



Robert Bruce Hicks

July 12, 1921 - November 24, 2012

Robert Bruce Hicks passed away peacefully on November 24, 2012 at the age of 91.

Born on July 12, 1921 in Hazleton, PA, to Bruce M. and Jennie MacNeal Hicks, Bob was proud to hail from the anthracite coal region of eastern Pennsylvania. It was there that he began a life-long love of athletics.

He was a standout athlete who earned a football scholarship to the University of Tennessee to play for General Robert Neyland. World War II interrupted his college years, and he served in the US Navy during the war. He returned to UT where he earned his degree and met his future bride, Louise Halliburton. They were wed in 1948 and enjoyed 62 years of marriage until Louise's death in 2010.

Upon graduation, Bob's football coaching career began at Milan HS (TN) and Spartanburg HS (SC). He entered the college coaching ranks as an assistant at the University of Wyoming, helping to bring the program to prominence. His subsequent 16 years of coaching at Indiana University were highlighted by an appearance in the 1968 Rose Bowl. He later served as an

administrator in the IU Athletic Department and the School of HPER.

He was a member of First United Methodist Church, Kiwanis Club, and Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

Bob was a teacher at heart, using athletic competition as a means to instill valuable life lessons. He delighted in the relationships he maintained with many of the men he coached. Known for his optimism and cheerful disposition, Bob's life will continue to serve as inspiration for his loved ones. He was a dedicated family man who will be greatly missed.

Survivors include his adoring children, Barbara Gartner (Chris) of Park Ridge, IL, Rebecca Dickson (Bruce) of Austin, TX, and Robert B. Hicks, Jr. (Jennifer) of Zionsville, IN.

"Grandpa" will be lovingly remembered by his nine grandchildren: Ellen (Josh Phillips), Anna (Eric Horsch) and Carleton Gartner; Neal (Allison), Andrew (Lindsey) and Lauren Dickson; and Robert III, Margaret and Charlie Hicks; great-granddaughter Harper Louise Dickson, beloved nieces and nephews, extended family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his dear sister, Ruth Hicks Randall Stewart.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to Lana McCray for her skillful, loving care and to the Bell Trace Health & Living Staff for their support.

Visitation will be held at Allen Funeral Home from 5-8 p.m. on Friday, November 30. A reception will be held at First United Methodist Church at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, December 1, followed

by the funeral service at 3:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to First United Methodist Church, 219 E. 4th Street, Bloomington, IN, 47408, or the Indiana University Varsity Club, 1008 E. 17th St., Bloomington, IN, 47408.

Allen Funeral Home is handling arrangements. Friends can send condolences to www.allenfuneralhome.org

Tribute Wall

TY

“ *Becky and family,
I was so sorry to hear about the passing of your Father. I know it must be very difficult for all of you. You are in my thoughts and prayers. All my best to you and your family.*
Tya

Tya Hanna - October 26, 2015 at 04:14 PM

DU

“ *I had the honor to know and spend some precious moments with this great man. Through my wife's great friendship with Becky (daughter) I was able to meet a true "gentleman". I remember when Becky and Bruce got married, before the wedding that day, Mr Hicks said to me Barb and Becky will always be best friends, no matter the distance. Wise man. I loved Mr Hicks, and ALL his family! May God give you Becky, Bruce, kids and Barb, Bobby and all the kids, peace and the confidence of knowing Mrs Hicks and Mr Hicks are once again in each others arms. Love you all, Dan U*

Dan Umbaugh - October 26, 2015 at 04:14 PM

GL

“ *Coach Hicks was always a classy guy and I liked and admired him tremendously. Sad to hear of his passing but I celebrate his life as I do for my father who passed away just a few weeks ago. My condolences to his family. He is in a better place. May God give comfort to all those who grieve. Sincerely Glenn Scolnik #87*

Glenn Scolnik - October 26, 2015 at 04:14 PM

MA

“ Wishing the family God Speed and blessings in the our of bereavement. May God also comfort your family during this trying time.

Sincerely,

Michael Adams #45

Mike Adams - October 26, 2015 at 04:14 PM

DA

“ Dear Hicks Children:
I was President of Student Athletic in 1976 at I.U. I got to spend lot's of time with your father. What a wonderful man. He was so good to me and all the students who worked around the athletic. We talked some over the years, and Dean Mckaig keep me up to date in his later years. I had dinner with Dick last night, and he told me of your father;s passing. Thanks for sharing your father with me, He holds a special place in my heart. He would of loved last night game against NC.

Sincerely:

David Schlemmer

David Schlemmer - October 26, 2015 at 04:14 PM

M"

“ I was senior football manager in 1968 and worked along side Coach Hicks for four years.

I still mimick Coach Hicks every morning by saying " It's a great day to work"

Morris "Blondie" Levy - October 26, 2015 at 04:14 PM

ER

“ *To Coach Hicks Family,*

My deepest regrets for your loss. I want you to know how much I Coach Hicks meant to be me and my teammates. I loved that man and his sense of humor, wonderful temperament, and most of all his genuine caring for our well beings. Special human....we'll all miss him.

With kindest and warm to you,

*Eric Stolberg #89
IU Rose Bowl Team member.*

Eric Stolberg - October 26, 2015 at 04:14 PM

BO

“ *Bobby,*

My wife and I will be out of town this weekend and therefore will miss the funeral and showing. The Morgan's send their prayers and condolences during this difficult time. Your Dad was a great coach, husband, and father whom everyone had the highest regard for. He was a true gentleman that will be dearly missed. Rest assured he is in a better place. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. May god Bless you.

*Sincerely,
Bob and Bridget Morgan and family.*

Bob Morgan - October 26, 2015 at 04:14 PM