



Robert "Bob" Michael Connors

July 27, 1941 - October 21, 2020

Robert "Bob" Michael Connors, 79, of Tallahassee, FL and Apalachicola, FL passed away on Wednesday, October 21, 2020. He was surrounded by family, friends, and caring staff while in the loving care of Big Bend Hospice.

Bob was born in Fitchburg, Massachusetts on July 27, 1941 to Herb and Marie Connors. Bob was very proud of his firefighter Dad and loved his Mom dearly. He enjoyed growing up in Fitchburg with his brother and sisters, Brian, Kathy and Mary. He attended school at St. Bernard's Catholic School where he excelled at basketball and football and, as he would jokingly say, "and not so much at academics." Later in life, Bob was inducted into the St. Bernard's Football Hall of Fame. He went on to play college football at the University of Massachusetts, and then attended Fitchburg State College where he received a Bachelor of Science in Special Education in 1965. He received his Masters of Science in Special Education from Boston College in 1966.

Always an advocate for public education and a strong proponent for those with special needs, Bob had a long and influential career in public education. He worked for the Florida Department of Education as a consultant and then later as a Bureau Chief, as well as, for Leon County Schools as Assistant Superintendent. After transferring from the Florida DOE, he worked for FSU with the Florida Online High School Project before retiring permanently to Apalachicola, Florida. Throughout his entire career, Bob remained involved in the Special Olympics of Florida as board chair and a dedicated volunteer. He was also on the governing board of the National Council for Exceptional

Children and president of the Florida Federation Council for Exceptional Children. Bob remained a fierce advocate for adults and students with disabilities throughout his lifetime.

Even though retired, he was never one to sit still for long as he developed a non-profit organization, Franklin's Promise, in Apalachicola to help with the coordination of all social services in Franklin County. He also helped to create the Franklin County Food Pantry. This last professional endeavor was near and dear to his heart. Bob had a giving spirit and a heart for community service.

Bob loved to travel, especially to Boston, Cape Cod, Maine, and Ireland. He was a die-hard Boston Red Sox and Patriots fan. He was always quick to banter jokingly with anyone who could handle it. He loved a good argument over politics or sports and never turned down an invitation to golf or to go get some pie at The Village Inn. As a true Irishman, he enjoyed laughter, Irish music, good times, good jokes, and always a good cigar.

Bob's family meant the world to him and he was always very proud of each and every one of them. He is survived by his wife, Beverley Miklos Connors of Apalachicola; his son, Michael Connors (Heather) of Virginia Beach; grandsons, Caelan and Channing Connors; siblings, Brian Connors (predeceased), Kathy Connors and Mary Bourque (Bob) of Massachusetts; step-daughters, Kim Blanton Beaty (Dan) and Michelle Blanton of Tallahassee; granddaughters, Allison and Meredith Beaty; five nieces and nephews and nine great nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass will be held on Friday, October 23, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd Catholic Church located at 4665 Thomasville Road, Tallahassee, Florida.

The Mass will also be available to watch online via livestream at the scheduled time and will also remain available after the service has occurred at www.goodshepherdparish.org/livestream

In lieu of flowers, please send contributions to either of these organizations close to Bob's heart:

-Special Olympics of Florida, 1915 Don Wickham Drive, Clermont, Florida, 34711

-Franklin County Food Pantry, P.O. Box 276, Apalachicola, 32329 (please put "food only" in the message line of your donation)

Breanna Green of Bevis Funeral Home is assisting the family with their arrangements. (850-385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com)

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

OCT **23**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Good Shepherd Catholic Church
4665 Thomasville Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32309

Tribute Wall

MJ

“ *Kathy and Mary,
The Murchie Family sends our condolences to you both on the passing of your brother Bob. We have wonderful memories of growing up across the street from your family.
Mary Beth, Barry, Brian and Bobby*

Mary Beth Jokela - October 23, 2020 at 05:06 PM

PK

“ *Bobby Connors was my Freshman Football Coach at St Bernard's HS in Fitchburg and he continued to help coach Varsity Football as my high school athletic career went on !! Even then He was a Man Among Men !! We were in Awe Of Him !! He was a South Side Fitchburg Guy from an incredibly talented Irish Family !! I was fortunate enough to reunite with him at his well deserved StB HOF Induction !! His Legacy will continue to live on through all the lives he touched and by all who were fortunate to know him !! SLAINTE Coach !!! Now And Always !!! Paul Keating*

paul keating - October 23, 2020 at 11:05 AM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Michael Connors.*



October 22, 2020 at 10:30 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Michael Connors.*



October 22, 2020 at 06:17 PM



“ *Pete McDonald purchased the Cherished Memories for the family of Robert "Bob" Michael Connors.*



Pete McDonald - October 22, 2020 at 02:09 PM



“ *Love the KAUL Girls (Joan, Nancy & Cindy) purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Robert "Bob" Michael Connors.*



Love the KAUL Girls (Joan, Nancy & Cindy) - October 22, 2020 at 01:25 PM



“ *The days I spent working with Bob at the Bureau were some of the best of my professional career. He was a partner and a friend. He had a very meaningful life. May he Rest In Peace.*

Dennis Ehrhardt - October 22, 2020 at 12:46 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Michael Connors.



October 22, 2020 at 10:46 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Michael Connors.



October 22, 2020 at 10:22 AM



“ This guy invented the word "advocrat". He was tough on us young family leaders but always kind. Our world, my world, was a better place because I got to work with him. ❤️❤️

Conni Wells - October 21, 2020 at 11:39 PM



“ Always enjoyed talking to him when he was on Cape Cod. Looked forward to his visit in the summer. He was a very interesting person and he will be missed.

Roger & Linette Bechard

Linette Bechard - October 21, 2020 at 07:47 PM

JS

“ *The best friend, boss and mentor in my life. He always believed in taking risks to be an advocate for children and families. He is a part of all of our hearts. His was a life that made a difference for so many people.*

Joanne scaturro - October 21, 2020 at 05:33 PM

SF

*Sharon Moore Brown
My husband Russ, our daughters, son in laws, and grandchildren all loved Bob and his visits to Virginia Beach with Beverly. He was a wonderful friend, father & grandfather. May God Bless Him, Love the Brown Family.*

Sharon Moore Brown & Family - October 22, 2020 at 08:02 PM