



## Wilbur Booth

November 1, 2011

### Obituary of Wilbur Booth

Wilbur (Will) Booth, 84, passed away on Tuesday, November 1st in Leesburg, FL after a short illness. Will was a lifelong educator, coach and school administrator in Ohio. He loved his wife and family, track officiating, and Ohio State football. He was a Navy veteran, a 60 year member of the Masons, a member of the American Legion and several track officiating organizations. He was also a member of Community Methodist Church in Fruitland Park.

Will is survived by his wife of 35 years, Shirley (Sam) Booth, his children: Becky and Julie; stepchildren: Cindy, Eric and Penny; grandchildren: Bryce, Breanna, David, Ross, Emily, Tian, Jacob, Jonathan and Samuel.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, November 10, 2011 at 11 am at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL. There will be a procession beginning at Beyers Funeral Home in Leesburg to the memorial service leaving promptly at

10 am.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Will may be made to Cornerstone Hospice, 601 Casa Bella, The Villages, FL 32162. There will not be a reception or formal gathering after.

### Services

Graveside Service at FNC on Thursday, November 10, 2011 at 11:00 AM.  
Leave in procession from Beyers Funeral Home at 10:00 AM.

### Memorial Donations

In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Will may be made to Cornerstone Hospice, 601 Casa Bella, The Villages, FL 32162.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Wilbur Booth*

October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *I was saddened to hear of Will's passing. I have known him for the past 8 years, since I started working at the UF Track & Field office. He was one of my very favorite T&F officials and I always looked forward to seeing him and getting to talk for a little while. He always had a smile on his face and was so nice to me, especially when I was new and just learning about Track & Field meets. My condolences go out to his family during this difficult time.*

**Therese LeGrow** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *To Becky and Julie: I was so saddened to read about your Dad in the Toledo Blade. Your Dad taught me to drive....Drivers training, Genoa High School. Every time we would go out, he would place a glass milk bottle on the "hump" on the floor of the front seat. He had a clipboard and he would mark the number of times that milk bottle would fall over. Every student started out the day with an "A" - each time the bottle fell over, your grade would go down one notch. I was an 'excellent driver' (quote from the "Rain Man") and when we got back to the high school, he would look over at me - kick that bottle over with his foot and say "Judy .....F." Then he'd smile. He liked me. We had an Ohio State Football question on one of our exams. The answer was Bob White. I got it right. He liked me. I remember your Dad as an excellent coach, good teacher and someone to be revered. You didn't cross him-but if you did your best he respected you. I am so sorry for you girls. You are in my prayers. With love,  
Judy*

**Judy Placko** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ Will was a great friend and track official. He helped us (Embry-Riddle) develop our track meets and build relationships with other officials. His easy demeanor, friendly attitude and intelligence made him a pleasure to work with. We will certainly miss him and know that our meets will not be the same without him. We have lost a great friend, but know that he is looking down on us and watching out for all of us.

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**Mike Rosolino** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

OO

“ The Ottawa County Veterans Service Office Staff extend our condolences to Shirley in the recent loss of her husband, Wilbur. Know that you are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. We know that his passing will not only leave a void in your life, but in the hearts of all those who knew him. May you find comfort in knowing that as a veteran of our country's Armed Forces, Will gained distinction and earned the respect and gratitude of his fellow Americans through his bravery, heroism, and dedication to our country. With deepest sympathy, De Ann M. Louk Executive Director

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**Ottawa County Veterans Service Office** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DO

“ Shirley and Family, Sorry to hear of Bill's passing. I met him when I ran track for Start High School, he was an official at my track meets. Over time we became friends I remember him telling me how he met you in the Ohio Turnpike Toll booth. Bill was such a nice person, he took time out of his day to visit me at a diner I worked at and later met with me after I graduated from college and helped me get a teaching job in Toledo Public Schools. Later on when I was a teacher and coach it was always great to see him at the track and cross-country meets. He is truly one of the most kind people I have ever met. God Bless you and your family. Sincerely, Debbie Ostas

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**Debbie (Gibson) Ostas** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ Sory about your loss. Bill will be missed by many. Glen

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**Glen Smith** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Shirley we are actually shocked at the passing of Will. I just saw him at your mother viewing. Please accept our condolences with much heartfelt sympathy for you and all the children. God's blessings and peace.

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**Roy and Suz Held** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ Sam, I was shocked and saddened at Will's passing. I talked to Al and Shirley and I have a hug for you from them if I get to see you at the Memorial Service.

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**Larry Hawkins** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Am sad for all.*

**Judy Holke** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *May time soften the pain until all that remains is the beauty of the memories and the love, always the love. It's the spirit of a person that touches us, staying with us forevermore. Sam... We love you!*  
*Betty & Jim*

**Betty & Jim Hill** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ *Sam, Our prayers are with you. I loved Bill and have so many great memories of our years together in Toledo. He was an outstanding man who loved you dearly and will be missed by all who knew him. Both of you are special people. We'll meet again someday. ERB*

**Ed Boblitt** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ *I have lost not only a true friend but a man who took me under his wings and helped me become a track and field official.*

**artie smith** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KA

“ *We remember Will, Kathy and I will keep him in our prayers. KenA*

**Ken & Kathy Aicardi** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to you Shirley and to your entire family. Whatever Wilbur set out to do he did it well and enjoyed it all. He will be missed.

