



Floyd L. "Red" Grow

February 17, 1918 - March 5, 2011

Floyd L. "Red" Grow, 93, lifelong resident of Bloomington died on Saturday, March 5, 2011 at Garden Villa. He was born in Monroe County on February 17, 1918 the son of Walter and Edna (Sullivan) Grow and attended Bloomington High School. After serving with the U.S. Army during World War II he became an employee of Indiana University working in the athletic department. He retired after 47 years of service as the Equipment Manager for I.U. Athletics.

During his many years of service to the university, Red had the distinct pleasure of meeting and becoming friends with some of the world's greatest athletes. He and his family served countless hours making sure the equipment and needs of various sports was met and as a result became true and hard fast friends to many. In the earlier years it was not uncommon for his wife, daughters and even sons-in-law to help wash, dry and prepare the uniforms at their home for the next game or practice. Just a couple of the many highlights of his career included the 1968 Rose Bowl and the undefeated season of the I.U. Men's Basketball Championship season in 1976 as an example.

Floyd was inducted into the Indiana University Hall of Fame, an honorary member of the "I" Men's Association and the I.U. Varsity Club. He served his community as a member and Past Master of Monroe Lodge #22, F. & A.M., Bloomington York Rite Bodies, Murat Shrine and Stonebelt Shrine Club. He particularly like to fish, play golf and was a former state champion at

playing horseshoes.

Survivors include two daughters; Darlene (James) Arthur and Judy Bastin, both of Bloomington, seven grandchildren; Beth (Lyle) LaPort, Jeff Bastin, Becky Bastin, Jay (Donelle) Bastin, Lisa (Rick) Murphy, Randy Arthur, Eric Arthur and Amy (Joe) Wright, thirteen great grandchildren and two great, great grandchildren. Also surviving is his longtime friend and caregiver, Betty Ryan and her family, of Bloomington, two half-sisters, Grace Browning of Bedford and Helen Hillenburg of Bloomington and one half-brother, Jerry Grow of Bloomington.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Giulia (Slater) Grow, one sister, Edna Grow and three brothers, Orville Grow, Les Grow and Carl Paul Grow.

Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday at Allen Funeral Home, 4155 S. Old St. Rd. 37 with Rev. Ray New and William Tabor officiating. Burial will be at Valhalla Memory Gardens where the Veterans Honor Guard will conduct Military Graveside rites. Friends may call at the funeral home on Tuesday from 2:00-8:00 p.m. Masonic memorial services will be conducted at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday

Memorial contributions may be made to the I.U. Varsity Club or charity of choice in care of Allen Funeral Home. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.allenfuneralhome.org.

Tribute Wall

GR

“ Our thoughts and prayers to all of Red's family. Tammy and I enjoyed one last visit with Red last Friday and I can not express what a treat that last hug was, and that memory will always be with with me. Red thanks for being you and making my experience at I.U. complete, and what a family, I know he is proud of each and every one of you.

Greg McIntosh - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

DA

“ Red was a pillar within IU athletics. As others have said, he was a counselor to many of us, especially the managers from many sports that often worked with him everyday. Red was of terrific support to us all, and more than once got me out of a jam before a practice or game. Thanks Red, and my condolences to your entire family.

Dave Skibinski - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

SC

“ I am sadden to hear of Red's passing. And I am happy to have known him. As IU Soccer's first varsity manager, I was fortunate to see Red daily. He was a friend, a soothing force in my years there. The story of Red had it wrong though. He was in the middel of a third major IU Athletic "happening". In 1976, the Hoosier soccer team was playing in the Stadium, during a blizzard. Having never been in this predictament, we were having trouble finding our footing on the frozen turf. At half time, between our Trainer and Red, they outfitted the team with special football turf shoes, that eventually propelled the team to their first (of many) final fours. This was a turning point for IU Soccer. Thank you Red for everything you did for me, for us. God Bless You

Scott Rosen - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

KE

“ When Red found out that my hometown was famous for its watermelons, and they were in season everytime that we started football practice in August, he made sure that I brought him at least two melons as my "admittance to IU's Assembly Hall" all four years that I attended IU. I thought it was Red's way of trading for some IU equipment but, heck, he was so tight that he only gave me one IU Football T-shirt in 4 years of service. What a boss! His most famous phrase in the 70's was "you can touch it but not hold it" and that applied to the footballs that I had to polish every gameday for our QB. He made sure that I put them promptly back in the ballbag. What a great life and impact he had on every athlete, trainer, manager and coach that ever walked into his office in Assembly Hall! He brought each of us a little laughter everyday and, in his own special way, made us know that nobody was better than another.

