



William "Coach" Whalen

March 12, 1943 - February 14, 2025

William "Coach" Whalen, 81 of Concord, Ohio was born on March 12, 1943, and was called home to be with the Lord on February 14, 2025.

Known as "Coach" to all who knew him, he was passionate about the games of Basketball and Softball, especially coaching high school girls, which he did with his whole heart for over thirty years. He loved and gave his all for the game and for every player. It was truly a "Little slice of Heaven" for him to be able to do this.

Bill was a Navy veteran who wore his vet status with his shirts, jackets, and his hats to show the world he was proud of being a Vet, but also to make sure he got his veteran discount wherever he went!

He was married for 58 years to Barbara Whalen (nee: Bazan), and they are proud parents of three beautiful and caring daughters: Patricia (Rodney Lenardos) Guynn, Laura (Jim) Boyd and Michelle (Uriel) Castro. Bill was a "girl dad" to his daughters, but also still "Coach." He had a built-in team of cute little landscapers who helped take care of the yard, which got them lots of fresh air. He bought them jewelry every Christmas and spent lots of time picking out just the right item, and he loved seeing them wear it. His relationship with each daughter was special, and each one was his favorite. There was lots of laughter in the house, as the girls are all very funny and kept

us entertained. Bill and Barb talked many times about how they did something right to be blessed with such caring, helpful, loving daughters.

Adding to the family are five wonderful grandchildren: Nicholas, Kaitlyn, Jakob, Elizabeth and Chloe; and one great grandson, Dylan. Bill loved each of them very much and they were a “little slice of heaven” in his life.

He is survived by his wife, children, sons-in-law and grand/great grandkids. Bill is also survived by his brothers: Larry (Joyce) Whalen and Tim (Lisa) Whalen; sister: Kathleen (Kim) Kapela, and lots of nieces and nephews.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents: Joseph and Mary Whalen, his older brother: Joseph (Chung Suk) Whalen and son-in-law: James Guynn.

Knowing and loving Bill has been a “big slice of heaven”.

A memorial gathering to celebrate Bill’s life will be held 5:00 p.m., - 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home and Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, Ohio 44060. A service to conclude the gathering will begin at 7:00 p.m., at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project <https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/donate>

Offer condolences at www.brunners.com

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 18. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center
8466 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, OH 44060
(440) 255-3401
ajs@brunners.com
<https://www.brunners.com/>

Memorial Service

FEB 18. 7:00 PM (ET)

Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center
8466 Mentor Avenue
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Tribute Wall

CA

“ I worked with Bill at Sears for about 30 years.His life changed as his faith in Chris in Christ grew. He was a changed man.As it is said God has a purpose and plan for our lives
Carol A

Carol Aumick - May 14, 2025 at 09:36 PM

DT

“ I met coach when we opened the drug mart in concord. He always brightened everyone’s day. I looked forward to seeing him and was saddened to hear of his passing. I loved talking to him and had such great stories from his life. I feel blessed to have met him. Will be missed . Enjoy that slice of heaven well deserved.

Dave Thomas - February 18, 2025 at 07:13 PM

MC

Thank you Dave. My dad loved his daily routine, drug mart being one of them. You all made him feel special.

Michelle Castro - February 27, 2025 at 05:03 PM

TS

“ The Boland Family (from NDCL softball) purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William "Coach" Whalen.



The Boland Family (from NDCL softball) - February 17, 2025 at 07:13 PM

ML

“ You will missed by all that you came in contact with. RIP Bill , in your own little slice of heaven,

mike lucas - February 17, 2025 at 04:55 PM

KO

“ KO (Kayla O'Brien) purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of William "Coach" Whalen.



KO (Kayla O'Brien) - February 16, 2025 at 01:08 PM

RF

“ Bill was a wonderful neighbor. It was always fun to talk about golf with him... he loved his rounds and had the best stories from his rounds. Very competitive! A wonderful soul we will miss..

Rose Fiorta - February 16, 2025 at 01:05 PM

JF

“ Bill was my neighbor and a mentor to me in coaching. He loved being on the sidelines at NDCL. He touched my life, and I'm sure many more people feel the same. RIP my friend .

Jim Fiorta

Jim Fiorta - February 16, 2025 at 12:56 PM

KB

“ Great coach and an even better person. He will be missed by many

Kevin Brooks - February 16, 2025 at 12:16 PM

EF

“ *Ettinger Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William "Coach" Whalen.*



Ettinger Family - February 16, 2025 at 11:34 AM

KE

“ *I can remember taking grounders next to him, as he would try and show me up. Claiming that back in the day they called him the Hoover because he was a “vacuum on the field.” And starting every basketball game with singing, No Longer Slaves by Jonathan David. A wonderful man who impacted the lives of many. I’m going to miss our talks.*



Kaelin Ettinger - February 16, 2025 at 11:25 AM

JM

“ *1 file added to the album BILL WHALEN*



Jack McParland - February 15, 2025 at 02:57 PM

CC

An absolutely wonderful man. Taught my daughters a lot more than softball and basketball. If only there were more coaches like Coach Whalen.

My girls, and everyone who were lucky enough to play for him, are better people because of it. May God grant his family peace in the knowledge that Coach touched so many lives.

Chris Carney - February 16, 2025 at 11:17 AM

KS

Enjoyed being his "younger brother" playing golf at Fowlers Mill! Shared the gym and coaching box with the warmest, gentlest "tough guy" ever. "WWWD"...What Would William Whalen Do? He knew so early in life what we all needed...a little slice of heaven! Enjoy that heavenly golf course...who needs hybrids?

Kevin Snyder - February 18, 2025 at 08:46 AM

JM

“ *Charming Billy will never be forgotten by all the NDCL softball players who enjoyed the privilege of being coached and loved by him or by Jack, Bob, Mike and Lou who coached with him.*

Jack McParland - February 15, 2025 at 02:27 PM