



Mr. Robert Lee Hartman

July 14, 1928 - November 3, 2012

Robert Lee Hartman, 84, of Asheville, NC passed away November 3, 2012 after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. He was surrounded by his family. He was born July 14, 1928 in South Bend, Indiana to the late Robert Matthew Hartman and Ellen Davis Hartman.

He graduated from Riley High School in South Bend, Indiana in 1946 where he played baseball and was the captain of both the football and basketball teams. In 1945, after defeating legendary Coach John Wooden's Central High School in sectionals, Bob played in the Indiana High School State Championship. The players stated that they made it to finals that year because there was no star. They played as a team. This was the beginning of Bob's coaching style. He stressed the importance of teamwork to all of his players, not only in sports, but also in life.

After high school, he was invited to join the Chicago Cubs farm team, which he declined, to accept a football scholarship to Purdue University. As much as he loved his Cubs, he felt a college education was more important and was proud to be the first in his family to be given an opportunity to attend.

At Purdue University, he lettered in three sports, quarterbacked, pitched and was a guard on the basketball team. He also competed in track and field. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and graduated with a degree in Physical Education.

Bob joined the United States Army. He was a Lieutenant in the Korean War and Recreation Director for the troops while stationed in Honolulu, Hawaii.

While stationed at Fort Jackson, SC, he met Carroll Lamar Simms. They were married on September 19, 1953.

After the war ended, he played his final basketball season for Florida State University with several of his former Purdue teammates. They advanced to the NAIB (NAIA) tournament in Kansas City. That season, Bob set a new Seminole scoring record and also set a new college record for the state of Florida.

Bob and Carroll later moved to Jacksonville, Florida where Bob taught and coached at Terry Parker High School. It was there that they met their lifelong friends, Bill Highsmith and Bob Daughton. During the off season, Bob attended American University in Washington, DC where he earned his masters degree in Physical Education.

Coach Hartman and family moved to Asheville, NC, when the newly appointed Chancellor Highsmith asked him to help build an athletic department at Asheville Biltmore College. And that he did. He served as Athletic Director from 1962-1981, coached the basketball team from 1962- 1979 and taught from 1962 until his retirement in 1990. He started and coached golf, tennis and cross country teams and began women's athletic programs. He was instrumental in the building of the Justice Center to house his athletic program and the building of dorms, as the basketball teams at the time lived in Hartman's house. He opened the Justice Center doors to community sports and local high schools. He believed community involvement in athletics was essential to his program. He ran the Bob Hartman Basketball Camps from which children learned to enjoy the sport as much as he did and to understand the importance of teamwork. Within nine years, his teams competed twice in the NAIA tournaments in Kansas City and defeated powerhouse Grambling University. By this time, Asheville Biltmore had grown to become UNCA and they have never looked back. In 1978, he was chosen by the US State Department to coach the US team at the CSIT (World Sports Games) in Israel. He was inducted into the UNCA Hall of Fame in 2003.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years , Carroll Lamar Simms, 4 daughters and

8 grandchildren. His daughter and son-in-law, Tina and Richard MacManus of Essex, CT and grandchildren Megan, Connie and Jane; daughter and son-in-law Karen and Ed Herron of Hickory, NC and grandchildren Amy, Brett and Callie; daughter Connie Gawrych of Mt. Pleasant, SC and grandchildren Jennifer and Steven; daughter Katherine Hartman Stevens of Asheville, NC. He is survived by his brother, Jerry Hartman, of Zepher Hills, Florida.

Mr. Hartman is preceded in death by his brother, William and sister, Lois Everly, both of South Bend, Indiana.

We would like to extend a special thanks to Dr Peggy Noel of Memory Care and to all the wonderful caregivers at Claire Bridge, Brooks Howell and Care Partners Hospice.

A memorial service will be held at 2pm on Saturday, November 10th at St Mary's Episcopal Church, 337 Charlotte Street.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Bob Hartman Scholarship Fund, c/o Athletic Department One University Heights, Asheville, NC 28804.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV **10**. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
337 Charlotte Street
Asheville, NC 28801
mail@stmarysasheville.org
<http://www.stmarysasheville.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Robert Lee Hartman*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *Connie, Karen, Tina, Katherine and Carroll:
We are so sorry to hear of your loss. Mr. Hartman was a nice man and a good coach at UNCA. Connie, you and I share lots of memories going to the basketball games there. Anyway, us old-time Asheville Swim Team folks just wanted you to know we were thinking of you and understand the loss of your daddy/husband. Please let us know if there is anything we can do for you. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Love from the Frank family: Chel (Douglass), Mary Kay (Armstrong) and Jenni (Holder).*

Chel F Douglass - November 12, 2012 at 07:24 AM



“ *To Cousin Carroll and the Hartman family,
We share your grief over the loss of Cousin Bob. The last few years have been very hard for all of us to endure. We have some wonderful memories of all of you and that will sustain us during the days to come. We pray for your strength and stability in dealing with this loss.*

*Our love goes to you all,
--Stuart & LaVetta Hanlein*

Stuart Hanlein - November 08, 2012 at 10:30 AM

WT

“ was not just bob's colleague from 1964-, not just a bulldog fan at games, but often talked at lunchtime (went down to play one on one with red mcelhaney, the sparkplug of the kansas city trip) what a thrill to keep up with a true winner in every way. thanking G_d for the life that was. -- bill thurman & crew (including already 2 greatgrands)

William Sims Thurman - November 08, 2012 at 08:47 AM

DJ

“ Carroll and family, our thoughts, prayers, and sympathy are with you in the loss of your husband and dad. He was an outstanding person and will live long in the memories of Asheville and UNCA people.

With love and sympathy, Don and Gladys Jones

Donald and Gladys Jones - November 07, 2012 at 04:19 PM

JB

“ After reading this obituary I am encouraged to get out and do more for my community. What a life well lived and it shows in Connie and Katherine, Mr. Hartman. Love, Jolene

jolene brookshire - November 07, 2012 at 06:31 AM

JB

“ First Coach to promote hit song; Wilburt Harrison singing "Going to Kansas City." I know because it became number one for several years. I know because I played the "Talkin' Machine record by request only. And I know He created a spirit on campus, in town and a very large region. He lived the spirit through encouragement, threats and recruitmant because of high entance standards. Bus loads of fans out of town were most enjoyable and crowded "Swede Frauson" leading the way on Coaches Corner on WISE! "Little Joe" Brown"

Joseph L Brown - November 07, 2012 at 06:17 AM

WT

hey, joe, so glad to see your words about our old friend -- bearded bill, alias bill thurman

William Sims Thurman - November 08, 2012 at 08:51 AM

WP

“ Bob was like a father to me and always made me smile. Much love and heartfelt prayers to the family. I loved you like a father Bob.

Whitney J. Ponder - November 06, 2012 at 02:09 PM

WP

“ Whitney J. Ponder lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Lee Hartman



Whitney J. Ponder - November 06, 2012 at 02:06 PM

JR

“ Jay Roberson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Lee Hartman



Jay Roberson - November 06, 2012 at 11:25 AM

JR

Prayers for Katherine and her family. Coach was always very nice and helpful to me at UNCA.

Jay Roberson - November 06, 2012 at 11:28 AM

BG

carroll and girls, i'll always remember the good times we had with the, close knit, original bulldog booster club, and your fine family. i knew bob from our time at fort jackson. he was always a good friend and a first class guy.

barney gradman - November 08, 2012 at 09:55 AM