



Robert Runnels

APR 17, 1921 - NOV 2, 2008



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Robert M. Runnels died on November 2, 2008. Memorial Services will be 10:30am, Friday, November 7, 2008 at the First United Methodist Church. Visitation will be Thursday from 4:00-7:00pm at the Clinton Chapel Snell-Zornig Funeral Home and Crematory. A Rose Croix Masonic Service will conclude the visitation at 7:00pm. Bob was born April 17, 1921, in Pickering, Missouri, the fourth child of Maysel Hanna Runnels and Walter Runnels. He attended Pickering schools, and was valedictorian of his 1938 graduating class of 17. He attended Northwest Missouri State Teachers College on a four-year scholarship, and received his B.A. in 1942 with a major in industrial arts and a minor in math. He did graduate work at the University of Wisconsin, and received a M.A. in math and education from the University of Iowa in 1964. Bob was drafted into the Army in 1942. He was stationed at Camp Roberts in California, and sent to ASTP school at Stanford University. He served in the 14th Artillery Corps, 756th Battalion, in the Pacific Front as a sergeant and was in the invasion of Luzon. His LST was torpedoed, and he spent time in Army hospitals, having suffered a severe hearing loss. He was visited by Helen Keller, entertained by Irving Berlin, and saw the traveling production of Oklahoma three times. He was discharged in 1945. Following his discharge, he came to Clinton, Iowa, and taught at Washington Junior High School for thirty-seven years. He taught industrial arts, physical education, and also coached junior high sports, but the majority of his teaching career was as an eighth-grade math teacher. He married Lois Custis in 1947. They have two daughters, Dee Runnels of Moline, Illinois, and Amy Anderson, of Solon, Iowa. Amy and her husband Bruce have three children, Kate, Joe, and Jake. Bob belonged to the Western Star Masonic Lodge, Clinton Scottish Rite Bodies, KAABA Shrine, Clinton Hi 12 Club, Kiwanis, and the American Legion. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church. Bob is survived by his wife and family. Memorials are requested in lieu of flowers, and may be made to



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the First United Methodist Church of Clinton, The USS LST Ship Memorial, Inc. (840 LST Drive, Evansville, Indiana), or to the charity of your choice.



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TE

Timothy J. Lafond, P.E. posted:

Bob taught me to love mathematics. I will never forget how he handed me back my algebra aptitude test in 8th grade and announced to the whole class how well I had done. He made me feel proud. I went on to college to study engineering and have had a successful 30 year plus career. I have traveled all over the world and have completed many huge projects. It never would have happened without the kind of teacher that Bob certainly was. He is still in my thoughts and he will always be in my prayers.

November 1 at 7:00 PM

TD

Tom Dunmore posted:

Mr. Runnels was my 8th grade math teacher at WJHS during the '75-76 school year. He always treated me well and I wish to pay my respect to this decent man. My condolences to his family as well.

November 1 at 7:00 PM

BB

Becky Boardsen posted:

I would like to speak on behalf of the former Dan & Sharon Boardsen along with their surviving children, Danny, Becky and Brad of our sincere condolences. Both of our parents had the privilege to enjoy a long friendship with both Bob and Lois. And it is with much sadness that my brothers and I reflect on the years that we too had in knowing Mr. Runnels. Our prayers go out to you all during this difficult time.

November 1 at 7:00 PM

BZ

Betsy Zerrien posted:

Lois and Family, Please accept my deepest sympathy. I have many fond and sometimes funny memories of you both going back the time you were beginning to teach at Washington and I was a student of both of you. My prayers are with you.

November 1 at 7:00 PM



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Larry Hanna posted:

Lois, Beth and Amy and other family members. I was saddened to see Bob's name in the obituary listing of the Maryville Newspaper. Pat and I send our sincere condolences to each of you. Sorry we do not live closer so we could attend the services but know our thoughts and prayers are with you.

November 1 at 7:00 PM



Kim Meyerhoff posted:

The thoughts and prayers of your friends and acquaintances from Mercy Iowa City are with you during this difficult time.

November 1 at 7:00 PM



Bill & Deb Fitzsimmons posted:

Dear Lois, Dee, Amy, Bruce and family, We so enjoyed our many visits and chats with Bob. We will always treasure his colorful stories of WWII, the beautiful peonies from his yard and our memories of the time we got to spend with him. Please know that our thoughts are with you at time. Sincerely, Bill & deb

November 1 at 7:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Robert by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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