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**Dodie Popoff** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ Will was such a special man and we loved him very much. His sense of humor and love of life and people was contagious and made our times with him such fun. We all counted on his guidance and wisdom and he will be sorely missed by all of us in Track and Field in Florida and beyond.

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**Linda and Lionel Bonck** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ Sam- Your husband was a great man who lived a full & special life. I never ever ran into him & left feeling bad or down. He always made me laugh & appreciate life. My thoughts & prayers are with you & your family. Go Bless Mike Ward

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**Mike Ward** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RJ

“ On behalf of the 1962(football) 1963(graduating) DeVilbiss Tigers please accept our deepest heartfelt condolences. We lost a great man, coach, role model and friend. With deepest sympathy, Ron Jackson PS: I am sure glad I found him to reconnect. That was very special to me as he was a very special person to me. RJ

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**Ron Jackson** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ Dear Booth families, Our deepest condolences in your loss. Mr Booth(Will) meant a great deal to my Dad and he had the upmost respect for him. I didn't know him well however Becky & Julie (Jug) some of the best women I have shared life with. May you find comfort in your memories. God Bless you all. May you find

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**John , Norleen Diebert** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

NY

“ Thanks, Mr Booth, for all the great memories at Genoa High! You are still loved and appreciated by many. Our sincere sympathies go out to your loved ones. Rest in Peace!

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**Nancy Young** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ we are so very sorry we wish we had got to see him more Sam and Julie and Becky our hearts are with you may GOD bless him and all of you keep in touch please. His brothers has lost a good brother

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**cherryl and larry Booth also Brad** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Dear Will.... I know we haven't spoken since the end of high school in 1959 but this week I thought of you and us scrawny young footballers. I wondered if you were still in the realm and for some reason wanted to talk to you. I wanted to let you know that I still tell stories about your unbelievably tough coaching tactics like "hot alley" and literal ass kicking and clobbering and the fear of wrath you imparted and how on your last address to us you let us all in on the power of pride and said "you guys are the best and you can wear it" and how really embarrassed we all were when you cried Will, but we finally got it and for some reason this week I wanted to thank you for your role in our formative years and for building our character with tough love. And... then today I got mail from a classmate that led me to this site and a long overdue "thanks . I know I was never big enough to play but you put me out in the front of a lot of tough dudes and I am forever grateful to have been on your team.....it taught me the meaning of one hundred and ten percent and what it means to work hard to be the best. Big time thanks Will...Really big time thanks. Spurge

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**david spurgeon** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BV

“ Mrs. Booth and family, I'm so sorry for your loss. I always looked up to the men and women who worked with my dad at Rogers -- it was like our second home. My mom and our whole family remembers Mr. Booth so fondly and extends our deepest sympathies.

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**Bob Vitale** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Shirley ( SAM ) I am very sorry for your loss, I remember us talking about both of you many nights at the toll booth. You are in my prayers and I hope you will be able to move on with your life with fewq problems and I will keep you in my thoughts and pwayers.

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**Jim Gunther** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Shirey, I was saddened when I saw Wilbur's obituary in the Blade today. I was one of Herb's players and then I came back to G'burg as a coach. Brought back a lot of memories from the coaching days. I'll bet he is up there with Herb playing "can you top this" right now. He would call and say he was the state auditor of some official from the state education dept and want to know when he could come and audit or investigate some infraction. When we would meet, he would always say, "Well Freeb, what have you done today to advance the cause of education." We had a lot of fun and did a lot of good for kids. Dick Freebon Gibsonburg, OH

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**Dick Freeborn** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TD

“ Please accept my sincere condolences at your loss. Wilbur was a great man and well-known in Northwest Ohio athletics. His legacy here is a long one. Eric would probably remember me from Anthony Wayne. God bless in this time of grief.

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**Tony Durham** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TG

“ Sam: We are deeply saddened by Will`s passing. He was a great friend and mentor to me and many others! I loved his humor and single minded nature. he truly was a man`s man, but he was deeply in love with you and the second chance at happiness that you gave him!! Tom Guitteau

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**TOM & LYNN GUITTEAU** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Sam, I worked with Bill as a track & field official starting in the mid-70's. We (Bob Reneau, Bill & I) traveled together to Mansfield, Columbus, Chicago (Kiebler) and many other meets until he moved to Florida. Bill gave me a solid basis in track which I continue to this day. It is with great sadness that I heard of Bill's passing. You & all the family are in my prayers. May God Bless. David Madaras

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**David Madaras** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TD

“ Condolences to Sam and the Booth family. Great man, great coach, We will miss you Coach Booth. Tom Drais , DeVilbiss '67

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**Tom Drais** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Sam and Family, I was saddened to hear of Bill's death. I owe a great deal to Bill as he helped me get the job at Rogers, encouraged me to become a track official and was one of my mentors. He touched many lives in both Ohio and Florida and know he will be missed. Mourn his passing, cherish the memories and celebrate his life. Dave Spiess

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**Dave Spiess** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM