



Robert William Yeates

July 8, 1929 - February 16, 2012

Dateline: Elsah

Robert William “Bob” Yeates from Elsah, IL, passed away peacefully at home at age 82 on February 16, 2012. Born July 8, 1929 in Kankakee, IL, he was the son of Albert and Jeannie (Potter) Yeates. An older brother, Richard Potter Yeates preceded him in death. A younger brother, Thomas Eager lives in Roseville, CA. Bob graduated from high school in Wichita, KS. He attended Kansas State University and Washington University in St. Louis prior to being drafted in the U.S. Army during the end of the Korean conflict. Upon his discharge from service, Bob attended Illinois College, Jacksonville, IL while working in the trust office in a local bank. He finally received his BS degree in Education from SIUE and received a Masters degree in Education from Maryville University. Bob was married to Bronna Lee Crabtree on June 12, 1960. After a year of marriage he accepted a position as varsity soccer coach and counselor at The Principia School in St. Louis, MO. Bob spent many years as manager of several Chambers of Commerce around the country, starting in Joplin, MO and was head of the chamber in Alton for several years. He was involved with the bike trail along The Great River Road. Following the years in Alton, Bob accepted the position of director of the National Youth Hostel organization located in the Washington DC area where he travelled the world establishing youth hostels. Bob and Bronna moved to Elsah in 2010 following his retirement from teaching at The Principia. His happiest years were spent working with young people. He often said all he wanted to do was

“Help good kids with poor grades get better.” One of the mottos he lived by was “Don’t teach a man to be the way he is, but teach him what he could be and should be.” He was blessed with many lifelong friendships of students and educators from around the world. During his faculty tenure at Principia, he developed a successful program of community Service and fostered volunteerism for the school. He took many groups of students to several Indian Reservations in the southwest working with Native Americans to enrich their educational experience. His weekends were spent taking groups of students to help feed the homeless in several St. Louis shelters. Bob touched the lives of many people with his generosity. Bob loved BBQ. He was a registered BBQ judge with the Kansas City Barbeque Society, and spent many summers travelling around the area, judging BBQ contests. He loved serving his own BBQ meals for friends and family and often took his cooker to homeless centers and cooked for several hundred people. Bob is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Melanie of Bloomington, MN; his daughter and son-in-law, Denise and Evan of St. Charles, MO; five grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and many close friends. Bob dearly loved his family and was very proud of each of them. He was thrilled when he could talk to them. At Bob’s request there is no service except for immediate family. You may send condolences to P.O. Box 35, Elsah, IL 62028. Gent Funeral Home in Alton is in charge of arrangements.

PDF Printable Version

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert William Yeates*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Robert William Yeates*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *I'm sorry to hear the news about Mr. Yeates. My condolence goes out to the family. I attended Principia as a border (03-05) from California and was very involved with the feeding the homeless with the community service club. I also have had the honor of having his BBQ!!! Its mouth watering for sure!*

Michael Trevail - April 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our family has such great memories of Bob's work on the St. Louis campus and of course his great barbecue. We have enjoyed also being neighbors in Elsay.*

All of our love,

Dory Smith

Dory Smith - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PK

“ Dear Bronna and family, I send my love and prayers to you all at this time. Bob was so helpful to me when I was planning a trip to Europe with my son, Steve, and Bob shared his time so generously to tell me about Youth Hostels and how to join. We did go and stayed in the Hostels and had a wonderful trip while my daughter Carrie was there with her class from college. Bob was an inspiration to so many of us sharing his time with students and Prin employees. Love to all of you, Phyllis Konold

Phyllis Konold - February 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Mr. Yeates passing away. He was such a sweet man to me as I grew up two houses down from him in Jerseyville. He never cared if I came down for a visit and was always willing to let me talk his ear off. It's been a while since I have seen him, but he was still thought about and will be sadly missed. My thoughts and prayers to your family.

Barbara Smith

Barbara (gray) Smith - February 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ To Bob's Family: Our thoughts are with each of you. Bob was a dear forever friend. His smile and gentle soul will be missed by many.

Cindy Crowell Waller - February 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ Bronna, Denise and Robbie,

I was saddened to read of Bob's passing. I knew him as a very bright fellow, with a great sense of humor and a zeal for life and living. Although I had lost contact with him, I always considered him a friend. He will be missed in his circle of life.

A. Jesse Hopkins - February 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ We appreciate Bob's loving and supportive relationship with our grand- daughter, Kezzie Miller, and enjoyed having him as a member of the Club 360. We have especially warm memories of his wonderful barbeque luncheon at Elsay last fall. He was a giver...that's for sure!

Jo and Bob Larsen - February 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM