



Ernest J. Berg

May 13, 1934 - December 3, 2015

Ernest J. Berg, age 81 of Holland, passed away on Thursday, December 3, 2015 in the Toledo Hospital.

A 1952 graduate of Waite High School, he was a U.S. Army veteran where he was a member of the 101st Airborne Regiment. After his years in the service he attended the University of Arizona on a baseball scholarship and then went on to graduate from Bowling Green State University. He was a Teacher for 32 years at Ottawa Hills High School where he introduced photography, ceramics and silk screening to the Art Department. Ernie was also Head Varsity Baseball and Softball Coach. He led his Baseball team to the state semi-finals in 1973, the first team in school history. He was a Birmingham Hall of Famer, a member of the Maumee Elks and VFW #4906. Of all his accomplishments, his greatest gift and most prized possession was his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents Elmer and Sue, and his brother, Gerald. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Carolyn; children, Susan (Jim) Burkett, Amy (Troy) Anderson, Leslie (Scott) Bernhardt and Matthew (Amy) Berg, as well as 11 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson.

Friends may visit at the Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Rd., on Sunday, December 6th from 2-8 p.m. where a Rosary will be recited at 7 p.m. Funeral services will be held on Monday, December 7th beginning at 9:45 a.m., in the mortuary, followed by a Funeral Mass at St. Joseph Church, Maumee at 10:30 a.m. Interment will be private. Memorials may take the form of contributions to the church.

Events

DEC **Visitation** 02:00PM - 08:00PM

6

Coyle Funeral and Cremation Services
1770 S. Reynolds Road, Toledo, OH, US, 43614

DEC **Funeral** 10:30AM - 11:30AM

7

St. Joseph's Maumee
w. Wayne St., Maumee, OH, US

Comments



“ A true Ottawa Hills legend shall be missed - RIP Mr. Berg and have a PBR for me

Brett Ross Frankel '97

Brett Frankel - December 08, 2015 at 06:25 AM



“ My condolences to the Berg family. Mr. Berg was a wonderful and beloved art teacher and coach. His door was always open to help in any way he could. I will fondly remember his incredible wit and patience with students. Blessings to the Berg family.

Dianne Apple Reed '76

Dianne Reed - December 07, 2015 at 03:39 PM



“ My heartfelt condolences to Carolyn and the Berg family for the loss of their beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather. I am very sad to learn of his passing. Since graduating in 1975, I have thought of Ernie often. Aside from his razor-sharp wit and forgiving spirit, I remember him as an incredibly compassionate man, interested in YOU. In a school where you often had to be in uniform to be a star, Ernie let other lights shine. For Ernie it was simple, if you respected him and his classroom, you were always welcome - any time, any period. Those hours left alone in the clay room after school were formative. Ernie would bend the rules and I will be forever grateful for that (I think I actually had a key). He patiently guided my hands in making my first pot nearly 43 years ago and I remember it like it was yesterday: “See that man, that’s pretty cool.” Thousands of pots later and a career in the arts, Thank You Ernie for that magical moment, you opened the door. I hope I have honored that and done the same for my students. I will always fondly remember you as my first teacher.

Peter Beasecker, '75

Peter Beasecker - December 07, 2015 at 06:51 AM



“ I have very fond memories of Mr. Berg's art class where I became addicted to photo emulsion silk screening. Where else could you talk baseball, cars, politics, sprinkled with a clever sense of humor. He was the rarest of breeds when combing his artistic ability with his athletic background. Thanks to him, I learned that I could be an artist and a jock at the same time. My thoughts go out to the Berg family as I'm sure he will be sorely missed.

Kind Regards,
Ted Nolette '86

Ted Nolette - December 06, 2015 at 05:55 PM



“ I loved art class with E.B.!! I graduated from OH in 1992, and took all the classes I could from him throughout high school. Not only was he an incredibly entertaining teacher, but he was a true artist and teacher of artists - always encouraging creativity, experimentation, and heart. I am still an artist today, and I am so grateful to have had a mentor like E.B.! Ps - I loved playing Softball with him too - he was a great coach! Thank you, Mr. Berg - Your spirit lives in all the lives you touched at OH. Blessings to the family, Soozie Lindbloom (Friedmar -OH '92)

Soozie Lindbloom - December 06, 2015 at 01:20 PM



“ Loved Ernie Berg. Whether throwing a baseball or throwing clay on the wheel he taught us with such amazing style and grace. Just a lovely man in every way. Condolences to the Berg's.

