



Bob. Welsch

September 10, 1935 - January 29, 2021

Funeral: 1:00 p.m. Wednesday February 3, 2021 at First United Methodist Church. Due to the global pandemic, only 50 people (including the family) are allowed to attend the services. You are invited to view the service online via this website or www.facebook.com/columbusfumc.

Visitation: 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. Tuesday February 2, 2021 at Jewell - Rittman Family Funeral Home and one hour prior to the service Wednesday at the church.

Burial will be at Garland Brook Cemetery

Jewell – Rittman Family Funeral Home would like to thank everyone in advance for wearing masks and practicing social distancing while attending gatherings.

Memorials may be made through the funeral home to Brown County State Park Nature Center, Medical Ministry International, Our Hospice of South Central Indiana, or First United Methodist Church.

Bob Welsch, 85, of Columbus, passed away January 29, 2021 at his home surrounded by his family.

Bob was born September 10, 1935 in St. Louis, Missouri, the son of Clifford and Lorraine Senn Welsch. He married Nancy Phillips on December 28, 1974.

For over 30 years, Bob was a teacher at Northside Middle School. His science lessons and personality were captivating and inspiring. Bob's school spirit came through loud and clear with his enthusiasm at pep rallies and while coaching several sports. After his retirement, he continued to share his gift of teaching with countless guests at the Brown County Nature Center and many student teachers he supervised through IUPUC.

Bob discovered his love for traveling while in the Navy, particularly enjoying his time in Japan. His passion for travel combined with his heart for teaching led him to take many students on trips all over the country and world. This included church workcamps to North Carolina, many trips to the Rocky Mountain Field Ecology Institute in Colorado, and visits

to Australia, New Zealand, Europe, and the United Kingdom with People to People. Another passion of Bob's was helping and serving others. He was a proud member of Kiwanis, volunteered at the Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum and Habitat for Humanity, participated in medical mission trips to Mexico, and served on the mission team at church for several years.

Above all, Bob demonstrated great love to his family and friends. He was devoted, generous, and always willing to genuinely listen and put others before himself. His passion for life, people, and learning was a beautiful example of a life well lived.

Bob is survived by his wife; daughters Jackie (Steve) Deur of Holland, Michigan and Stephanie (Brad) Gambrel of Columbus; grandchildren Drew, Ethan, Emmett, and Lorri Deur, Jacob and Addie Knapp, and Chelsea, Kaz, Kalissa, and Naomi Gambrel; great-grandchildren Carsyn, Prestyn, and Benny; his twin brother Clifford "Bud" (Margaret) Welsch of DeWitt, Michigan; as well as a sister Ginger (Tom) Heitz of Fly Creek, New York.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Cemetery

**Garland Brook
Cemetery**
501 N Gladstone
Columbus, IN,

Events

FEB Visitation 04:00PM - 08:00PM

2

Jewell - Rittman Family Funeral Home
3855 25th St. Columbus, IN 47203, Columbus, IN, US,
47203

FEB Funeral 01:00PM

3

First United Methodist Church
618 8th St., Columbus, IN, US, 47201

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Jewell-Rittman Funeral Home - February 02 at 09:56 AM



“ A webcast video has been added.



Jewell-Rittman Funeral Home - January 31 at 02:14 PM



“ My best to the entire family! I think of Bob as the most inspirational teacher I ever subbed for. He had such a zest for life and truly cared about the students. Wish I had been young enough to have had him for a teacher! He will be greatly missed by so many but has left his mark on so many. With love, Janet Dissauer

John Dissauer - March 13 at 07:52 PM



“ Mr. Welsch was one of those teachers that you remember for the rest of your life. I certainly did. He's one of those people who leave the world a better place because of their energy and love of life. Thank you Mr. Welsch.



Ken Stockton - February 04 at 05:53 PM



“ We are thinking of you and family, Nancy; and praying God will comfort you with His peace and love. So sorry I cannot call, but I am quarantined at this time. I really enjoyed teaching with Bob, and fondly remember many good times together. He was such a good teacher and friend. Sincere condolences,
Tom and Linda Smith

Tom Smith - February 03 at 12:35 PM



“ JennieAddis and family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Bob. Welsch.



JennieAddis and family - February 03 at 11:46 AM



“ Bob was not only my friend, but my buddy. We spent lots of time together, 5 years at workcamp, several years with Kiwanis and working the fair booth, the mission committee at , First United Methodist, with a trip to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky, then the new membership at Atterbury-Bakalar Museum, plus our yearly jaunts to Methodist Children's Home with my Subaru jammed full with Christmas. goodies. And the Sundays at Marcos Pizza with Nancy. Bob had great humor and patience with life as it became really difficult in the end, so yes I will miss him, but I still have those memories.

Ron Arnold - February 02 at 06:32 PM



“ College Roommate- Best Friend-Best man at my wedding- teammate and competitor in so many ball games- role model and mentor. Though our lives took different paths, I have never forgotten the good times.
Prayers of comfort for the family.

Lanny Duke - February 02 at 04:17 PM



“ To the Welsch family: know that Bob had a significant impact on many young peoples' lives during a very important time in their lives. He was a great mentor to me during my time at Northside Junior High.
Thank you, Bob!



Dan - February 02 at 03:28 PM



“ There are not enough words to describe how my brothers, Jeff, Dave and I felt when our amazing and "Cool" Uncle Bob (Unc) came to visit. We will always treasure our times we shared together. You will be sorely missed Unc! Rick Welsch.

Rick Welsch - February 02 at 02:11 PM



“ You are in our thoughts and prayers! He will be missed.
Love,
Carrie Dayhoff



Carrie Dayhoff - February 02 at 02:02 PM



“ Until recently I never thought about Bob being or getting older. He was always so young in spirit and shared a enthusiasm for life that was contagious. His laughter and goodness will be remembered.

Larry Perkinson - February 02 at 01:52 PM



“ Bob was a wonderful brother. He lived an amazing life. I have many wonderful memories. ginger welsch heitz

ginger heitz - February 02 at 06:56 AM



“ Mr. Welsch was one of my favorite teachers at Northside (7th grade science, 1969-70). There are so many memories, from the ties Miss Phillips made for him that he proudly wore, to his Missouri accent, to how he helped us try to identify rocks and minerals (I loved them but didn't do great at identification), to the hilarious dress and lip-synching by the "Three Night Dogs" at convos. In the classroom, he came across as a very real, genuine person who cared about his students. I loved reading his obituary and learning more about him as a person. As a teacher myself, I try to model my teaching and my behavior towards my students after people like him. Mrs. Welsch and all the family, may God hold you close in the days ahead.

Linda Smith Gurganus - February 02 at 12:59 AM



“ Prayers for all of the family! Not only was Bob a teacher for two of our children(Jenny & Ronnie Walker) but our daughter's were best of friends. With sleep over's and party's together. So sorry for all of your loss. Debbie & Terry Barkes

Debbie Barkes - February 01 at 11:15 PM



“ We are sorry to hear Bob passed....We loved having come spend time with us at Just Friends...I enjoyed my games of Crazy 8s and talks with Him.....His Smile lit up the room...Loved His Stories And laughter...He was a Friend to All... We will miss you Bob...Thanks for being a part of Our Family at Just Friends...Hugs And Prayers to Family And Friends 🤔🤔May God Bless and Comfort You All...Love Diane Daulton And Your Friends

Diane Daulton - February 01 at 10:11 PM



“ I'm sorry for your loss. May God give all of you peace and comfort at this difficult time in your lives. I remember him from Northside Middle School. He was one of my teachers. He was a great teacher and more importantly a great man. I remember his sweet family. Love and hugs. Your friend, Jeff Fritts.



Jeff Fritts - February 01 at 09:52 PM



“ Steve & family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Bob. Welsch.



Steve & family - February 01 at 04:12 PM



“ Brent, Michele, Cameron, & Kenzie purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Bob. Welsch.



Brent, Michele, Cameron, & Kenzie - February 01 at 03:10 PM



“ Mr. Welsch was a teacher and friend to me. He would come pick me up and we would play handball at Lincoln or corkball at Parkside. We would also go on extensive bike rides to hunt for beer cans around Bakalar. What a great spirit for life, never a dull moment. Will be greatly missed. Thoughts and prayers to the family.

Jim Olsen

Jim Olsen - February 01 at 03:02 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bob. Welsch.



February 01 at 02:10 PM



“ Mr. Welsch was a fantastic teacher - I vividly remember dissecting frogs in his class while at Northside in the late 90's. I lived in the same neighborhood and would often see him outside of school in his yard. My sincere condolences to his family and friends. Great teachers really do make a difference in your life. He was a great one.

Erin Erdmann White - February 01 at 02:02 PM



“ What a Pep Session is occurring in Heaven with Bob leading Boom-A-Chick-A-Boom!
Tammie LeClerc

Tammie LeClerc - February 01 at 10:50 AM



“ Thank you Mr. Welsch for taking this kid under your wings. You helped shape me for the better and I appreciate those baseball games! I will never forget those trips to see the Cards Play baseball! RIP.

john brown - February 01 at 09:42 AM



“ What a great great guy Bob was! Having worked with him for 10 years at Northside I can say I never saw him without that beautiful smile on his face. He was so full of life and you couldn't help but be drawn into his presence. He was so passionate about everything he did and I so admired his vigor for life. Thoughts and prayers go out to the entire family. He gave it the fight and will most definitely be missed!



MARY MOORE - February 01 at 06:37 AM



“ Great teacher and wonderful person!



Kelli Robinette - January 31 at 11:26 PM



“ Just wanted to say how much I appreciated him as a teacher and a coach at Northside and prayers for all of you

Don Bryan - January 31 at 10:54 PM



“ Shirley Orr Waltenburg lit a candle in memory of Bob. Welsch



Shirley Orr Waltenburg - January 31 at 10:51 PM



“ My brother Doug DeVillez and I were reminiscing last week about Bob, FUMC and the work camps. Bob was definitely a good role model for us of how to have fun while being the hands of Christ. May his memory be a blessing.

Cathy Henney - January 31 at 10:18 PM



“ I had the pleasure and honor of meeting Me. Welsh at Northside middle school. I worked in the cafeteria. My son had him for science and my daughter had him for clubs. He was a wonderful teacher, person and human. Fly high Bob! You have earned your wings! Sorry to those you left behind.



Mary, Rex and Jennifer Sharpe - January 31 at 09:30 PM



“ Northside 1979 phys Ed class



Shelly Fields - January 31 at 09:16 PM



“ I never had the pleasure of having Mr. Welsch as a teacher, but I certainly remember his presence at Northside pep rallies. His enthusiasm was contagious. My thoughts and prayers are with his family-especially Mrs. Welsch, a wonderful teacher in her own rite.

Ann Urbahns Vance - January 31 at 08:29 PM



“ I worked with Bob at Northside in the late 80's. He was dedicated, funny, and an inspiration to all!! He made learning science fun and his students loved him. His laugh was contagious!!

Robin Glover - January 31 at 08:18 PM



“ Mr Wesch was my teacher and coach in the mid 70s. I will always remember his fantastic attitude and enthusiasm for everything we done. I send many prayers for strength and comfort during this difficult time for the family!



jeff fitzpatrick - January 31 at 08:12 PM



“ Jeffitzpat@yahoo.com

jeff fitzpatrick - January 31 at 08:14 PM



“ Mr. Welsch was my 7th grade science teacher in the mid-1980s. His enthusiasm for science and life was remarkable. He was a very fun teacher and kind person.

J Giles - January 31 at 07:33 PM