



Robert Joseph Blanford

July 7, 1944 - March 22, 2024

Robert Joseph Blanford, 79, passed away Friday March 22, 2024, at his home.

Robert was born on July 7, 1944, to the late Joseph and Pauline Blanford of Louisville, KY.

He was a sheet metal worker for Kirk and Bloom and served our country in the Navy. Robert was a longtime member of Mary Queen of Peace. He founded the 1st girls' volleyball club (KJVA) in Louisville, Ky. He was a long-time member of the AAU and on the National Volleyball Committee which helped organized and promoted girls' volleyball events. He was an avid advocate for all girls' sports both at the local and national level.

Preceded in death by his parents, brother Norman Blanford, sister, Betty Whitley and brother Barry Blanford, whom he raised as one of his own children.

Survived by his loving wife of 59 years Wanda (Webb) Blanford, children Bridget Helinger (Richard) and Missy Cochran (Bruce), three grandchildren Brittany Adkins (Denny), Dylan Cochran and Cody Cochran (Jenna), two great grandchildren Memphis and Skylar Adkins, Sister- in-law Angela (wife to Barry Blanford), brothers Keith Blanford (Linda) and Larry Blanford (Vicki) and a

host of family and friends.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday March 27, 2024, at 10:00am Owen Funeral Home, 5317 Dixie Highway with burial to follow Calvary Cemetery. Visitation will be on Tuesday from 4:00-8:00pm at the funeral home.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

1600 Newburg Rd
Louisville, KY 40205
(502) 451-7710

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 26. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Owen Funeral Homes - Dixie Highway
5317 Dixie Highway
Louisville, KY 40216
(502) 447-2600
<https://owenfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

MAR 27. 10:00 AM (ET)

Owen Funeral Homes - Dixie Highway
5317 Dixie Highway
Louisville, KY 40216
(502) 447-2600
<https://owenfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Bob's humor and grace will be missed in the VB Community. Wanda Blanford Family is in my prayers. Sent with love Sharon*

Sharon - March 27, 2024 at 10:08 AM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph Blanford.*



March 26, 2024 at 04:09 PM



“ *Donnie, Dawn, Harper & Hunter Kurian purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Robert Joseph Blanford.*



Donnie, Dawn, Harper & Hunter Kurian - March 26, 2024 at 10:01 AM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph Blanford.*



March 26, 2024 at 09:59 AM

AF

“ AAU Family purchased the *Divine Peace Bouquet* for the family of Robert Joseph Blanford.



AAU Family - March 26, 2024 at 09:06 AM

AF

“ AAU Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Joseph Blanford.

AAU Family - March 26, 2024 at 09:06 AM

GG

“ Gino Grajeda purchased the *Florist Choice Bouquet* for the family of Robert Joseph Blanford.



Gino Grajeda - March 26, 2024 at 12:34 AM

DB

“ Debby Batz purchased the *Full Of Love Bouquet* for the family of Robert Joseph Blanford.



Debby Batz - March 25, 2024 at 11:52 PM

DB

“ Debby Batz planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Joseph Blanford.

Debby Batz - March 25, 2024 at 11:52 PM

KF

“ Keith Noll- AAU Friend purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Robert Joseph Blanford.



Keith Noll- AAU Friend - March 25, 2024 at 05:19 PM

KF

“ Keith Noll- AAU Friend planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Joseph Blanford.

Keith Noll- AAU Friend - March 25, 2024 at 05:19 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph Blanford.



March 25, 2024 at 03:22 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph Blanford.*



March 24, 2024 at 05:01 PM



“ *Donna Hartline planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Joseph Blanford.*

Donna Hartline - March 24, 2024 at 05:01 PM



“ *Mr. B was the first coach I had, and such a wonderful man. I remember him always. Peace to the family. - Jackie (Zwigard) Singer, St. Helen's, Class of 1980*

Jackie Singer - March 24, 2024 at 04:16 PM



“ *Love, The Brey Family Cousins purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Robert Joseph Blanford.*



Love, The Brey Family Cousins - March 24, 2024 at 12:46 PM

LC

“ Love, The Brey Family Cousins planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Joseph Blanford.

Love, The Brey Family Cousins - March 24, 2024 at 12:46 PM

KN

“ Bob coached me at KJVA when I was 15 and 16. We had so much fun, and Bob never took anything too seriously. I was just catching up with some former teammates and we were reminiscing about our days at KJVA and telling Bob stories and laughing hysterically. What a foundation for volleyball in Louisville and a legacy he is leaving.

Katie (Graham) Nash - March 24, 2024 at 10:39 AM

BM

I always chersh the times Joyce and I spent with Bob and Wanda. My thoughts and prayers are with you guys bill

bill mulvihill - March 25, 2024 at 11:26 PM

BD

“ Wanda, I was so sorry to see of Bob’s passing. He truly was a good man. He was a true advocate for women’s sports. I know the volleyball community will miss him. RIP Bob and my condolences to you, Bridget and Missy.

Betty Dwyer

Betty Dwyer - March 23, 2024 at 08:41 PM

PS

“ *Paula Schuler lit a candle in memory of
Robert Joseph Blanford*



Paula Schuler - March 23, 2024 at 07:50 PM