



William C. "Bill" Bodnar

March 23, 1949 - July 26, 2017

William C. "Bill/Maddog" Bodnar, age 68, of Hobart, IN passed away on July 26, 2017. He was born in Gary, IN and was a long time resident of Hobart. Bill was a 1967 graduate of Hobart High School and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from IU-Bloomington and his Master of Liberal Arts from Valparaiso University. He retired from Portage High School, where for 38 years he devoted his life to fighting ignorance and illiteracy and directing the plays and musicals. Bill also served as an adjunct professor of theatre and communications for 20 years at Indiana University Northwest. His stage experience included more than 150 productions as an actor or director. Bill was an avid golfer, Bears fan, and never missed the show Jeopardy. He is survived by his wife of 44 years-Laura; two daughters-Megan and Samantha; his mother-Elizabeth; one brother-Jerome; two sisters-Patty (Jon) Ford, Peggy Bodnar (Michael Miller); numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Bill will be held Monday, July 31, 2017, beginning with prayers at 9:15 a.m. from Burns Funeral Home, 701 East 7th Street, Hobart, going to St. Bridget Catholic Church for a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 a.m., Rev. Kevin Huber officiating. Friends may visit with his family on Sunday, July 30, 2017 from 1-7:00 p.m. at Burns. Interment Calvary Cemetery.

Contributions may be made to a fund being established in Bill's name for an annual scholarship for a senior thespian student at Portage High School. www.burnsfuneral.com.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

2701 Willowdale Road
Portage, IN 46368

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 30. 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home - Hobart
701 E. 7th Street
Hobart, IN 46342
(219) 942-1117
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Prayer Service

JUL 31. 9:15 AM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home - Hobart
701 E. 7th Street
Hobart, IN 46342
(219) 942-1117
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 31. 10:00 AM (CT)

St Bridget Church
201 Center St
Hobart,, IN 46342

Tribute Wall

AO

“ I had Mr. Bodnar in '95 as a senior in high school. I had a love for drama already, but the way he engaged a room, kept you guessing and employed your imagination. It still fills my heart with loving memories. I felt believed in as a quiet insecure teen in a new school. He saw potential in a Scottish accent and gave me a once in a lifetime chance. That was one door of possibility that opened so many others, even to this day. I teach and I hope to emulate his ability to embody light and passion that fills an entire room.

Annette Orr - August 09, 2017 at 01:55 AM

DL

“ I graduated from high school with Bill, several of us gathered at Abbot's, our old hang out, and after lunch we met up with Bill at the Senior Center. He showed us around and you could hear the pride in his voice, the many characters he portrayed will live on as his legacy. His dad was our insurance man and I'm not sure what grade we were in or the circumstances surrounding it but Bill missed quite a bit of his intestines removed, each time his dad would come to collect my dad's premium I would ask how Bill was doing and many a time the answer would come back as "not so good", everyone was happy when he turned the corner...although when he came back to school it looked like it wouldn't take much of a wind to blow him over! Rest well my friend, it's time to put up your feet and watch Jeopardy!

Dorita "Dee" Holder Lavish - August 02, 2017 at 10:35 AM

AM

“ I send my sincere sympathies to the Bodnar family. I graduated in 1983, was a student of Mr. Bodnar's, and also was in several plays. I am so sad to hear of his passing. He was an amazing teacher, and had an enormous impact on me. I can still clearly see his classroom, and visualize him walking around the stage. He laughed often, was kind, patient, and giving. Thank you, Mr. Bodnar for gracing us while you were here.

Andrea Mann (Eyster)

Andrea Mann - July 31, 2017 at 03:46 PM

JY

“ Words can't describe the loss of Bill. The number of students who have come forward to valadate such a terrific career! To all those students he served you need to know Mr. Bodnar was always thinking out of the box. During his junior year in high school we produced the Mikado! As we sang we are gentleman of Japan ! Bill had talked everone in the chorus to unfold their carefully desolmated fans! Pieces fell offholes were observed. The crowd loved this effort to this creative adventure! Mr. Ralph our director not so much. Good guy I grew up with and a good man who positively influenced may area students! God Bless you Bill!
<https://indianapolis.craigslist.org/>

jeffry Young - July 31, 2017 at 08:08 AM

MP

“ We are all very sad at the loss of Bill. Wish we could be there. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. Peace be with you and may the Lord always be at your side. Michael, Madonna, Luke & Katie Paskash

Michael Paskash - July 30, 2017 at 11:26 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of William C. "Bill" Bodnar.*



July 30, 2017 at 11:20 AM



“ *My deepest condolences go out to Bills family during this difficult time.*

Bill was my 12th grade Drama teacher and a wonderful neighbor to my grandparents for many years. I'll always remember how incredible he was at getting his students to engage with him about whatever was on the agenda for the day.


