



## ROBERT "BOB" LAWRENCE STARK

February 11, 1924 - September 30, 2021

On September 30, 2021, with great sadness we said goodbye to our treasured husband, father, coach, mentor and friend. For 97 years he filled our lives with his love, amazing energy, compassion and unique humor. From beginning to end he lived and left life with comedy, courage and grace. Before his "final pitch", he tipped his hat to his extended family of Caledonia. Semper Fi.

Robert L. Stark was born February 11, 1924 to Adolph and Elizabeth Stark in Red Wing, MN. He graduated from Central High School in Red Wing, MN in 1943. After graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. During WWII he served in the Pacific until November 1945. He married Mary Ann Raetz on June 26, 1948 in Red Wing, MN and they enjoyed 73 years together.

Bob graduated from Winona State in 1951, lettering in football, basketball, and baseball. He started his teaching career in Caledonia in 1951, was head football coach 1951-1967, assistant basketball coach 1951-1967, head baseball coach 1951-1976, and resumed coaching baseball 1981-1986, and was athletic director 1968-1990. Mr. Stark was involved in the Caledonia school system teaching, coaching and as athletic director for 39 years. He belonged to NEA, MEA, CEA, and State High School Coaches Association. He was inducted into Winona State Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005, and MN State High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2010. He

was a member of St. Mary's Parish and MaCal Grove Country Club.

Robert is survived by his spouse Mary Ann, children Mary Jo (Jim) Hyland of San Jose, CA, Thomas (Kathleen) Stark of San Diego, CA, Patrick (Lisa) Stark of Huntington Beach, CA, and Michael (Wendy) of Caledonia, MN, and grandchildren Jamie and Maggie Hyland, and Robert A. Stark, and step grandchild, Jamilla Prince, and step great-grandchildren, Philip, Joseph, Kaden and Kira. He was preceded in death by his parents, siblings Lawrence, Henry, Fredrick, Cecelia, Dorothy, Bertha, and Patricia, and several nieces and nephews.

Instead of flowers as an expression of sympathy, the family welcomes memorials which will be used for Caledonia Area Schools extra-curricular activities.

The family appreciates the community's love and support, but because of Covid considerations there will not be a public visitation. Everyone is invited to the Mass of Christian Burial at 11 am, Saturday, October 9th, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Caledonia. Father Tom Jennings will officiate and burial with military honors will follow at Calvary Cemetery, Caledonia.

# Previous Events

## Mass of Christian Burial

OCT 9. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church  
513 S Pine St  
Caledonia, MN 55921  
(507) 725-3804

# Tribute Wall

JH

“ I was saddened to hear about the passing of Coach Stark! Coach Stark! I loved his sense of humor! He enjoyed coaching as much as I enjoyed playing for him! We shared many memories together as he was the coach of many Championship Teams that I played on! I was a sophomore when he told me I would be starting in football! I will never forget that!! Coach Stark was a class act and I enjoyed visiting with him when I returned to Caledonia  
Coach Stark will be missed by many, many people!!

*John Hefte  
Class of 1961*

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**John Hefte** - October 08, 2021 at 02:50 PM

GB

“ No mater what mood myself or any body else was in when the were lucky to run in to Coach Stark, we always felt better about ourselves and everything when we left.

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**Gary L Becker** - October 08, 2021 at 06:14 AM

SB

“ I grew up playing with Mary Jo. Her dad was an amazing kind, caring person. He always had a smile, was always positive, and if you were a kid always ready to teach you whatever you needed. He taught me how to catch and hit a ball. He encouraged me to dive and flip off the boards at the pool, and when I moved back to Caledonia and subbed, he was the first to welcome me with a hug. He truly was one of a kind. I was a better person for having him in my life. Hugs and prayers to all of you.

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**Susan Burg** - October 05, 2021 at 01:37 PM

JD

“ *Bob Stark was my teacher and coach at Caledonia High School...Coach Stark was a great football and baseball coach for me.He coached my brother Robert as well 10 years before me.My brother agreed he could get us fired up for football games.He came to my brothers memorial 10 years ago.A real class guy..RIP COACH STARK!*

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**Joe Deters** - October 05, 2021 at 11:39 AM

TB

“ *One of a kind! I grew up next door to "Mr. Stark" and thru all the years, he was always a class act. He will be sadly missed by many. My condolences go out to the Stark family.*

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**Terry Buege** - October 05, 2021 at 09:55 AM

EM

“ *Loved Mr Stark....a very good man...!class of 1957!  
Etta Walters Miller*

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**Etta Miller** - October 04, 2021 at 12:18 PM

JW

“ *Mr. Stark was my coach, teacher and friend. He was someone I greatly admired and respected. I will miss him. God speed Coach. John Winslow Class of "57"*

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**john winslow** - October 03, 2021 at 11:36 PM

DK

“ *Deepest sympathy to the Stark family. I'm very sorry for your loss.*

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**Duane Kinneberg** - October 03, 2021 at 05:34 PM

DS

“ Oh so many memories of the great Bob Stark! What a huge legacy he leaves for so many! Thinking of my old neighbors: Mary Ann, Mary Jo, Tom, Pat, & Mike (our current neighbor too). RIP Bob

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**Dave & Wilma (Nielsen) Schoh** - October 02, 2021 at 10:41 PM

DB

Our condolences to Mary Ann, Mary Jo, Tom, Pat, & Mike. "Bullet" Bob will always be my coach!

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**Dave & Sue Brown** - October 04, 2021 at 08:41 PM

JW

I am saddened to hear of his loss. He is my uncle Bob who I have fond memories of. My dad was Lawrence John Stark, his brother. I am Jerri Lynne (Stark) Weber.

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**Jerri Lynne Weber** - October 06, 2021 at 01:27 PM

JW

I have fond memories of uncle Bob. It's been a long time since I've seen him. I'm saddened by this news. I'm the daughter of Lawrence Stark. I treasure the photos I have of him.

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**Jerri Lynne Weber** - October 06, 2021 at 01:31 PM