

## Bob Murley

December 9, 1946 - January 22, 2020

Bob Murley, age 73 years, a resident of rural Grantsburg (the Benton community), passed away unexpectedly Wednesday afternoon, January 22, 2020, at 3:43 PM at his home.

Bob was born December 9, 1946 in New Castle, Indiana. He was the son of John Clyde and Elma (Knipp) Murley.

On February 1, 1969, Bob was united in marriage to Judy K. Burnett in Murray, Kentucky. She preceded him in death on October 31, 2008.

Bob is survived by: his children – Brian (Lisa) Murley of Goreville and Julie (Rusty) Blanchard of Grand Chain; 7 grandchildren – Hannah (her fiancé, Dillon Street) Murley, Clayton Blanchard, Caleb Murley, Baylee Blanchard, McKinlee Blanchard, Olivia Blanchard and Landon Blanchard; sisters-in-law – Linda (Larry) Slone of Belknap and Mary Murley of Milton, Indiana; brothers-in-law – Lowell Helm of the Benton community and John (Cecilia) Burnett of Bardwell, Kentucky; along with a host of nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, cousins, other relatives, former students and a host of friends.

In addition to his parents and beloved wife, Bob was preceded in death by: a brother – John C. Murley; his father-in-law & mother-in-law – Ernest and Mary Burnett; sisters-in-law – Rosemary Helm and Joellen Newberry; brothers-in-

law – Terry Burnam and Ron Newberry; as well as a nephew – Chad Newberry.

Bob grew up in Milton, Indiana. In his youth, Bob served as a volunteer fireman for the Milton, Indiana Fire Department. His father and grandfather instilled the love of baseball in Bob at an early age. He grew up playing the game he loved: Little League, Legion and Semi Pro baseball. He played against Mike Schmidt and Bob Griese during his Semi Pro days in the Indiana-Ohio league. He played for the Phillies' organization. When his playing days were over, Bob turned to coaching. He has coached continually for the past 51 years. He coached his son Brian from Khourey League through Legion ball. He was instrumental in getting the Legion program going in Metropolis and coached that team for 10 years. During his time there, Bob helped lead Post 306 to three straight district titles.

Bob was a graduate of Murray State University where he earned a Bachelor Degree in Education. Bob and Judy devoted their lives to education and enriching the lives of countless youth throughout the region.

Bob began his teaching and coaching career at the Buncombe grade school where he served as both instructor and principal. He then taught at Massac County High School where he also coached football, softball and basketball. While at Massac County, the softball team had a 3 year record of 56-6, earned a Regional Title and Sectional Title. While teaching at Dongola High School for 1 year, his coaching record was 10-15. Bob then began teaching History at Century High School in 1985. Additionally, he served as Athletic Director as well as coaching basketball and baseball until his retirement in 2005. While at Century High School, Bob's 20 year coaching record was 375-311 and he helped lead Centurions to a Regional Title in 1987 by defeating Vienna. Following his retirement, Bob volunteered his coaching talent at Vienna High School and Century High School.

Upon his retirement from Century High School in 2005, the school retired his number 44 jersey and renamed Centurion Field, Bob Murley Field.

For the past 2 years, Bob has served as the head baseball coach at Shawnee Community College.

Bob's love of teaching and coaching was only surpassed by his love and devotion for his family and that was only surpassed by his love of Jesus Christ. Bob has served for the past 20 years as pastor of the Benton Community Church. He was also an organizer and longtime volunteer for the Southern Illinois Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He was a staunch supporter of his family and loved attending his grandchildren's activities.

Bob loved working in his yard. He was a devoted fan of the St. Louis Cardinals, the Cincinnati Reds, and loved watching and supporting Indiana University basketball, and Notre Dame football.

Bob's motto was HIT: Have fun, Improve daily, and Total commitment.

A service honoring the life of Coach Bob Murley will be conducted Monday morning, January 27, 2020, at 10:30 AM at Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna. Bob's children, Brian Murley and Julie Blanchard assisted by Dr. Ron Ferguson will officiate.

Burial will be in the Metropolis Memorial Garden.

The family will receive relatives and friends beginning at 3 PM Sunday, January 26, 2020, at Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna.

Memorials may be made to the Bob Murley Scholarship Fund, c/o City National Bank, Post Office Box 380, Metropolis, IL 62960.

Honored to serve as pallbearers are: Larry Slone, Jason Gray, Steve Pobst, Dillon Street, Caleb Murley, Clayton Blanchard, and Rusty Blanchard.

Honorary pallbearers will be: Lowell Helm Marlan Hight, Larry Grace , Kenny Reichert, and Skip Junkerman.

# Cemetery Details

## Metropolis Memorial Gardens

North Avenue  
Metropolis, IL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 26. 3:00 PM (CT)

Bailey Funeral Home  
705 North First Street  
PO Box 695  
Vienna, IL 62995  
(618) 658-2311  
baileyfhinc@hotmail.com  
<https://baileyfh.com>

## Service

JAN 27. 10:30 AM (CT)

Bailey Funeral Home  
705 North First Street  
PO Box 695  
Vienna, IL 62995  
(618) 658-2311  
baileyfhinc@hotmail.com  
<https://baileyfh.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Bob Murley*

January 30, 2023 at 12:19 AM



“ *Mr. Murley was my teacher and coach at Buncombe Grade School in 1972-74. I have not seen him in many many years but he will always be in my heart and memories. My deepest condolences to his family. He sure was one of my favorites!!*  
*Brenda Pearce Gallagher*

**Brenda Pearce Gallagher** - January 31, 2020 at 10:34 PM



“ *Linda And Jeff Mathis lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley*



**Linda and Jeff Mathis** - January 28, 2020 at 06:42 PM

JF

“ It was an honor and blessing to know both Bob and Judy as dear friends. They were both very special people who touched and enriched so many lives. Much love and prayers for this precious family. There will be a happy meeting in Heaven someday.



*When my spirit, clothed immortal,  
Wings its flight to realms of day,  
This my song through endless ages;  
Jesus led me all the way.*

---

**Jim and Ruth Flanagan** - January 28, 2020 at 05:27 PM

RW

“ Bob was a great man I spent 25 years driving him around in a school bus to play sports he was always good always kind and will be missed very much he was also my senior year history teacher I don't think I would have passed that class without Bob Marley rest in peace Bob

---


**Rick Wright** - January 27, 2020 at 11:56 AM

DB

“ Coach Murley was one of a kind. He touched the lives of so many, and was a powerful positive influence and mentor to so many youth over the years. He will be greatly missed. Our family's love and prayers are with your family.

---

**Debby Brown** - January 26, 2020 at 01:20 PM

  
Hannah  
Murley

“ *Hannah Murley lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley*



---

**Hannah Murley** - January 26, 2020 at 01:17 PM

JC

“ *Bob was such good man but even better he was a man of God. Such a kind gentle person he was. Like I said before every time I saw him I was so happy to see him and he was even happier to see and he never ever failed to ask me how my dad was doing. Back in the day they had some brutal tennis matches. Bob was a fantastic coach, mentor and friend to everyone he knew and met. Very very well done my kind and faithful servant of the Lord. You'll be missed by all. RIP BOB AND UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN!!!*

---

**John D. Cherry** - January 26, 2020 at 12:22 PM

SS

“ *Oh the memories we made in class, on the court and in the fields with you. One of the best! Our hearts are broken, Coach. Prayers for the family and many friends.*

---

**S. Stacey** - January 25, 2020 at 08:19 PM

MC

“ Bob was a great person. He made everyone around him better. Bob was a good friend of mine. He was a great coach and friend to everyone he met. An honorable man who was dedicated to his family.

To Brian and Julie, I am so sorry for your loss. People like your Dad are rare indeed.

Mike Cougill

---

Mike C - January 25, 2020 at 06:48 PM

AC

“ Alma Creekmur lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley



---

Alma Creekmur - January 25, 2020 at 03:39 PM

SK

“ Bob and I coached against each other while he was first at Buncombe, and later at Century. He was great man as well as a great coach. I loved his sense of humor. He certainly made a difference in the lives of so many, and will be sadly missed. Prayers for the family. God bless, Steve Karraker, Metropolis

---

Steve Karraker - January 25, 2020 at 01:19 PM

DW

“ Mr. Murley, to one of My Many Teacher's I, will search for you in Heaven... You my friend fly high, until we meet again... Love and Prayers Deanna Wartenbe

---

Deanna Wartenbe - January 25, 2020 at 02:29 AM

TR

“ *Teresa Richerson lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley*



Teresa Richerson - January 24, 2020 at 09:13 PM

JG

*I got to know Bob and Judy many years ago. Both of them were dedicated teachers and instrumental in the development of many young people that they in contact with. As a baseball coaching brother Bob was someone that I often asked for advice and he always gave me an honest appraisal of young baseball prospects. May God bless the Murley family and lift you up during these difficult times.*

*Jim Grief*

Jim Grief - January 25, 2020 at 09:13 PM

PJ

“ *I met Bob when he and Judy were at Murray State. He treated me like a little sister. And always made me laugh.*

