



Rodney "Rod" Bollenbacher

November 23, 1967 - June 25, 2023

Rodney "Rod" Bollenbacher, age 55, was born in Decatur, IN, lived a full life, and most recently settled in Cedar Lake, IN. He unexpectedly passed away on June 25, 2023, with his loving family. Rod was the son of Dennis (Judy) Bollenbacher and Sandy (Larry) Wellman. He was preceded in death by his brother, Greg Bollenbacher. Rod is survived by his parents; his loving wife, Lori Bollenbacher; children: Nick and Madison Bollenbacher; siblings: Scott (Jill) Bollenbacher, Max (Carrie Jo) Bollenbacher, Jared Bollenbacher, Jenny Wellman, Carrie (Andy) Miller, and Bob Wellman. He attended South Adams High School, where he was a part of the sectionals crown in 1986. After hitting the key basket with 7 seconds left, he was quoted with saying, "We went in as a team and won as a team." Rod attended the University of St. Francis, where he played basketball. He later obtained his MBA from Keller School of Business. Rod went on to be a professional wrestler where he participated in the WWF, PWI, and others. He was first known as Lightning Rod and later known as Hott Stuff Rod Bell. Rod served Wendy's for 22 years and was in his most recent role as Franchise Market Consultant. He also enjoyed helping his brother Max maintain a dairy farm and absolutely loved to travel by car.

Rod was a loving husband to Lori Bollenbacher and father to Nick and Madison. Some of Rod's favorite things to eat were crab legs, steak, Chinese and Mexican food, and butter pecan ice cream. He also enjoyed listening to AC/DC, the stock market, ESPN, and podcasts. Some of his favorite places

included his home, the farm, and hiking the mountains.

Rod was someone that went above and beyond and would show you that he was someone you could count on. He enjoyed spending time with family, loved helping others, watching his kids play sports, watching particular NFL players, and overall, he was living the dream. You will be greatly loved and missed, Rod. A visitation will be held on Thursday, July 6, 2023, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Burns Funeral Home & Crematory, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, IN. Funeral services will take place on Friday, July 7, 2023, at 10 a.m. at Burns Funeral Home, Crown Point, IN. Interment at Historic Maplewood, Crown Point, IN. www.burnsfuneral.com

Cemetery Details

Maplewood Historic Cemetery

347 Maple Ln
Crown Point, IN 46307

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 6. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (cst)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point
10101 Broadway
Crown Point, IN 46307
(219) 769-0044
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

funeral

JUL 7. 10:00 AM (cst)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point
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Tribute Wall

SS

“ I was in high school with Rod and worked on his family farm, we also attended the same church. He was a hard-working guy and I always knew he would share in the work and not leave it all for others. He was a great athlete, the sectional win in 1986 is one of my best memories from high school. He was a good guy and I am so sorry for your loss.

Sheryl Stidham-Gebert - July 12, 2023 at 02:19 PM

JL

“ You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Joe and Pam Longsworth - July 08, 2023 at 02:44 PM

KG

“ Sorry to hear about lightning Rod I wrestled with him in the PWI enjoyed working with him
RIP my friend
Keith aka Quick Silver

Keith Goldsby - July 06, 2023 at 11:16 PM

GE

“ Lori and family, Our hearts hurt for you and your loss of husband and dad. Keeping you all in my prayers.

Jack and Gayl

Gayl L Elam - July 06, 2023 at 10:08 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rodney "Rod" Bollenbacher.



July 06, 2023 at 09:58 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rodney "Rod" Bollenbacher.

July 06, 2023 at 09:58 PM



“ Mark Caserta lit a candle in memory of Rodney "Rod" Bollenbacher



Mark Caserta - July 06, 2023 at 06:12 PM



This man was a good friend and a Christian brother. His mission in life was to help others become the best they could be. He loved people and it showed. Although Rod left us way too soon, he leaves a tremendous legacy of hope and good will which we all should embrace. There's a lesson we can all learn from Rod in the way he lives his life. Godspeed my brother!

Mark Caserta - July 06, 2023 at 06:16 PM

JR

“ Rod was always a great part of our Leadership Team in Wendy’s. I will never forget his quick wit, charming smile, and sense of humor.

He will be missed.

My deepest sympathy to his family.

Jan Roeske - July 06, 2023 at 04:46 PM

JH

“ So sorry to hear of Rod's passing. He was a special person and a good player for me. John Hans

John W Hans - July 06, 2023 at 01:52 PM

BC

“ What an amazing person, and an incredible loss! I’m thinking about you day and night and grieving with you.

Becky & Rich Conaway

Becky Conaway - July 06, 2023 at 01:21 PM

RC

“ Rebecca C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rodney "Rod" Bollenbacher.

Rebecca C. - July 06, 2023 at 01:14 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Rodney "Rod" Bollenbacher.*



July 06, 2023 at 12:46 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Rodney "Rod" Bollenbacher.*



July 06, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *Christian W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rodney "Rod" Bollenbacher.*

Christian W. - July 06, 2023 at 10:40 AM



“ *Darin, Leah and Schneider Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rodney "Rod" Bollenbacher.*

Darin, Leah and Schneider Family - July 06, 2023 at 10:15 AM

DF

“ *Darin, Leah and Schneider Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Rodney "Rod" Bollenbacher.*



Darin, Leah and Schneider Family - July 06, 2023 at 10:15 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Rodney "Rod" Bollenbacher.*



July 06, 2023 at 09:39 AM

TF

“ *The Eason Family purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Rodney "Rod" Bollenbacher.*



The Eason Family - July 05, 2023 at 10:24 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Rodney "Rod" Bollenbacher.*



July 05, 2023 at 07:13 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rodney "Rod" Bollenbacher.*



July 05, 2023 at 05:13 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Rodney "Rod" Bollenbacher.*



July 05, 2023 at 05:06 PM



“ *Rod always lived. He didn't shy away from life. He gave it everything all the time. Will miss his example.*

Kirk J Gould - July 05, 2023 at 03:16 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss.*



Dean Dubach & Family - July 05, 2023 at 02:37 PM

KP

“ I'm close friends with Jenny and Carrie Wellman (Larry's daughters). After Jenny sent me the obituary yesterday, I couldn't get him and this tragedy out of my mind. Finally, I put pen to paper to work through my thoughts and feelings. I hope that this tribute to Rod brings a smile to your face remembering what a great guy he was. I know he will be missed. I am thinking of all of you at this time and saying prayers.

Love, Kelly Penn
Last Words

*Ridin' down the highway, going to a show.
55 is just a number from a place called Decatur.
Fell in love, had a couple kids,
Now it's Cedar Lake and a part-time dairy farmer.*

*Stopped in all the by-ways, first South Adams High
With seven seconds left, in as a team-win as a team.
On to St. Francis, he shoots, he scores
One MBA later, thanks to Keller.
Onto the show, the ring that is,
Listen to them chant, "Go Hot Stuff."*

*We ain't no legends ain't no cause,
We're just livin' for today...
We salute you.
Hail to the good times,
The crab legs, the steak, and the
Butter pecan ice cream.*

*Stand up and be counted,
We've given you everything you need
Family, friends, and fun.*

*When you turn off the lights and
Everything comes into view,*

*I'm lookin' towards the sky.
Oh how I'm going to fly.
Just look at me.
I'm on my way to the promised land.*

Kelly Penn - July 05, 2023 at 11:22 AM

JE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jenny - July 05, 2023 at 11:04 AM

MY

“ Maurice Y. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rodney "Rod" Bollenbacher.

Maurice Y. - July 05, 2023 at 10:22 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rodney "Rod" Bollenbacher.



July 05, 2023 at 12:12 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rodney "Rod" Bollenbacher.



July 04, 2023 at 11:22 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Rodney "Rod" Bollenbacher.



July 04, 2023 at 09:14 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rodney "Rod" Bollenbacher.

July 04, 2023 at 09:14 PM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rodney "Rod" Bollenbacher.



July 04, 2023 at 06:04 PM