One of my favorite memories of Bill was at the end the quarter when all the grades were in. The entire class consisted of him telling a riddle he called "The Name of the Game." "The name of the game is letters and patterns, not words and ideas." He must have said that nearly 100 times along with dozens of other clues to reveal what the name of the game was. "The name of the game is a spoon, but it's not a fork." "The name of the game is tall, but it's not high." "The name of the game is a pretty, but it's not beautiful." He somehow made this puzzle interesting, fun and madding for the entire class. Soon, one by one students began to understand and started presenting the riddle to the rest of those who didn't get it. "The name of the game is a puppy, but it's not a dog." There must have been nearly thirty kids in the class, and every one of us was either thrilled and feeling quite superior for having figured it, or going nuts for not understanding yet. In all my years of school, I've never witnessed an entire class so locked in and excited to accomplish something. Bill was able to do that with something as simple as a riddle. He was amazing.

Chris Bonner - July 29, 2017 at 11:59 PM

BH

“ My deepest condolences to all of you on your loss. Mr. Bodnar was always one of my favorite teachers. The first time I took one of his classes, I was just trying to get what I thought was an easy English credit, but he helped introduce me to a much bigger world - the world of the stage. I will be forever grateful to him for that, because while I am by no means the most talented person to trod the boards, I will always love it dearly, and treasure every moment I spend there.

Brian Herr - July 29, 2017 at 05:32 PM

 Julie Popov

“ My deepest condolences to the family. Bill was an amazing person in a million ways. I am truly blessed to have known him. What a beautiful soul this world has lost. Thank you for everything you've given to all of us, Mr. Bodnar, you will never be forgotten. Memory eternal.



Julie Popov - July 29, 2017 at 04:43 PM

LH

“ 07/29/17 William C. "Bill" Bodnar, you will be greatly missed you were an excellent teacher at Portage High School. Leo T.Hatch,Jr.,President of Portage Real Estate,Inc.,(219)762-2186 you will forever be remembered.

Leo Hatch,Jr. - July 29, 2017 at 04:38 PM

IE

“ Ian and Emma purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of William C. "Bill" Bodnar.



Ian and Emma - July 29, 2017 at 10:44 AM

SS

“ Steve and Anita Strauss purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William C. "Bill" Bodnar.



Steve and Anita Strauss - July 29, 2017 at 06:39 AM

 Kathy Aitken

“ Kathy Aitken lit a candle in memory of William C. "Bill" Bodnar



Kathy Aitken - July 28, 2017 at 09:55 PM

GV

“ God Bless, Dwight Vigna purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of William C. "Bill" Bodnar.



God Bless, Dwight Vigna - July 28, 2017 at 06:27 PM

JM

“ To the Family of William C. "Bill" Bodnar,
So sorry to learn about the loss of your Dear Loved One, William.
Please know that so many people share your grief with you to help
you through this difficult time of sorrow. Please accept my deepest
condolences as we await the time when Christ Jesus will awaken all
of those who have fallen asleep in death; including your Beloved,
"Bill".

(John 11:41-44)

J. Moore/Volunteer - July 28, 2017 at 01:35 PM

TG

“ I have known Bill since we were kids. He was the type of guy you
looked forward to seeing no matter how long between meetings.

Tim Gleason - July 28, 2017 at 12:42 PM

JR

“ Hi Laura, so sorry for your loss, your heart
must be breaking. Sending prayers to you
and your whole family.

Janice Ruiz



Janice Ruiz - July 28, 2017 at 10:14 AM

TW

“ So incredibly sorry to hear this. Mr. Bodnar was instrumental in shaping the lives of the students under his wings. So many of us followed him into education, armed with his communication, humor, and love needed to teach. We learned that it wasn't enough to teach the students whatever content we were meant to impart, but to model how to be an engaged, empathetic, and responsible human being. Many prayers and sympathies to the family. I know he will be missed.

Tina Wiggins - July 28, 2017 at 09:35 AM

B.