Student Manager - 1979 Holiday Bowl Champions

Keith Robling - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

FR

“ What a great man. I remember as a nervous walk-on my first day on campus. It was picture day and as a walk on didn't have a number assigned. I was upset, and Red said what was your number in high school son? I said "63 sir." He pulled out a red 63 and said here ya go! I will never forget that or him.

Fred Kalil - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

CA

“Red, May you be at peace. You worked so hard for many years. In my day here in football you made it feel as you were the "House Father". With your witty direction and the little things that made us feel special. I have been in many talks with fellow players over the years and a story about you and the player always comes up. As I write this it feels as we are back at the Assembly Hall clothes bar, waiting for some type of clean clothes that was always ready. May the Lord bless you kindly and I will always remember my time with you.

Carl Barzilauskas

Carl Barzilauskas - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

GA

“I worked with Red some time ago during my time at Indiana University. He was always a very caring, special person.

Thank you for sharing Red with all of us who walked through the halls of the athletic department at Indiana.

I will remember him fondly.

*Gayle Blevins
Former Softball Coach*

Gayle Blevins - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

DM

“We're so sorry for your loss. Our hearts our with you even though we cant be. Love-Dan, Moriah, Charley and Michael

Dan and Moriah Murphy - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

JO

“ All of our prayers are with the Grow family. There was no greater man at I.U. than Red. I first met Red in 1955 (I was nine) when my brother Mike was a freshman football player. Somehow, I always ended up spending all my time in the equipment room with Red. I was priviledged to work as an equipment manager for my four years at I.U. with a trip to the Rose Bowl as a Senior. Red had an amazing talent of making every athlete feel like he was at home while they were in Bloomington. He managed to keep everyone's morale up even during bad times. We will miss you Red!

John Rabold - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

D(

“ Darlene and Judy, I was so sad to hear of your loss. Red was such a great friend to my father Jim (Baugh). I'm sure if there is a golf course or fishing hole in Heaven, they will be on it soon. My Deepest Sympathy to you and your families. Debbie

Debbie Reed (Baugh) - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

MI

“ My sympathies to the Grow family. Red will always be remembered by every athlete that had the priviledge of his guidance and sense of humor. He knew when to build you up and when to bring you back down. He was a friend and will be missed but always fondly remembered by us all. God bless you Red.
Mike Harkrader IU 76-80

Michael Harkrader - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

DA

“ I was so sad to have read about Red's passing.

I was his paper boy many years ago and he was always very nice to me, and we would always talk about IU sports.

I know Red was a huge IU fan, and his loyalty and support will be sadly missed.

My condolences to Red's family.

David Drutt - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

JU

“ Lisa, from an old friend who spent many Friday and Saturday nights with Red and Mim, it sure brought back great memories. They always treated me just like family, great people. Juli (Zerface) Forrest

Juli Zerface-Forrest - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

MA

“ My sympathies to the Grow family. Red was one of a kind. His dry wit could reduce the "star" athlete to the same level as a walk on. At the same he could make you feel very important. No one was more loyal to IU than Red. We shall miss him.

Max Skirvin - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

RO

“ Condolences from the Ellettsville Masonic Lodge. Red will be missed dearly. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Ross Riggs - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

KA

“ Lisa & family..Our thoughts & prayers are with you!
Karen,Alan,Lori,Ryan & Matt

karen chase - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

ST

“ I am so sorry to hear of Red's passing, you have our condolences.
He was a great man and always made you feel like you were
important to him. I'm proud to have known him.

Steven Bradley - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

RA

“ Red was truly the person who loved every athlete at IU and
considered each one a part of his family. We all owe him much for
his positive guidance and great humor. Nobody smiled like Red!

Ray Pavy - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

KE

“ My Condolences to the Family of Red Grow,
My thoughts and prayers go out to you! I thank God for Red, he has
been a great friend to myself and all athletes at IU. His
encouragement, support, motivation and friendship was greatly
appreciated!
Red, thank you for so many great and wonderful memories! Thank
you for all that you have been for us at IU! Thank you for allowing
me the opportunity to be your friend! You are a true Champion in my
eyes! May God rest you soul! God Bless the Red Grow Family!
Respectfully, Kent Benson

Kent Benson - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

DO

“Red was always there for all of us with a smile on his face. A smile every day. His years and his loyalty to Indiana University are second to none. No one can ever remember getting a tee shirt, a pair of socks, an I jacket or an I blanket without fondly remembering Red. Anyone who came in contact with Red Grow was a better person for having known him. May he rest in peace and may God bless his family.

