



Robert Oakes

JUN 26, 1928 - MAY 20, 2010



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OAKES

DECATUR- Robert Oakes, 81 of Decatur, passed away at 4:50 pm Thursday, May 20, 2010 at Decatur Memorial Hospital.

Services to celebrate Bob's life will be held at 10:30 am Tuesday, June 1, 2010 at St. John's Episcopal Church. Inurnment will be in the St. John's Church columbarium. Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home is assisting the family with the arrangements. Memorials are suggested to the St. John's Episcopal Church or to the charity of the donor's choice. Online condolences and memories can be shared with the family at www.gracelandfairlawn.com.

Bob was born on June 26, 1928 in Soper, OK a son of Edgar Omega and Annie Marie (Rives) Oakes. He served his country in the Air Force during the Korean War. Bob earned his bachelor's degree from Millikin University and his master's degree from the University of Illinois. Robert and Constance Bennett were married on July 17, 1954 in the Church of Holy Communion in Maywood, IL. Bob spent his entire career in education, including 33 years in the Decatur Public Schools. He retired in 1988 after 19 years as the District 61 Superintendent of Schools. Bob was an active member of St. John's Episcopal Church for over twenty five years, where he served as Parish Warden.

Surviving are his wife Constance of Decatur, daughters- Elizabeth Ann Crowder of Germantown, TN and Margaret Jane Oakes of Greenville, SC, sister- Betty Lyles and her husband Roy of Hugo, OK, grandchildren- Martha Ann Crowder, Aaron John Crowder, John Robert Tillman and Peter Bennett Tillman, sister-in-law- Barbara



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Bennett of Pewaukee, WI and brother-in-law- James Bennett and his wife Jane of Villa Park, IL.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers and four sisters.



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LS

Lora Schenderlein posted:

In 8th grade I was a "student assistant" in the school office at Johns Hill Junior High. Principal Oakes had wonderful smile and treated all students with respect.

January 11 at 4:35 PM

JM

Judy Mcelfresh posted:

Connie – so sorry to read about Bob's death.(I was with Franklin Travel – now with Tour Group Pro)

June 21 at 9:53 AM

ES

Eve Shade posted:

Bob touched my life in many ways... as a friend, colleague, and churchman.. and, all in a very positive way!! He was truly one of a kind. Always calm, he quietly lead the district through some very traumatic times. His contributions to St. Johns were continuous and done in a very quiet and unassuming manner. He was always there to fill in where and when needed.It is so hard to express my feelings, .. Connie, Margaret and Elizabeth, please know that you are in my heart and prayers. Much love!! Eve

June 10 at 2:32 PM

CH

Clete Hinton posted:

What a wonderful human being Bob was. I enjoyed getting to know him while driving back and forth to University of Illinois working on our masters degrees during the 50s. It was an honor to know him.My condolences to the family.

May 27 at 1:16 PM

TF

Teresa Frisbie posted:

Margaret and Liz, I am so sorry for your loss. I am thinking of you.Terri

May 25 at 10:16 AM



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DP

Don Prat posted:

Bob was an excellent school Superintendent and a great friend. My tenure as Superintendent of the Monticello School District ran about the same time as Bob's in the Decatur District. I always knew who to call when I had a problem. He always took time to help me assess the situation and come to a sensible conclusion. The many meetings, over the years, in the Decatur Office Building were very enjoyable and provided a great learning situation. Bob and his staff were of top quality. He will be missed.

May 24 at 10:39 AM

KR

Karen Rivera posted:

Mr. Oakes was the superintendent while I was teaching at Roosevelt Middle School, and both daughters were in my classes. He was a wonderful person, and the most significant thing I remember about him was the fact that he seemed to know every employee in Decatur Public Schools. Whether he saw me at Roosevelt, the Keil Building, or in the grocery store, he always knew my name and face. That is rare in an administrator, and it made me feel special. I know you are missing him so much, but your comfort comes in knowing that you will be together in Heaven. Karen Rivera

May 24 at 9:49 AM

DG

Doug, Krista, Aidan And Kelsie Gerhardt posted:

Dear Connie, Liz, Martha, Aaron, Margaret, John and Peter, Our thoughts and our prayers are with you. We will miss Bob, too. We had the privilege of knowing him for many years as a friend, neighbor (twice: Who followed whom to Bay Shore?) and mentor. I'll never forget when Bob visited me in my classroom my first year of teaching with District 61. He always stopped to talk whenever he was in my building. Doug, Aidan and Kelsie still remember visiting with Bob when we walked by your house. I don't know who was more pleased when they were riding their bikes and weren't in the wagon and stroller any more, Doug, Aidan and Kelsie or Bob! We have many good memories of a wonderful man who touched our lives in a special way. We rejoice with you knowing that he is with our Lord and Savior that he so faithfully served and that we will see him again.

May 24 at 8:12 AM

LT

Linda Werner Turk posted:

My deepest condolences to the Oakes family. I was fortunate to be in one of his first classes at Roosevelt Jr High many years ago. He was one of my favorite teachers.

May 23 at 6:28 PM



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JA

Jeff Amenda posted:

I can't bring myself to call him Bob. To me Mr. Oakes was my teacher at Woodrow Wilson JH. He was a teacher and roll model to me I wish there were more like him. He directed the Decatur Schools thru a difficult time. Everytime I would here his name on the News I would get a smile. Now I also have retired after 30 years as a police officer.I knew him as a teacher and will miss him.Thank youMr. Oakes

May 23 at 5:58 PM

NQ

Nancy Smith Quigle posted:

My sympathy to the Oakes family on the loss of Bob. What a good person he was with lots of productive time spent on this earth. We can all take a lesson from him. My parents, Glen and Christime Smith, thought a lot of Bob. I am thinking of you all at this time. Nancy Quigle Bloomington, IN

May 23 at 5:59 AM

KR

Kyle "Scot" Reynolds posted:

Mrs. Oakes, Liz, Margaret, and family:Please accept my sincere sympathy during this very difficult time. As a young man growing up with Liz and Margret at Garfield, Roosevelt, and MacArthur I always was in awe of Bob. He knew everyone and cared about us all in District #61 when I worked for him some years later. Honesty, integrity, and hard work were his watch words. He will be missed by all of us.My best to everyone. Please know you all are in my prayers.Most Sincerely,K. Scot Reynolds

May 22 at 5:31 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Robert by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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