



William J Cope

August 4, 1934 - February 18, 2023

William J. Cope, age 88, of Lowell, formerly of Hobart, passed away on Saturday, February 18, 2023. Bill was a graduate of Hobart High School, Class of 1952. He attended Earlham College and received his degree in 1956. Bill followed up with a Master's in Education & Counseling from Indiana University and a Master's in Administration from Purdue. Bill was an anchor of the community, as a longtime coach, teacher, and principal in the Hobart school system. He continued to develop region youth, acting in interim principal roles at Crown Point and Griffith until hanging it up at the age of 80. His good works found a home within the Hobart Kiwanis Club, where he was a past president and former Lt. Governor of the Duneland Division. Bill was a distinguished member of the 3rd class inducted to Hobart High School's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2011. He was also honored for his athletic achievements at Earlham as an inductee of their Hall of Fame for football and baseball in 2003. He was preceded in death by his best friend and wife of 58 years, Sally Cope (may they find each other again); son, Jason Cope; mother, Fern Cope, his father, Leo Cope; brother, Carl (Sabra) Cope; sister, Betty (Richard) Bartholomew. Bill is survived by his 2 daughters, Kim Ciesielski of Crown Point and Tami Kepshire of Lowell; 4 grandchildren, Danielle (David) Clark, Andy (Jenn) Kepshire, Alyssa (Jason) Manthey, and Mike Ciesielski; 6 great-grandchildren, Mikayla, Madison, Madilynn, Mackenzie, Hayden, and Conor; sister Cleo (Porter) Douglas; brother-in-law, Steve (Jackie) Brewer, and several nieces and nephews. Friends are invited to meet with Bill's family

on Thursday, February 23, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Burns Funeral Home, 701 E. 7th Street, Hobart, IN. A private service will precede the visitation. Hobart Kiwanis will conduct a memorial service at 6:00 p.m. The family welcomes contributions made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation or any Suicide prevention organization. www.burnsfuneral.com

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **23**. 2:00 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/>

Kiwanis Service

FEB **23**. 6:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

BS

“ *I'm very sorry for the loss of Bill, Sally, and Jason.*

Love,

Beth Somers

Beth Somers-Donovan - February 24, 2023 at 06:16 AM

CP

“ *Bill Cope has been a good friend to me for more than five decades. During that long stretch I've seen him be a leader in the Hobart schools, in coaching young athletes, in the church where we worshiped together, in the Kiwanis club where we served together, and in the community at large where he was always visible and active. This type of individual is exceptional and is the exception. The lives that he touched and helped are too numerous to count. Bill will be greatly missed - by me, and by the many, many others who loved him.*

Curt Parrish - February 23, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of William J Cope.*



February 22, 2023 at 10:06 PM

 Chris
Rearick

“ *He was always very kind to students and a great mentor,*

Chris Rearick - February 21, 2023 at 08:29 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of William J Cope.*



February 21, 2023 at 04:07 PM



“ *I had him for a teacher at Hobart High. A wonderful example what a teacher and coach could be. He will be missed by many.*

Gerry (Massa)Fessler - February 20, 2023 at 06:34 PM



“ *My parents. Bill and Myrtle Conley were good friends of Carl and Sabra. I'm sure they knew Bill too. Linda Conley Starkey*

Linda Conley Starkey - February 20, 2023 at 05:40 PM



“ *My condolences to the Cope family.*

Mr Cope was my Jr High instructors back in the day. He made learning science fun and I looked forward to his class everyday.

All these years later I still remember those days fondly and how he influenced his students to pursue excellence.

He was one of the best teachers Hobart ever had.

*Edwina (Beers) Lake
Class of '65*

Edwina (Beers) Lake - February 20, 2023 at 12:41 PM

TK

“ *Deepest sympathy to all of Mr. Cope's family, he was one of the one of the friendliest persons I have ever had the pleasure to know. Also a great asset to the Hobart Community.*

Terry Kegebein - February 20, 2023 at 10:16 AM

MH

Bill was a great guy

Mike Hannigan - February 20, 2023 at 03:15 PM

JS

My thoughts and prayers for the family and friends of a great coach and teacher. John Summers HHS 67.

John Summers - February 22, 2023 at 03:18 PM