David Kreutz - December 05, 2015 at 09:24 PM



“ I spent 28 great years at OH teaching side by side by with this wonderfully funny, talented, dedicated man. His positive attitude was inspiring. He gave me support and we were a team and we made the art department one of the best in Ohio. I will always cherish it time together. Ernie.... You were the best!

Anne Korczynski - December 05, 2015 at 08:06 PM



“ Matt, Amy and boys, so sorry for your loss. "May God's love heal your sorry and may His peace replace your heartache with warm and loving memories."

Linda Brown - December 05, 2015 at 07:47 PM



“ I'm so sad to here of EB's passing! Whenever I think of OHHS he comes to mind! Definitely my favorite teacher and coach!!! He always kept us laughing. Son of Hibachi. During softball seasons When we wanted out of a boring class we (Carrie O'Connell and I) could always ask EB for a pass! We'd go practicing pitching. EB always believed in me and I'm blessed to have had him in my life! God bless. RIP

lisa mattson - December 05, 2015 at 07:10 PM



“ Lisa Bates Mattson class of '87

lisa mattson - December 05, 2015 at 07:11 PM



“ Such a great great great man. My palms still itch at the start of each February, eager to return to the multi-purpose room at OHHS to begin spring training with Coach Berg. I will never forget the game I pitched a no-hitter. Ernie grabbed me in a bear hug and whispered, "You did it!" I was so far in the zone I had no clue. When I saw the tears in his eyes, I knew it must have been something good. Thanks, Coach, for believing in me long before I did. You changed my life for the better.

Becky Ruppert McMahon OHHS '85 - December 05, 2015 at 06:03 PM



“ Ernie was my photography teacher at Ottawa Hills. A great guy with a great sense of humor. I am glad to see he lived a full life to an old age.

Charles Satchwell
Class of '95

Charles Satchwell - December 05, 2015 at 02:53 PM



“ Being around my grandfather bebop was very fun, he taught me a lot of things about life. His most important one was family then to never stop trying. As many as you know his hearing was always bad, all I can hear now when I think of him: is, "yeah, yeah, man, yeah". Thank you for all the fun times, lessons, and speeches you gave me. I will always remember them.

mitchell berg - December 05, 2015 at 02:07 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ernest J. Berg.



December 05, 2015 at 01:16 PM



“ He was a wonderful man and teacher that will be missed. I took photography and had several years with him as my softball coach. He was kind and always asked my dad how I was when he would come in for his visits. RIP Mr. Berg.

Jennifer Fine
Class of '98

Jennifer Fine - December 05, 2015 at 01:02 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ernest J. Berg.



December 05, 2015 at 10:35 AM



“ One of my very favorite teachers at OHHS who had a wonderful sense of humor and way of relating to each of his students....by my senior year I was taking 3 periods of pottery.....he always said to leave behind something in clay - it would last for centuries! I also remember a funny time when I was getting started on a painting and was struggling. I asked him to come over to help me.....he looked at my paper and said "what is this, a snow storm? Get something on this paper, anything, I don't care what it is and then I can help you!"

Kristen Koroloff

Class of '86

Kristen Koroloff - December 05, 2015 at 10:32 AM



“ Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Ernest J. Berg.



December 05, 2015 at 10:00 AM



“ All of our thoughts and prayers are with the Berg family - he was a fabulous teacher and coach and made many of our lives better.

Brian Schiff class of 76

Brian Schiff - December 05, 2015 at 09:57 AM



“ Having taught with Ernie for many years at OHHS, I not only respected him for the man he was, but also his creativity. Under his guidance, his students turned out beautiful works of art. Ernie will be missed by all who knew him. His family has my deepest sympathy. Ron Stewart

Ron Stewart - December 05, 2015 at 08:22 AM



“ A favorite teacher and a wonderful person. God bless you, Mr.Berg.
John McGeorge OHHS '73

John McGeorge - December 05, 2015 at 07:58 AM



“ I was so sad to hear that Mr. Berg has past. He was great art and teacher an an amazing softball coach. He taught me so much and he will be greatly missed!!

Tiffany Mullins
Class of 95

Tiffany Mullins - December 05, 2015 at 05:50 AM



“ I'm so sorry to hear the news of his passing. My brother and I both had him as our art teacher. A wonderful person with a great sense of humor and compassion. It was a true blessing to know him. I still remember his stories and great ability to relate with all his students. May the fond memories of his life help fill your void. God bless you all

Ralph Rodriguez-Torres
Class of 1978

Ralph Rodriguez-Torres - December 05, 2015 at 05:13 AM



“ God bless you + your Loved Ones, rest in eternal peace + thank you Coach Berg.... a Gr8 Soul, insightful, dedicated Arts Teacher, + energetic, always enthusiastic Baseball Team Manager + Coach who smartly + always positively guided our baseball Teams (especially our 1973 Ohio Final 4, league, sectional, district, + regional championship's Team).... "C'mon mannnn, let's go and do it now!" many of us can still hear + see Ernie saying and clapping while also relaying his strategic hand signal from his game time 3rd base coach's box or during our Team practices. (Don Roberdeau, OHHS76, 3b, C, 1b)



Don Roberdeau - December 05, 2015 at 04:03 AM



“ My deepest condolences to Mr. Berg's family. He touched many lives in his time at OHHS. He leaves a legacy.

Christine Harper
OHHS class of 1991
Corpus Christi, Texas

christine harper - December 05, 2015 at 01:11 AM



“ I am absolutely heart broken to hear this news. EB was such a huge part of my life. From teacher to coach, to helping push me to reach my goal of becoming part of the OSU softball team. I have the best memories of him. He has and always have a big piece of my heart. My thoughts go out to his wonderful wife and his family!!! You will be forever missed EB and always in my heart!!!!!!

Tammy Jensen - December 04, 2015 at 10:10 PM



“ Wow, this is hitting me hard. I loved having Mr. Berg as my high school art teacher. He had such an approachable way of dealing with each student in his classroom. I took 3 periods of art my senior year! Mr. Berg's lessons provided me with a strong foundation for a career in graphic design. 30 years later, I'm back in my studio focusing on painting and illustration, and the techniques learned long ago are intuitive now. I know Mr. Berg would be proud to know I'm sitting here surrounded by over 20 active canvases.

Peace to his family and loved ones. He will be truly missed.
- Pam Simonds Bury, Class of '85

Pam Bury - December 04, 2015 at 10:05 PM



“ I'm writing this with tears in my eyes. He was such a big part of my high school days. Art room teacher, softball field coach, and friend. Later on, he came to my wedding and was a part of that memory. I remember listening to the cranberry's with him :) He was such a good man and a huge influence in my life.

Molly Beakas - December 04, 2015 at 09:35 PM



“ Mr. Berg helped me set up the darkroom at OHHS that had been abandoned years before, and I ended up making almost all the photographs in the 1971 Mesasa. I poked fun at his wearing a painter's apron in the art room too, he would chuckle about that. He was a real gift to your family I'm sure his memory will live for decades.
Tom Brooks

Tom Brooks - December 04, 2015 at 09:04 PM



“ Mr. Berg taught me photography, art, and was my softball coach. I will never forget his son of a hibachi joke he was an amazing man and I am very sorry to hear of his passing. My prayers to his family. -Caryn Skinner Marshall

caryn skinner marshall - December 04, 2015 at 08:41 PM



“ Dear Family of Mr. Berg, I graduated from OHHS in 1992, and while there I took as many art classes as possible. Mr. Berg always encouraged my creativity and helped me grow as an artist. With another student, I created a sculpture for the school (which was taken down when they expanded the building); we dedicated the piece to Mr. Berg in appreciation for all he did for us as our teacher. I eventually studied art education in graduate school and often trace my educational/artistic path back to EB's classroom. My condolences, Gabriele (Gaby) Abowd Damico

Gabriele Damico - December 04, 2015 at 08:36 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Ernest J. Berg.



December 04, 2015 at 06:22 PM