



Brad Murphy

September 20, 1931 - November 18, 2016

Brad Murphy, 85, of East Peoria, died on November 18 at Methodist Hospital following an illness of two years. He became increasingly debilitated over the summer due in part to another disappointing White Sox season, a team he rooted for his whole life.

He was born in Aurora, Illinois to Clayton and Emma Cline Mowery Murphy on September 20, 1931. He grew up in Cuba Illinois, where like so many little boys, he fell in love with sports. He continued competing in both football and baseball at Knox College and always appreciated the opportunities offered by Knox. He graduated in 1953 and was active for many years in the Knox 50 Year Club.

He began his coaching/teaching career at Astoria. He then coached for a year at Cuba before moving to East Peoria in 1955 where he met the love of his life, Judy. They married on June 7, 1958 at the First United Methodist church in Cuba. Judy survives. Also surviving are children, Patrick of Seattle and Katy and Brian James of Germantown Hills; brother, Milton and Linda Murphy and sister, Ellen and Clayton Waughtel, both of Cuba. He was intensely proud of his two grandchildren, Brad James of Davenport, IA and Carrie James in school at SIUC.

Brad earned his Master's degree at Western Illinois University and Specialists Degree in Guidance and Counseling at Western State University at Gunnison Colorado in 1966.

Brad worked for 10 years in the office of the State Superintendent of Public

Instruction, rising to the position of Director of Guidance and Counseling for the State of Illinois. To keep up with his first love, high school sports, he qualified as a football and basketball official. When an opportunity opened up at Lincoln, Illinois for a guidance counselor and coach he jumped at the chance. He finished his career at Lincoln, retiring in 1987.

Brad and his family enjoyed 32 summers at their island on Sandpoint Lake in northern Minnesota, a remote area on the Canadian border. Brad always enjoyed company and Judy often referred to the place as the Sandpoint Hilton. Their lease expired in 2004 and the island was absorbed in to Voyageur National Park. He often remarked that the feds might take the island but they could never rob the family of years of happy memories of summers at the lake.

At Brad's vehement insistence, there will be no funeral. A celebration of his life will be held at the Cuba United Methodist Church on Wednesday November 30 at 10 a.m. Please, no flowers. If you would like to remember Brad, Fon du Lac Library welcomes contributions. Reading was one of Brad's most cherished forms of entertainment, and he read the hard stuff—mainly history, mystery, and literary fiction. Deiters Funeral Home and Crematory in East Peoria are in charge of arrangements.

Brad led a fun-filled life, teaching, coaching, and traveling. Now all he would ask of his Lord is a decent team to coach (no shoo-ins) and fair officiating. We love you, Murf, and you will be achingly missed.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV **30**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Cuba United Methodist Church
626 E Main St
Cuba, IL 61427
(309) 785-3811

Tribute Wall

SP

“ I send my most sincere condolences to you all for the passing of your loved one. I was among all the giddy, young girls at EPCHS that were so taken with the very young and handsome new teacher, "Mr. Murphy"! He caused quite a buzz in the halls! I graduated in 1958, but Brad worked on with my father, John Fritz, who retired in 1962 and died in 1991. I know you are proud of Brad's many accomplishments and his caring commitment to education and family. Blessings to all.

Sally Fritz Pope

Willowbrook, IL

Sally Fritz Pope - December 11, 2016 at 06:20 AM

KJ

“ Katy James lit a candle in memory of Brad Murphy



Katy James - December 03, 2016 at 10:13 PM

BJ

“ Brian James lit a candle in memory of Brad Murphy



Brian James - December 03, 2016 at 09:59 PM

GF

“ Please accept my family's heartfelt condolences on the loss of your dear loved one. May you find comfort in fond memories, and The Almighty God's promise in the Bible, to restore those asleep in death to perfect life on a paradise Earth.

Greene Family - November 28, 2016 at 03:58 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Brad Murphy.



November 25, 2016 at 10:50 PM

PR

“ Judy, I just visited Dodi Larke, my surrogate aunt, and she showed my Brad's obituary. Dodi said she started the same year as he did. She lives in Peoria still. I remember baby sitting for your kids when I lived at 107 Fraser. My parents are Donna and Larry Lowry who have sadly both died (1993, dad and 2005, mom). I loved reading the loving comments about Brad.

Pamela Lowry Rodey - November 23, 2016 at 03:47 PM

KJ

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Katy James - November 21, 2016 at 09:47 PM

PM

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall

Patrick Murphy - November 21, 2016 at 09:35 PM

PM

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Patrick Murphy - November 21, 2016 at 09:34 PM

JM

I am so sorry for your loss Judy Katie and Patrick. I always will have great memories of the sour rhubarb but great fun growing up on Fondulac Dr. I was always welcomed at your house and think of the Murphy's as family. What a great life he lived! Condolences- John Murphy.

John Murphy - November 21, 2016 at 10:28 PM