“Hi Laura. My heart breaks for you and the family. I realize the impact of the Bodnar, and also recognize he was able to do for all of us because of the support he had from you. Sent this to the Bodnar on Sunday. He crossed over today. What do teachers make? Simple - a difference. Their impact is extended, a scope they may never see or fully appreciate. But God knows. These are the folks who know that God knows. We carry them in our hearts forever. "Hey Bodnar, Not for public consumption on FB, just to share with you. It began by volunteering at a senior community, going room-to-room singing and playing for patients with limited mobility. After putting a proposal together and calling it "Music on the Move", they began to pay me. Subsequently, they asked me to follow this hour with a group session, also paying me. Next, they asked me to play for Mother's Day - had to get an amp and use a mic. Now, they ask me to play every other Saturday, and some Happy Hours. Then, they asked me to play in the Alzheimer's Unit (beginning in August). I put the guitar and my voice down for 40 years, and recently picked it up, first to play for my Hopi friend's grandfather at a care center just to be there. It feels so good to play tunes they know, as I decided to develop a few sing-a-longs. Last time I brought shakers and a big seed pod from Ghana. I share stories about the music, like "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" was written in the 1930's in Africa about a village chief who crossed over and watches the village from the other side of the veil. Amazing Grace was written by a slave trader. I talk of grandparents and how certain songs are to honor them, and how all love songs can be sung about the Creator. Anyway, Bodnar, I keep this on the down low. I call all of this "Music with b." Simple songs - guitar and vocal. Just wanted to share this with the guy who had the PHS Variety Show, where I played. Also, Mr. Peyton let me play with a mic in the school gym. I am reaching way back, some 40+ years to excavate a lost love. Thanks, Bodnar for the initial boost in this direction. . . XO b."

b. - July 28, 2017 at 09:15 AM

LW

“ Lynn And Bill Wilson lit a candle in memory of William C. "Bill" Bodnar

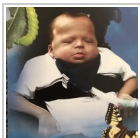


Lynn and Bill Wilson - July 28, 2017 at 07:39 AM

DM

“ A fun actor to perform with in stage.

Dan Moser - July 28, 2017 at 06:39 AM



“ Was the best and funniest teacher i ever had and he made getting through speech a little easier ! Prayers for his family in this sad time.



Trenda Christensen - July 28, 2017 at 05:55 AM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of William C. "Bill" Bodnar.



July 28, 2017 at 05:33 AM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of William C. "Bill" Bodnar.*



July 28, 2017 at 01:42 AM



“ *Jennifer Batronis lit a candle in memory of William C. "Bill" Bodnar*



Jennifer Batronis - July 28, 2017 at 12:54 AM



“ *I am so grateful and honored to have known Bill. He was an amazing teacher, the one you just never forget. He was also a friend dearly loved. I pray for all of his family in this time of suffering. May God give you the strength to go on without him, but with many wonderful memories of the great guy that he was.*



Jennifer Batronis - July 28, 2017 at 12:53 AM



“ *Thomas J Bodnar lit a candle in memory of William C. "Bill" Bodnar*



thomas j bodnar - July 27, 2017 at 11:22 PM



“ *My condolences to his family. Mr. Bodnar was my 10 th grade speech teacher at Portage High School. I have to say he was one of my favorite teachers. I remember being in his class and being so nervous to give a speech he let me send about 9 students out of class . He then told me I can't let you send anyone else out into the hall because there won't be anyone else left in class to give a speech to. RIP Bill you were the greatest teacher!!!!*

Terrie Graft-sliger - July 27, 2017 at 09:52 PM



“ *Some times there are people who enter your life and stay there for the rest of your days. And when they are gone you look back at how great they were. Bill Bodnar is one of them. I am so glad to have known him and Honored to be called a friend.*

I say this, and I think all will agree, If everyone was like him what a wonderful world it would be!!!

He is probably putting together some kind of Angel production already. I am certain it will be great!

Nicholas Ferlus - July 27, 2017 at 09:28 PM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of William C. "Bill" Bodnar.*



July 27, 2017 at 09:09 PM

JG

“ Family -thank you for sharing Bill with us. I was in the first acting class he taught at Portage High School. (we never knew he was a greenhorn then!! he was such a great new teacher!! great acting skills!) His wit, charm, passion, support, humor (off' bawdy) love for the arts and his students and their future inspired me, changed me and obviously has changed our world.

He will forever be loved and valued. Great, great teacher.

So incredibly sorry for your loss.

Judy Gehrels - July 27, 2017 at 09:02 PM

GE

On behalf of Adrianna Acevedo and Espinosa family RIP Mr. Bodnar! The variety show will never be the same but your presence will be forever felt. May God grant you eternal Rest! May God bestow love and strength upon your family hear on earth!

Glasys Espinosa - July 27, 2017 at 09:37 PM

EB

“ The memory I have is more of his dad. He was our life insurance agent, when agents used to come to your home to collect your payment. My mom was sad when they stopped that because she didn't get to see Mr. Bodnar anymore. I was just an acquaintance in High School. I agree with Bev he was cute. Prayers for his family.

Ellen Carr-Ballinger

Ellen Ballinger - July 27, 2017 at 08:27 PM

L(

“ *My Beloved Friend. You directed me in Sweet Charity and Oliver, I choreographed Godspell under your direction. You encouraged me to study theatre at Northwestern University. You touched my soul and are one of the great men of my lifetime. I send blessings to the family and pray that the peace beyond understanding lifts you. RIP my teacher, my director, my mentor, MY MAN! So grateful I got to see you and embrace you recently.*

Liz Hanley Raci (Betsy) - July 27, 2017 at 07:59 PM

CC

“ *What a talented man. He gave that talent right back to all the students, fellow players, and teachers he encountered. Sad day for all.*

Cyndee Clemmons - July 27, 2017 at 07:30 PM



“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Ray Gapinski - July 27, 2017 at 06:44 PM



“ I met Bill in 7th grade and immediately had a major crush on him. We remained good friends all these years. Sometimes he could be rude, crude and didn't care what people thought about him, but boy, his humor was hilarious. His golf game wasn't bad either. He was the absolute, hands down, slowest eater that Marc Campbell and I had the good fortune to dine with! And don't get me started on his jokes! One of the best pals a gal could ever want. I am truly sorry for your loss Laura and girls. He was one of a kind and he will be truly missed.

Beverly Troumouliaris - July 27, 2017 at 06:30 PM



“ It's was an honor to share the stage with you. You taught me more than you will ever know and I will never be able to repay your kindness. You and Mr. Stevens were the best of best when it came to teachers at PHS. Thank you for seeing more in me than I ever did.



~Brian Sarnowski (Tevye)

Brian Sarnowski - July 27, 2017 at 06:26 PM



“ The absolute best teacher I ever had. What a great loss.

Rachel Oliver - July 27, 2017 at 06:23 PM



“ Incredible teacher and friend. Really had large influence on my life. Rest in Peace.

Brian Curry - July 27, 2017 at 06:04 PM



“ I'm so sorry for your loss. We just enjoyed the teacher /class reunion with Mr Bodnar.
I'm glad he got to enjoy that evening with many former students.

Dawn Padgett Miller - July 27, 2017 at 05:58 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of William C. "Bill" Bodnar.



July 27, 2017 at 05:36 PM



“ I am so sorry for Laura and Sam's loss. My first English teaching job was at PHS ans I assisted Joe and Bill in rhe theatre for the two years I was there. Bill was always welcoming with a grin and a hug and an ornery joke. He was tough and expected excellence from the theatre kids, all of whom adored him. Bill, I know we lost rpucj over the years, but I miss you already.

Molly Arroyo - July 27, 2017 at 05:21 PM



“ 1 file added to the album My memories of Bill and farewell.



Robert DeLeon - July 27, 2017 at 05:19 PM



“ 2 files added to the album *Theatrical Memories*



Matthew Byerly - July 27, 2017 at 05:14 PM

GF

“ *Bill was such a great guy. I can see him coming down the hall at HHS with a huge smile and hug. He did so much for his students at PHS also. My daughters went to Portage and I would see him from time to time. He will be missed by so many.*

Gerry Fessler

Gerry Fessler - July 27, 2017 at 05:14 PM

VW

Bill and I shared the same birthdate (he was 1 year older). For several years, we would set aside that day to talk on the phone (sometimes for 2 hours) catching up on the previous year. When he was going to turn 40, and with the help of the office staff and our daughter, I would send 40 "things" for the 22 prior days...40 matches, 40 pennies, etc. It culminated in going to school early on his birthday with Jen to decorate his door so that everyone would be sure to know. The students loved it. Bill acted like he didn't, but we all know he loved it. So when it came to my 40th the next year, I was in a panic. Nothing happened until March 23. 40 dead and painted black flowers were delivered to my school about 30 minutes before school was out. We were in the auditorium for an assembly. My 5th graders thought that was the coolest thing to do. And I told them just how cool Mr. Bodnar was.

Viki Williams - July 27, 2017 at 06:14 PM