



Russell 'Ted' Bonsall

November 30, 1942 - November 30, 2011

Russell (Ted) Bonsall passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on November 30, 2011 after a two-year battle with leukemia. He was born on November 30, 1942, exactly sixty-nine years earlier. Ted grew up in Broomall, Pennsylvania and was the son of Edgar D Bonsall, Jr., and Mildred (Paxson) Bonsall. He was the grandson of Edgar D Bonsall, who managed the historic general store in Broomall. After graduating from Marple-Newtown High School in 1960, he went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics from Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pennsylvania. Aside from summers earning a Master's Degree in Mathematics from The Ohio State University, Annville would be his home forever more. From Annville, he would commute to his life's work as an educator and coach at Hershey High School in the Derry Township School District. During his 38-year tenure, Ted taught a variety of mathematics courses, concluding his career as head of the mathematics department. Ted helped to ensure that students were provided access to challenging courses in mathematics through the promotion and development of advanced placement courses. While teaching at Hershey, Ted also coached baseball and wrestling. He was named the head varsity baseball coach in 1970. During the 33 seasons he coached, he led the Hershey Trojans to several league titles as well as the 1982 state championship. Despite having little background in wrestling, he offered to coach the junior high school team for 15 years. During this time, the teams he coached went undefeated for six seasons, during which time the team won 57 consecutive

matches. In addition to teaching and coaching, Ted gave his time to many extra-curricular activities for the benefit of the students. He chaperoned trips, acted in the faculty plays, and helped manage the dinner portion of the school's annual dinner theatre. Whether teaching or coaching, Ted was known as a disciplinarian. He placed as much importance on effort and conduct as he did on results. While tough, he was fair and cared deeply about helping the students grow and learn. Ted also enjoyed antiques, gardening, reading, traveling, fishing, watching his favorite baseball team, the Philadelphia Phillies, and doing just about anything with his loving wife of 45 years, Dorothy (Dottie) Bonsall. In addition to Dottie, Ted is survived by his daughter Christine (Bonsall) Britton, his eldest son Mark Bonsall and his wife Melanie, and his youngest son Todd Bonsall. Most of all, Ted was a devoted and loving husband, father, and grandfather. One of Ted's greatest joys was supporting and encouraging his grandchildren, Andrew and Ellie Britton and Natalie and Ava Bonsall in all of their endeavors. A memorial service will be held at Christ Church, United Church of Christ, 200 South White Oak Street, Annville, Pennsylvania on Sunday, December 11, 2011. Visitation will begin at 1:00 pm followed by the service at 2:00 pm. A celebration of life will be held immediately following the memorial service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Donor Services, PO Box 4072, Pittsfield, MA, 01202 or at www.lls.org.

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Tribute Wall

CG

“ To the Family of Russell Bonsall, You must be very proud of all the wonderful accomplishments Russell achieved. You have our deepest sympathy. Carl and Doris Grubb

Carl & Doris Grubb - December 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ I graduated from Hershey High School, class of 1970. Mr. Bonsall was a teacher who was born to teach. You could tell he loved what he did and it showed. We will all miss him and that beautiful positive attitude that helped take some of the weight off our shoulders. God bless Ted.

James Gordon Emerich - December 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ Ted, thanks for all the great memories. I am so thankful that I had a chance to spend time with you and Dottie here in Florida and to renew our friendship after so many years apart. More than anything, you have always been a loyal and steady friend. I only wish that the final bracket of your life had been pushed further to the right so that you and Dottie would have been able to spend more winters in the sun. I like to think that is just what you are doing right now.

Steve Adams - December 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ *My deepest sympathies to the Bonsall family. Mr. Bonsall was one of my math teachers in high school and one that I truly respected! He was caring, fair and a wonderful teacher that took the time to make sure you were understanding everything that he was teaching. I think of him often when I am helping my own children with their math homework. It is because of him that I can say that I like doing math! Prayers to you all! Katie McKinney-Gavazzi Hershey High School Class of '87*

Katie McKinney-Gavazzi - December 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM