



Robert "Bob" Williams

July 17, 1934 - June 24, 2013

Robert "Bob" Williams died June 24, 2013 at the IU Health Hospice House in Bloomington, IN. He was 78 years old and was born in Warsaw, IN July 17, 1934. Bob was the only child of Homer V. and Helen (Can) Williams. He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Patricia L.(Pat) Williams, son Braddon S. Williams of Kokomo, IN., and daughter Courtnay (Joseph) Fuller of Manassas, VA. Additional survivors are grandchildren Andrew Fuller and Emma Fuller.

Bob graduated from Warsaw High School, Warsaw, IN, and from Indiana University, where he obtained a B.S. in piano from the Jacobs School of Music, and a MA. from Arts and Sciences.

One of his fondest memories was being the accompanist for the Singing Hoosiers under the direction of founder George Krueger. That close teaching relationship remained with him all his life and was instrumental in how he interpreted music. He served as the president of the IU Singing Hoosiers Alumni Council and was awarded the Singing Hoosiers Alumni Distinguished Service Award in 1987.

Bob and Pat met at IU, at an exchange dinner between Beta Theta Pi and Alpha Omicron Pi. Following their marriage in 1956, Bob was

drafted by the U.S. Army and served with the Infantry Division in Germany. While there, he wrote the music for an original work called, "Always Fair Weather."

His teaching career began in Howard County Indiana, where he taught at Northwestern High School where he wrote nine original musical productions for his students. He moved to the Haworth High School and Kokomo High School systems, where he taught English, Literature, and Drama, while continuing to direct plays at both high schools.

During the late 70's and early 80's Bob was under contract as an actor with Act One and Helen Wells Agencies in Indianapolis, IN. where he did work in both TV and print commercials.

Kokomo Civic Theatre was a favorite pastime, working with many close friends and sharing his love of music and theatre. He was awarded the Kokomo Civic Theatre Lifetime Achievement Award in 1996. He formed a group, "Bob Williams and Friends" who performed in northern Indiana the works of Bob's favorite composers. IU Kokomo was the recipient of their generosity as the IUK Library was being built. Bob was awarded the IUK Distinguished Service Award in 2008.

Retirement to Bloomington, IN gave Bob continued opportunities to perform thanks to the IU Alumni Association. Pat's need for a program let to Bob developing their "Hoagy Carmichael" gig which they enjoyed performing in many different states for the IUAA. In 2010 the IUAA awarded Bob the Presidents Award, which was a proud moment for this life member of the IUAA. His early association with Straight No Chaser led him toward four recordings, so his music

will continue.

Friends in central Indiana enjoyed his yearly appearances at the Artsgarden in Indianapolis, IN. And friends in the Washington, D.C. appreciated his yearly turns at the piano of the Army-Navy Country Club on New Years Eve..

Even as his health faltered in 2013, he continued to share his gift of music with the patients and families of the IU Health Hospital Oncology unit on 4East, where he was known as "The Piano Man."

A memorial service will be held at St. Mark's United Methodist Church with visitation one hour prior to the service on Monday July 1, 2013 at 3:00PM.

A Kokomo, IN. "Remembering Bob" gathering will take place on the IUK Havens Auditorium stage on Wednesday July 17, 2013 at 7:00PM.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the IU Foundation for the Robert E. Williams Singing Hoosiers Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 500, Bloomington, IN 47402 or the IU Health Hospital Foundation, P.O. Box 1149, Bloomington, IN 47402 to benefit either the neurological unit or Hospice House.

Allen Funeral Home is handling the arrangements and online condolences may be sent to the family at www.allenfuneralhome.org.

Tribute Wall

JS

“ I just learned of Mr. Williams passing . The whole Williams family were a very special part of my childhood on Pinehurst lane in Kokomo in the 60's .thoughts and prayers to all. Jeff Shook

Jeff Shook - December 28, 2019 at 04:17 PM

CH

“ Pat,
You are in my prayers

Charlotte Colvin - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

ED

“ Mr. Williams once told me that to be charming was to bring out the best in others. I actually believe that definition is what Bob was. Pat, you and he were so important in our lives. As we were leaning into adulthood we witnessed the evolution of your family and what love can and should be. Thank you for teaching so many, so well. We are sharing in your grief.

Eddie Watson - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

KV

“ Mr. Williams was my drama teacher at Northwestern High School in Kokomo. We had a blast in his class. He was a great mentor and teacher. I also acted in two of his original plays that he wrote. What a talent! He will be greatly missed.

Kathy Vega - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

KE

“ Pat, Braddon, Courtney, Andrew and Emma...
You will share the many wonderful times that
you had with Bob, 'Dad' and 'Grandpa' - you
will laugh and cry- you will reflect on many of
those special moments you had with him. He'll
still be with you in Spirit. My deepest and most
sincere Condolences to you all. Ken Schubert

Ken Schubert - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

SC

“ Mrs. Williams, Brad and Courtney, my thoughts and prayers are with
you during this sad time. Mr. Williams was one of a few men in my
life that, after time has passed, I am able to realize what an impact
he had on me as a young man. He trully was an inspiration and a
tremendous male role model to me and countless other high
schoolers I'm sure. He allowed us to find our own voice in the world.
His passing lets me remind you of yet another example of the good
he performed. He will not be forgotten.