*Doug Crusan
Rose Bowl Team*

Doug Crusan - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

FR

“Red's total devotion to Indiana sports programs was an inspiration for many generations of athletes. I know how blessed I am to have known such a wonderful human being. My deepest condolences and my thoughts and prayers go out to Red's family.

Frank Stavroff

Frank Stavroff - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

BI

“Red never met a stranger and was a friend to all IU athletes. He remembered all our names and was able to offer encouragement to raise us up or a well needed comment to put us in our place. He loved his job and the people around him, and there was never any question as to his loyalties to the Cream and Crimson! IU was a better place because of him.

Bill Olds - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

BC

“ We were very sorry to read about Red's passing. We are glad that we had the opportunity to reconnect with Red during the last few years. He had always been a dear and close friend many years ago. We enjoyed his tremendous sense of humor and fairness. He was very loyal and we will miss him very much.
Bob & Connie Sawyer

Bob & Connie Sawyer - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

TE

“ *Dear Grow Family,*

Red left a legacy at IU that is impossible to replicate. He was a friend, leader and he was beloved and respected by all who knew him. He made a positive impact on the lives of thousands of student athletes.

God Bless Red Grow.

Terry Tallen - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

RI

“ Floyd “Red” Grow, was a truly great institution during 47 years of service as the Athletic Equipment Manager at Indiana University. All IU athletes and coaches during his tenure have many wonderful stories and memories of this outstanding individual who was an important part of our time at IU. Red was a wonderful caring human being that touched many of our lives in a very positive way – often with his great sense of humor. I am sure we can all think of a time that Red made us smile and forget our problems.

Thank you Red for your service to our country in WWII and thank you from the many IU athletes and coaches who knew you as a true friend!

God Bless you Red and your wonderful family!

Rich Coachys - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

MD

“ Red Grow was one of the GIANTS of Indiana University. He was a constant for so many years for so many athletes of all sports. He was so full of life and was so “IU”. Like Howard Brown, Red was and will remain always an IU institution. He was as sharp as ever when I visited him last week. When he saw me the first thing he said was, “I took care of all 3 Deals”. Indeed he did from my father Russ “Mutt” in 1946, to my brother Mike in the 1960's to myself in the 1970's. Our family was blessed to be in the good care of men like Red Grow. God Bless You, Red.

Mark Deal - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

BJ

“ It was truly my pleasure to work with Red at IU. What a great, great gentleman, and a smile that was unforgettable.

Darlene, and Judy, he sure loved you two girls and was so very proud of you, and your children.

Red, you will be missed but remembered always in our hearts and prayers.

BJ McElroy - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

EB

“ To the Red Grow Family,

My thoughts are with all of you. Like many other athletes at IU, Red initially teased the heck out of me when I arrived on campus. I learned to appreciate Red and soon realized that it was his way of welcoming me. Our friendship grew as did my admiration for him and I must admit that some of the best times I had at IU were the fun talks we had in his office. What a gentleman and great ambassador for Indiana University! He was a gem.

Eric De Bord - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

T(

“ Red always made me feel good no matter what was going on. A little comment to keep us grounded or a great fish story, he always had a way with all of us. He was a great man and I must thank him for the best locations on Lake Monroe for some great crappie fishing.

Tim Clifford 1979 Holiday Bowl Champs

Tim (Sonny) Clifford - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

KE

“ *RED WAS ONE OF THE GREAT ONES !*

kevin duffy - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

JA

“ *"Red" was always there for us. In the very tough times of double-sessions, it was great to see, and speak, to a friendly individual. His passing will affect us all.*

Jack Holder - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

M"

“ *Dear Grow Family,*

"Red" was the best boss I ever worked for.

You have my condolences, Sincerely,

Blondie Levy Senior Manager 1968 Rose Bowl Team

Morris "Blondie" Levy - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

DE

“ Like many, many others before me and after me at IU Athletics, Red Grow was absolutely like a father to me. From my first days at IU Football in the summer of '65, Red was always someone a lost and truly out of place freshman student trainer could turn to for a smile and a few words of wisdom and encouragement to help a fellow over the rough spots of college life. I will always remember fondly and appreciate that trademark big smile and laughter emanating from Red. In later years, I would always try to contact Red whenever I made it back to Bloomington. I would start every phone call with, "Let's head over to Ryans' Cafe for some persimmon pudding!" And Red would laugh and immediately identify that it was me and then we'd launch into a great conversation about news of our families and life in general!
We've all lost a dear friend. Red may be gone, but he will NEVER be forgotten. Rest in Peace, Big Red.

Dean Kleinschmidt - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM