



Harvey William Bowles Jr.

October 10, 1941 - March 11, 2026

The life and times of a man known for great humor and a little bit of sarcasm.

Harvey Bowles Jr., former University of Toledo wrestling coach and member of the UT Athletic Hall of Fame, died Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at Toledo Hospital of respiratory failure. He was 84 years old.

Harvey was a born athlete, evidenced in his years at Whitmer High School. At 17 he began a life long friendship with former wrestler Dick Torio. After his graduation from the University of Toledo he opened the Women's Health Club adjacent to Torio's. Harvey was the Head Wrestling coach at The University of Toledo from 1974 to 1994. In addition to his work with Dick Torio, Harvey was Vice President at the APRN company for over 30 years.

A legendary story teller, professional dispenser of sarcasm, and all around fighter with a heart of gold, reluctantly exited this life. Known for his quick wit and even quicker comebacks, he spent much of his life entertaining friends with stories that improved slightly with every telling.

Harvey married Judy Grosjean, also a UT graduate, in November of 1966.

In January, 2011 Harvey succumbed to a cardiac arrest and miraculously survived.

He proudly carried a sarcastic streak sharp enough to keep everyone on their toes but, beneath that playful edge was a deeply compassionate person. He's the only man we know that kept Southern Comfort Manhattans in his liquor cabinet.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Janet Bowles and sister-in-law Sharon Grosjean and brother-in-law Marty Grosjean. Left to cherish Harvey's memory is his wife of 59 years Judy Bowles, His sister Judi (Tad) Owen. With each challenge in this world comes a gift. Harvey had his caregiver, Kimberley Wodarski, and "Rent-A-Kid" - Kathleen Rupp-Remley to help him through those rough times.

A celebration of life for Harvey will be held on Sunday, March 29th, at the Ward Pavilion, Wildwood Metropark 4830 W. Central Ave. from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., with a sharing of memories beginning at 2:00.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Kathleen Rupp-Remley. Donations will be donated to Whitmer High Schools Wrestling Club, of which Harvey was a member.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **29.** 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Ward Pavilion at Wildwood Metro Park
4830 W. Central Ave.
Toledo, OH 43615

Sharing of Memories

MAR **29.** 2:00 PM (ET)

Ward Pavilion at Wildwood Metro Park
4830 W. Central Ave.
Toledo, OH 43615

Tribute Wall

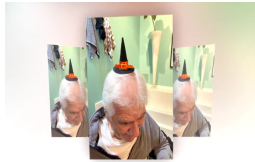
AA

“ *Long Live Harvey William Bowles Jr.*

Aaliyah - March 27 at 02:09 PM

CV

“ *2 files added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE*



COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS - March 26 at 12:38 PM

DK

“ *So sorry for your loss Judy. Our prayers are with you and your family.*

David Kuehnle - March 18 at 11:07 AM

KH

“ Judy, April and I are keeping you in our prayers. I have been truly blessed to have both you and Harvey in my life. When I was an 18-year-old wrestler away from home for the first time off to college, Harvey became much more than my coach. Over the next 36 years, he was my friend, my mentor, and the person I turned to for advice during so many of life's big moments from career to even traveling to be at my destination wedding. In many ways, he was a dad to me after I lost mine. He was such an inspiration. Every call with him was filled with jokes, great stories, and wisdom that always seemed to come at just the right time. Harvey will always hold a special place in my heart. Please know that April and I are here for you and keeping you in our thoughts and prayers.

Keith Harris - March 17 at 02:59 PM

KN

“ Judy with deepest thoughts and prayers to you, family, and all who were lucky enough to have Harvey in their lives or made his acquaintance.....We met at 18 in high school -- -- him at Whitmer me at Libbey on the wrestling mats ---- "Life" took us in different paths, but, always remained in our hearts and when we met, it was always with a genuine smile, a warm hug, and kind words.....Obviously you know best --- a special man --- quick to bring a smile to your face or straight from the shoulder advice if needed.....Rest In Heaven, my friend.....Memory Eternal.....



Ken Najarian - March 15 at 01:55 PM

CC

“ Aunt Judy, I’m not quite sure where to begin in talking about Uncle Harvey. Over the last 34 years - since Harv became an “Uncle” to me - there have been so many memories that will continue to bring a smile to my face for decades to come.

Emily, our kids, and I have been so blessed to be a part of your lives. Over the last several days, during family conversations, we’ve shared so many wonderful stories (some more appropriate than others :-)) that Harvey told us over the years. He had such an amazing impact on us all.

You both have blessed our family in countless ways. We love you very much.

Clark Conley - March 15 at 12:11 PM

MJ

“ Dear Judy, I am so sorry to learn of Harvey’s passing. I remember at one of Wannamakers pig roasts, Harvey wading into the middle of a dog fight and dispersing them like a general. There was no trouble for the rest of the night! The alpha dog had spoken! Heaven is a lucky place today. Our loss. With much love, Marilyn

marilyn Jensen - March 15 at 11:07 AM

MD

“ Judy, I was so sorry to hear of Harvey’s passing, please know you are in my thoughts and prayers. Hugs, Mary Jo

Mary Jo Dey - March 15 at 09:07 AM

AT

“ Dear Judy,

Words are insufficient to express what you and Harvey meant to the Torio family, as you both well know. I am thankful for the extra years Harvey got out of life, especially given that his health struggles never struck at his wit, cheerfulness, and incomparable personality! We are all blessed who got to have Harvey in our lives. Love you much and God Bless

Anthony Torio

Anthony Torio - March 14 at 04:54 PM

NE

Dear Judy, what can be said that already has been ! He always brought me much laughter when we'd were together. What I remember most was the time you two came over and I went out and (against my better judgement) bought some Southern Comfort so he could violate that wonderful drink!! He will be deeply missed and know Judy he will always be in my prayers. 💕 Nancy E

nancy eade - March 15 at 11:39 AM

KH

Judy, April and I are keeping you in our prayers. I have been truly blessed to have both you and Harvey in my life. When I was an 18-year-old wrestler away from home for the first time off to college, Harvey became much more than my coach. Over the next 36 years, he was my friend, my mentor, and the person I turned to for advice during so many of life's big moments from career to even traveling to my destination wedding. In many ways, he was a dad to me after I lost mine. He was such an inspiration. Every call with him was filled with jokes, great stories, and wisdom that always seemed to come at just the right time. Harvey will always hold a special place in my heart. Please know that April and I are here for you and keeping you in our thoughts and prayers.

keith harris - March 16 at 02:59 AM