Scott Newman - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

RO

“ Pat,

Sorry for your lost. I can not believe that he has passed. You and he
were at our 1962 Northwestern 50th class reunion only nine months
ago. I do have some video taken at the class reunion.He will be
remembered.....

robert olson - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

JE

“ Pat: I first met Bob as a student in his Speech class at Haworth High in 1969. Little did I know then what a positive impact that both you and he would have on our family over the years. For that I'm extremely grateful. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Jeff Hillis

Jeff Hillis - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

BJ

“ Dear Pat,
It was my great pleasure to meet you and Bob during this last year. You both were a shining example of giving back to everyone around you. I loved listening to Bob play the piano on the oncology unit at the hospital! So full of generosity and fun. My prayers are with you and your family. He will be greatly missed....but has a legacy that will live on and on. Blessings, Barb Jager (Giggles)

Barbara Jager - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

BC

“ So very sorry, Pat, that we could not be with you, but our fondest and loving memories of Bob will be with us forever.

Bud & Carol Hillis - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

CH

“ Dear Pat, Braddon, and Courtney,
Bob was a dear friend of mine for 70 years! We shared birthday greetings almost every year. Whenever we were together individually or with classmates, the occasions were joyous ones. We all have been blessed by Bob's piano prowess and those memories will be treasured forever. Well Done, Good, Faithful, and very Talented Servant. Till we meet again, Charlie Ker

charlie ker - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

CO

“ Dear Pat & Bob Williams family,
Bob Williams made the world a better place, and when he was at the piano keyboard, his music was a gift he shared with his listeners.
We cherish his 4 CDs and his loyal friendship to my husband, Charlie Ker, and to my brother, John Hobson.
So glad the WCHS 60th class reunion was last summer when we all enjoyed "The Nearness of You" once again. Our broken hearts send sympathy to all who knew The Piano Man. Connie Ker

connie ker - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

PA

“ What a wonderful teacher to have in high school. Bob allowed us space and gave us the rare opportunity to voice opinions. His love of music and theater were contagious, opening doors for many of us. We loved being in plays he wrote and working with him as "director". I am so very sad. Although I haven't seen him in ages, I will always have him in my heart.

Pam Massengill - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

JI

“ I so enjoyed Bob's music and played it a number of times on my Golden Age Radio Show.
He will be missed.

Jim Berbeco - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

PA

“ *Mr Williams was my favorite teacher. I was in his class the las year that he taught, but it was my first year of high school. I was starting to figure who I was and what I wanted to be and he pointed me in the right direction. He was a beautiful person, and made other feel beautiful too. The world is a little less happy now that he's gone but I will try to keep him alive in all that I do. I will miss you Mr Williams I'm only sorry that my boys will never get to be in you class.*

Patrick Williamson - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

BA

“ *To Pat and Family:*

Remembering your loved one will be an easy task for all of us who had the opportunity to know and love him. I remember the first day he walked into that English class at Northwestern H.S. We had no idea just what an impact he would have on all of our lives at that time. Teaching us to write. Teaching us to read a novel or recite a poem with clarity and depth. Teaching us to see that the world is a much larger place than in our own minds. Making us aware of the fact that we could do anything if we just put our heart and soul into it.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts and condolences.

Remembering and living the legacy, I remain,

Barbara (Parker) Colby

Northwestern High School (Class of 1962)

Barbara Colby - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

MI

“ Pat, It was with great sadness that I read about Bob's passing. He was my favorite teacher at Northwestern where I graduated in 1967. I many fond memories of times both in and out of the classroom. My prayers are with you and your family at this time.

Mike Morgan

Mike Morgan - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

MU

“ I loved him as a teacher and as a friend. I was so lucky to attend the 50th graduation reunion of the Class of '62 of North-western High School and enjoy his company once more after 50 years... May God open the doors of Heaven for Bob...

Mustafa Turkmen - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

JB

“ We will miss your ready smile, friendliness and wonderful piano playing. We know you are now completely well and playing up a storm and enjoying all the music in heaven.

Beth and John Drewes

JOHN and BETH DREWES - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

CG

“ It hard to believe that a good friend, colleague, and fellow music maker has left us, but I know that the Lord has a place for him in the his music organization. Bob is now performing for the Master. We go a long way back and have remained friends over the years. Theresa and I send our sincere love to the family and God's Blessings.

Charles Greenwood - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

LY

“ Dear Pat,

I was deeply saddened today to read about Bob's death. This is a real loss for all of us who knew this talented, creative and kind man. I've been playing his CD all day and sitting here thinking about how much I liked him. Those kids he taught were so lucky!

I will surely send a contribution to the Foundation in Bob's memory for his scholarship fund - - another thoughtful act so typical of him. I will miss him.

Love, Lydia Finkelstein

Lydia Finkelstein - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

WN

“ Dear Pat,

*May your wonderful memories last forever.
May you find comfort in the memories of your loved one.
With Sympathy.
In Christian Love,
Wayne and Naomi Johnson*

Wayne and Naomi Johnson - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

LK

“ *Although I did not know Bob, I know Brad and by knowing him, I know Bob was a great man. I wish comfort and healing to you all.*

*Love and Prayers
Lisa*

Lisa Kissinger - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM