own business, Innovative Energy, and served as the President of Reflective Insulation Manufacturers Association International. In addition to manufacturing building insulation, the company produces insulated packaging for many common household and commercial deliveries.

Bob and his wife, Mary, raised multiple families. They had their own

daughters, provided a loving and fun home to foster children, adopted and supported their own grandchildren, and provided shelter to numerous friends needing a temporary home. Together, they touched many lives in the best ways possible.

As Bob would acknowledge, though, he was not without his faults, some endearing while others not so much. He loved debating, whether it was books, politics, religion or his latest food discovery. If you ever needed a product review, Bob was your go-to guy as he was incapable of not buying the latest gadgets. His explosive bursts of anger and language could set you back and leave you shaken. But his capacity for forgiveness was unmatched. When you were frozen by fear, anxiety or complicated relationships, Bob had the gift so few people have: the ability to listen, ask the right questions and support you as you worked your way through your dilemma.

Guests in his home were guaranteed a drink, whether it was fresh brewed coffee, an excellent glass of wine, or an ice cold martini. On Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends, his farm became a gathering place for almost 40 years where family and friends ate like kings and queens, played games, watched movies and screamed "Ooh" and "Aah" at his awesome fireworks displays. Outside of his home, Bob traveled extensively throughout the world for pleasure and work.

Bob leaves behind his wife of 59 years, Mary, of Mundelein, IL and Crown Point, IN; sisters Lou Crosby of Montreal, WI and Sue (Ross) Olmos of Ocala, FL; daughters Laura (John) Mellon of Mundelein, Whitney (Jonathon) Hagarbome of Crown Point, and Amanda Wadsworth of San Diego; grandchildren Jacob Castellanos of Virginia Beach; Liam Mellon of Mundelein, Mallory Mellon of Kenosha, WI, and Abby Woods of San Diego; great grandchildren Maximus and Stella Hagarbome of Crown Point, and a multitude of nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Roger, daughter Carol, and special aunts and uncles.

Visitation will be held from 1-5PM Sat., Jan. 26 at Burns Funeral Home 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, IN 46307. A private family celebration will be held on

Memorial Day weekend. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to www.learningforum.org to aid in a scholarship for a child to go to Super Camp. This is something Bob believed in and sent many children to attend.

Previous Events

Time of Sharing

JAN **26**. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point

10101 Broadway

Crown Point, IN 46307

(219) 769-0044

info@burnsfuneral.com

<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Tribute Wall

AG

“ I first met Bob when I was 14. He coached my brother Craig's church basketball team and I rode along every week because of a crush I had on another player, Rob Milburn. Bob introduced me to a bantering, comedic, affectionate side of male relationships I hadn't ever seen before. But he always operated with loving kindness towards everyone. His model served me well in later years when I became a roofing contractor and worked solely with men. He had a personal incisiveness mixed with affection that made for wonderful times in Crown Point. I got to have dinners Mary made at their farm when I went to see the solar greenhouse my other brother had made for them. A mentor to Craig with his mirror business and other escapades, he had a rare talent of caring and speaking personally and yet thought provokingly to everyone he spoke with. A gem of a man - what a difference he made for us. Rest in peace - you will be missed. Anita (Imler) Goss

Anita Goss - January 31, 2019 at 11:19 AM

CI

“Unbelievably, I knew Bob for 50 years. He coached our church league basketball team which became a family affair with Laura and Carol cheerleading and treats for the team from Mary. Their house was always open for young people, laughter, and frank discussions. Later Mary and Bob helped Rob and I start our painting business to get through college. A few years later my brother and I, and John McVea helped with the construction of the solar greenhouse on the farm and the beginnings of Innovative Energy. Bob and Mary were always welcoming to all, a great sense of humor, and always an extra plate if anyone happened, repeatedly, to show up just as Mary’s home-cooking was being served. Bob always exclaimed, “How do you do that? How do you know right when we are serving dinner?” Bob is someone who has enriched my life and I’m proud to have called him over the years: Coach, Mentor, Business partner, and especially Friend. A life fully-lived with deep gratitude, Rest in Peace- Craig Imler

Craig W Imler - January 27, 2019 at 06:40 AM

KB

“Kathyn and Ray Berry purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Robert L. Wadsworth.



Kathyn and Ray Berry - January 25, 2019 at 05:23 PM

RB

“ *Bob was a loyal, hard working employee for our family business, Berry Tire Co., for over 35 years. He implemented many profitable ideas into our business. In addition he became a close friend and we enjoyed each other's company during our many years together. He always found the bright side of every situation. Our sincere condolences to Mary and family. Kathryn and Ray Berry*

Ray Berry - January 25, 2019 at 05:12 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Robert L. Wadsworth.*



January 25, 2019 at 01:35 PM

DE

“ I met Bob in 1964 when he became the Goodyear rep for American Tire. He encouraged me to apply to Berry Tire for a position that had greater potential based on the abilities he saw in me. Bob was always a mentor for me. He was the greatest influence in my life outside of my immediate family. Bob and I have been friends for over 50 years. We never had a serious disagreement. I always respected him and his ability to get things done. I saw Bob in early December and enjoyed lunch with him. He looked great but said he had reached the point where he needed to slow down. He was planning to give his son-in-law more responsibility to ease his own work load. I will miss Bob and his friendship. My wife Pat and I took several trips with Bob and Mary and she will also miss him. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mary and the Wadsworth Family. In lieu of flowers, a donation was made to Super Camp as the family has requested.

Dan & Pat Eugene

Daniel Eugene - January 25, 2019 at 12:37 PM



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



January 25, 2019 at 11:19 AM

DA

“ From Doug and Caleb Andrews and family.
We have known Bob for 20 years and have gotten to know him a lot more over the last 2 years. Bob’s approach to business and relationships was something to envy and try to mimic in our own lives. In lieu of flowers we have given a donation to Super Camp knowing Bob’s love of the program.

Doug Andrews - January 25, 2019 at 10:22 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert L. Wadsworth.



January 24, 2019 at 09:09 AM

Bill Walters

“ I met Bob when I had my Computer Business in Crown Point. A hard working, caring man whom I considered as my friend. One of the few people we allowed to come in our store through the back door and just hang out. Moved out west so I lost contact with him, but, I am heart broken. The world has truly lost "one of the good guys". RIP Bob. You will always be missed.

Bill Walters - January 23, 2019 at 11:25 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert L. Wadsworth.



January 23, 2019 at 10:20 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert L. Wadsworth.*



January 23, 2019 at 04:56 PM



“ *From Brian and Kimberly Martin God Speed Bob purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of Robert L. Wadsworth.*



From Brian and Kimberly Martin God Speed Bob - January 23, 2019 at 03:44 PM



“ *Bountiful Rose Basket was purchased for the family of Robert L. Wadsworth.*



January 23, 2019 at 12:11 PM