Phyllis Jones - January 24, 2020 at 08:57 PM

TW

“ *Bob has been a friend for many years. Bob was a hard working, pleasant person who I'm proud to call my friend. Used to coach against his deceased wife Judy. Interacted with him often during those days & when he worked/coached in Massac. God be with Bib, Brian & Julie. 🙏*

Tom Willoughby - January 24, 2020 at 07:43 PM

NH

“ Bob was a special guy who loved our Lord. I served on the Little Egypt Walk to Emmaus board with him and enjoyed our time serving our Lord. Prayers to his beloved family. Norma Harrison

Norma Harrison - January 24, 2020 at 06:59 PM



“ mr murley was my grade school teacher at bgs he was well liked and was a all around good person



Sharon Jordan - January 24, 2020 at 06:01 PM

DL

“ I grew up next to the Murley's. Bob and Johnny were who I looked up to as I am younger. In Milton most all of us followed in or Dads path of being on the fire dept. Throwing baseballs of the chimney and occasionally missing, putting a divot in Johns siding was commonplace.

*RIP Rabbit*

doug lemmons - January 24, 2020 at 04:31 PM

GT

“ Greg Taylor lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley



Greg Taylor - January 24, 2020 at 04:11 PM

AW

“ *My condolences to the family. Mr. Murley was a wonderful person and a great teacher. He will be missed.*



---

**Angela Williams** - January 24, 2020 at 03:49 PM

GS

“ *Bob was responsible for some of the funniest quips I ever heard coming from a dugout. Never forget the voice and the WHISTLE. Will be greatly missed. Galen and Beth Shelton*

---

**galen shelton** - January 24, 2020 at 12:42 PM

AW

“ *Praying for your family. Bob coached my son some in jr high, high school and last year at SCC. He was a great coach and always very encouraging. He will be missed!*



---

**Aleatha Wright** - January 24, 2020 at 11:57 AM

SL

“ *Steve&Kathy Lay lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley*



---

**Steve&Kathy Lay** - January 24, 2020 at 11:53 AM

JN

“ Julie we are so so sorry. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. I remember meeting your dad and thinking what a nice husband and father he was. Always there for his family. Love you  
Jerry and Nada Mudd

---

**Jerry and Nada** - January 24, 2020 at 11:23 AM

JD

“ I remember one time in his class I was too busy looking at the boys out the window to pay attention. He caught me and made me stand and hold my nose to the window for the rest of the class period. Needless to say I paid attention from then on. He will be greatly missed that's for sure.

---

**Jamie Dawson** - January 24, 2020 at 10:37 AM

CG

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

---

**Carol and Randy George** - January 24, 2020 at 10:33 AM

DP

“ We are so very sorry for your loss.



---

**Davis and Pat Prewitt** - January 24, 2020 at 09:33 AM

KP

“ I remember Bob was little league coach



Kevin Parkhurst - January 24, 2020 at 08:21 AM

JS

“ John Slack sent a virtual gift in memory of Bob Murley



John Slack - January 24, 2020 at 08:18 AM

BA

“ Brenda Ames lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley



Brenda Ames - January 24, 2020 at 07:07 AM

DH

“ DALLAS & CHARLENE HARNER sent a virtual gift in memory of Bob Murley



DALLAS & CHARLENE HARNER - January 24, 2020 at 05:28 AM

JS

“ *Jacqueline Smith lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley*



---

**Jacqueline Smith** - January 24, 2020 at 04:26 AM

BT

“ *Brian Trambley lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley*



---

**Brian Trambley** - January 23, 2020 at 10:29 PM

LG

“ *Lora Goddard lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley*



---

**Lora Goddard** - January 23, 2020 at 09:52 PM

RH

“ *Rickey, Sue Harner lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley*



---

**rickey, sue harner** - January 23, 2020 at 09:35 PM

RH

“ Russ & Karla Hale lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley



Russ & Karla Hale - January 23, 2020 at 09:06 PM

EH

“ Ernie & Trish Henshaw lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley



Ernie & Trish Henshaw - January 23, 2020 at 08:52 PM

DF

“ Doug & Brandi Fisher lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley



Doug & Brandi Fisher - January 23, 2020 at 08:45 PM

ML

“ Machie Lang lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley



Machie Lang - January 23, 2020 at 08:14 PM

ML

*Will forever be remembered, hes touched so many lives.*

**Machie Lang** - January 23, 2020 at 08:15 PM

JE

“ *Jo Anne Ethridge lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley*



**Jo Anne Ethridge** - January 23, 2020 at 08:04 PM

TH

“ *This is so heartbreaking. What a great man. I will never forget him walking around the classroom with that yardstick. He nicknamed me “hot lips” after I was caught kissing on school property. He will be greatly missed. :(*

**Tara Huffman** - January 23, 2020 at 08:02 PM

DB

“ *A friend for many years.....was a great guy and great family man.....will be missed....Darryl Bentson*

**darryl bentson** - January 23, 2020 at 07:51 PM

DL

“ *Deidre Loven lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley*



**Deidre Loven** - January 23, 2020 at 07:15 PM



“ Jeannie McCall lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley



Jeannie McCall - January 23, 2020 at 06:57 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bob Murley.



