



Bob Eugene Winters

September 25, 1935 - March 4, 2023

Bob Winters passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by family on March 4th, 2023 at the age of 87. He was born on September 25, 1935 in Greeley, Colorado to Reuben and Lena Winters. For a short time they lived in Wyoming and then California working to provide for the family during World War II. In California, near the shipyards he had his first job as a paperboy. Besides the many songs he loved to sing around the house, later in life he would also shout out every once in awhile “Examiner Times Paypa” (paper) in reference to this job. After the war was over Reuben and Lena moved the family to a farm in White Swan, Washington.

Bob was the oldest of seven children, he had 3 brothers and 3 sisters. He loved sports! He participated in Football, Basketball, Baseball, Track, and one of his favorites was Boxing. Bob graduated from White Swan High School in 1953.

After graduating from high school, he attended Yakima Junior College in 1954 and participated in football, basketball and baseball. He received the football inspirational award in 1955 and All-Conference honors. Bob then transferred to Utah State with a football scholarship after the 1955 season.

As a football quarterback at Utah State University, Winters received All-American mention in 1957 and won the USU most valuable player award. His

achievements that year included national rankings of fourth in passing and third in total offense. In 1956 he was the All-Skyline Conference QB and also third in the nation in total offense. On the side he still loved to box. His senior year he was the heavyweight intramural champion, knocking out one of his good friends.

After college, Winters was drafted by the Cleveland Browns but began his football career playing with the B.C. Lions in the Canadian League. After that season, he was drafted into the Army. In between this time Bob and Maurine were married on November 8th, 1958. He served in the Army for two years and after, the Pittsburgh Steelers offered Bob a try-out. He practiced with the team for four weeks. It was quarterback or bust for him. The Steelers offered to keep him on as a linebacker but Winters chose to enter the profession of teaching and coaching. He got a job at Moniteau High School in Pennsylvania in 1961 and was there for two years.

Bob and Maurine then decided to move back to Washington state closer to family with their two young children, Marie and Rock. He landed a teaching and coaching position at Toppenish High School. He taught various subjects including physical education, history, and drivers education. He was the head coach of several sports during this career including, football, basketball, baseball, and wrestling for the Wildcats. They later added three more children to the crew, Rick, Randy and Mindi. Winters continued to be the head football coach the majority of his career at Top-Hi. He had many successful seasons, culminating with a Class A State Football Championship in 1989. During his career, many students and athletes endearingly referred to him as "Bobcat". He also loved to give them nicknames he felt empowered them on the field too. He and Coach Frank Steele formed a strong duo on the field, in the gym and in the weight room. He loved his coaches, players, teams, and was well known for many Wildcat traditions including a prayer circle after every game with the team and community. During these busy years of teaching and

coaching, Winters also had a hay-hauling business he would run during the summers for local farmers with his three sons. Whether it was in the classroom, gym, on the football or hay field, Bob exemplified relentless hard work, endurance, commitment, loyalty and integrity. He had high expectations for himself and knew how to get the best out of those around him. He retired from coaching after the 1992 season, and then from teaching in 1995. He will always be a Wildcat.

Bob was inducted into the Yakima Valley College Hall of Fame in 1984. He was also inducted into the Washington State Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1993 and the North West Athletic Conference Hall of Fame in 1994. In 2009, the Toppenish High School football field was dedicated and named the Bob Winters Field. He felt humbled and grateful for these honors.

After retirement Bob and Maurine served two missions for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. He loved sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. During retirement Bob and Maurine enjoyed traveling, spending time with friends, and serving in different callings for the church. Bob loved playing, coaching, and watching sports all of his life but his greatest joy came from time spent with his wife, Maurine and following his five children, twenty-one grandchildren, and currently twenty great-grandchildren.

During retirement Bob and Maurine resided in Zillah, Washington, Salt Lake City, Utah and St. George, Utah before returning to live in Zillah again just recently.

Our patriarch of the family who led by example with faith, toughness, love and compassion will be greatly missed.

He is preceded into Heaven by his parents, Reuben and Lena Winters; his

siblings, Shirley Winters, Ralph Winters and Leroy Winters.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Maurine (Ellett) Winters; children, Marie (Jay) Adams, Rock (Jackie) Winters, Rick (JaLynne) Winters, Randy Winters, and Mindi (Kody) Dribnak; grandchildren, Rocky Adams, Greg (Heidi) Adams, Staci (Chad) Larsen, Mark (Chelsie) Winters, Mitch (Marelise) Winters, Whitney (Tanner) Lenon, Natalie (Devin) Jenkins, Beau (Josie) Winters, Alli Winters, Ben (Maria) Winters, Brayden Winters, Desiree Winters, Melia (Ross) Knutson, David Winters, Elliott Winters, Sarianne Winters, Gavin Dribnak, Zoe Dribnak, Kya Dribnak, Tate Dribnak, and Brody Dribnak; brother Darrell (Patty) Winters, sisters Norma (Todd) Baker, and Ruby Winters; several great-grandchildren, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

There will be a memorial funeral service on Saturday, March 25th at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1:00pm in Zillah, Washington. Following the service, the family has invited all to attend a community picture event at the Bob Winters Field. Burial services will be the following week on Saturday, April 1st in Bicknell, Utah.

All are invited to any of the memorial events.

Cemetery Details

Bicknell Cemetery

Bicknell, UT

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 11. 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

Zillah Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints
Zillah, WA

Funeral Service

MAR 25. 1:00 PM (PT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
500 Nathaniel Ln
Zillah, WA 98953
(509) 306-0430

Burial

APR 1. 1:00 PM.

Bicknell Cemetery
Bicknell, UT

Tribute Wall



“ *Bob Eugene Winters*

October 05, 2023 at 11:22 AM



“ *Bob was the consummate gentleman, a community booster, and such a likable guy. Condolences to the family. — Jim Flint*

Jim Flint - April 02, 2023 at 10:22 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Bob Eugene Winters.*



March 24, 2023 at 05:22 PM



“ *Jean Higgins Reid Class Of 1970 lit a candle in memory of Bob Eugene Winters*



Jean Higgins Reid class of 1970 - March 24, 2023 at 09:44 AM

RF

“ A dedicated man who sought to improve young lives and give purpose to Toppenish educational system. Thank you for all your compassion and love of sports, making Toppenish an impressive community. Peace be with you and your family.

Renee Spencer & family - March 21, 2023 at 12:56 PM

TF

“ Coach Winters inspired so many of us not just in game's but, in everyday life. He lived his life with passion, enthusiasm ,and morality that's how he coached. My family's heart goes out to the Winters family. We lost a good one and God got a good one. You will be missed RIP.

Tom Ford - March 13, 2023 at 12:53 AM

MW

“ Marlene Wesley lit a candle in memory of Bob Eugene Winters



Marlene Wesley - March 12, 2023 at 12:50 AM

JW

“ Mr. Winters was a great teacher. He was my Drivers Ed teacher in high school. He would take time to help students and just talk with us. When he walked down the halls he always had a "Hello" for everyone. Mr. Winters will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. Joyce WasseMiller.. class of 1968



Joyce WasseMiller - March 09, 2023 at 02:34 PM

MW

Mr winters was one high school teacher in 1980s.. prayer 🙏🙏 to the family..God bless

Marlene Wesley - March 12, 2023 at 12:47 AM

RN

“ What a great loss of Great person all the way around always enjoyed talking with him and having him as a teacher and life mentor. RIP Sir. Ruben Navejas

Ruben Navejas - March 09, 2023 at 11:53 AM

MC

“ Bob Winters was a great Teacher, Coach and Mentor for me growing up. He will truly be missed RIP coach, tell y9ur football stories in heaven sir. Martin S Cervantes Class of 85.

Martin Cervantes - March 09, 2023 at 10:27 AM

KH

“ Karen Halvorson-Johnson lit a candle in memory of Bob Eugene Winters



Karen Halvorson-Johnson - March 08, 2023 at 01:48 PM



“ So sorry for your loss of Bob.

Dorothea Nadine - March 08, 2023 at 06:22 AM

SB

“ Stephen Busby lit a candle in memory of Bob Eugene Winters



Stephen Busby - March 08, 2023 at 02:00 AM

SB

*Bob has been a teacher, coach, mentor, advocate, supporter and valued friend for about 58 years in my life. He has, consistently, been and remains a positive energy to all fortunate to accept his love, encouragement and endless faith. To each member of the family, you have honored him his entire life. My prayers are strength to you. Knowing the greatest comfort is ,now, Bob's. My gratitude and respect
Stephen Busby. Top Hi. 67*

Stephen Busby - March 08, 2023 at 02:19 AM

BE

Well said Steve. My thoughts exactly. My condolences to the Winters family. Brian Evans Top Hi 68

BRIAN EVANS - March 21, 2023 at 07:55 PM

PR

“ Patricia Ross lit a candle in memory of Bob Eugene Winters



Patricia Ross - March 07, 2023 at 05:37 PM