January 23, 2020 at 06:57 PM



“ So sorry for your loss.  
Ted and Joy Beggs



Joy Beggs - January 23, 2020 at 06:46 PM



“ Denise Twente Pannell lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley



Denise Twente Pannell - January 23, 2020 at 06:38 PM

DP

“ It was always nice talking to Coach Murley as a friend and opposing coach. Thoughts and prayers Dale Pender.

Dale Pender - January 23, 2020 at 05:46 PM

NW

“ Noble and I both had Bob for a teacher and a coach. He was an amazing coach and friend for life. Our thoughts and prayers to all the family.



Noble and Mary Jane White - January 23, 2020 at 04:58 PM

JD

“ James And Beth Darden lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley



james and beth darden - January 23, 2020 at 04:42 PM

SR

“ SHERI ROBINSON lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley



SHERI ROBINSON - January 23, 2020 at 04:34 PM

DH

“ *David And Ellen Hill lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley*



---

**David and Ellen Hill** - January 23, 2020 at 02:43 PM

PB

“ *Paul And Glenda Bayless lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley*



---

**Paul and Glenda Bayless** - January 23, 2020 at 02:29 PM

MH

“ *Mary Lou Hynes lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley*



---

**Mary Lou Hynes** - January 23, 2020 at 02:03 PM

BM

“ *Brandi Meyer lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley*



---

**Brandi Meyer** - January 23, 2020 at 01:37 PM

CW

“ Carl & Marilyn Wright lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley



Carl & Marilyn Wright - January 23, 2020 at 12:49 PM

MP

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and yours. He was a good man.



Matthew, Jenny, Katie, and C.J. Prewitt - January 23, 2020 at 12:47 PM

CU

“ Crystal & Anthony Underwood lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley



Crystal & Anthony Underwood - January 23, 2020 at 12:37 PM

PS

“ So sad to hear. Bob was my Principal at BGS and a good friend. He will be missed. My condolences to the family. 💙

Paula Sullivan - January 23, 2020 at 12:34 PM

PS

“ *Paula Sullivan lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley*



---

**Paula Sullivan** - January 23, 2020 at 12:27 PM

MD

“ *He was a all around good guy,*



---

**Mike dewitt** - January 23, 2020 at 12:17 PM

CD

“ *Connie Duty lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley*



---

**Connie Duty** - January 23, 2020 at 11:34 AM

GR

“ *Our hearts are broken, may you rest in peace.*



---

**Gina Rose** - January 23, 2020 at 11:27 AM

Sandy  
Inman

“ *Sandy Inman lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley*



---

**Sandy Inman** - January 23, 2020 at 11:18 AM

SJ

“ *Savannah Jeralds lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley*



---

**Savannah Jeralds** - January 23, 2020 at 11:18 AM

MT

“ *Misty Tate lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley*



---

**Misty Tate** - January 23, 2020 at 11:12 AM

BG

“ *Becky Garner lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley*



---

**Becky Garner** - January 23, 2020 at 11:06 AM

BH

“ *Brandon And Amy Harp lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley*



---

**Brandon and Amy Harp** - January 23, 2020 at 11:02 AM

 Alana Haynes

“ *Alana Haynes lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley*



---

**Alana Haynes** - January 23, 2020 at 10:40 AM

SS

“ *Stephanie Stevens-Bowman lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley*



---

**Stephanie Stevens-Bowman** - January 23, 2020 at 10:36 AM

DL

*RIP mr murley thanks for all the great memories*

---

**David Lauderdale** - January 23, 2020 at 10:47 AM



“ Mike Crews lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley



---

**Mike Crews** - January 23, 2020 at 10:28 AM



“ One of the Best Teachers ever!!!! Always there to talk to, and when I had a bad day he always made me laugh. Many many stories I could tell. He will be missed by many and was loved by everyone. One day I will see you on the other side. Prayers and comfort for his Family and Friends. Fly high Mr. Murley you will be remembered always.



---

**Jen Pratis** - January 23, 2020 at 10:25 AM



“ Larry And Carolyn McGill lit a candle in memory of Bob Murley



---

**Larry and Carolyn McGill** - January 23, 2020 at 10:14 AM