



## Robert K. Dunn

August 8, 1928 - September 25, 2014

Robert K. "Bob" Dunn, 86, of Bradley, passed away Thursday (Sept. 25, 2014) at Faith Place at Prairieview Lutheran Home in Danforth.

He was born Aug. 8, 1928, in Kankakee, the son of Theodore Dunn and Pearl Van Der Vliet.

Surviving are a brother, Roger (Carol) Dunn, of Asotin, Wash.; and a niece, Linda Dunn, of San Clemente, Calif.

Preceding him in death were his parents.

He was a retired employee of the Chicago Sun-Times, where he worked in distribution. He also worked for the Chicago Daily News, the Kankakee Post Office, the Kankakee bottling plant, International Harvester, the Elks Club and as a door-to-door salesman selling "Life" and "Ladies Home Journal" magazines.

Mr. Dunn was best known for the 45 years he spent as a coach in the Kankakee Jaycees Little League. He coached with three Jaycees all-star teams which reached the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa., in 1958, 1962 and 1966. The former two finished second in the tournament and the latter team won the consolation championship. Mr. Dunn also coached the

1971 Jaycees team that won the last of the league's five state championships.

His success was not limited to victories on the playing field. Mr. Dunn served as a role model and mentor for thousands of children and fellow coaches over the years, and remained a friend to many long after their playing and coaching days had ended.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais, with the service set for 1 p.m. Saturday at the same location. The family requests that casual dress attire be worn. Burial will be in Mound Grove Cemetery in Kankakee.

Memorials may be made to Faith Place at Prairieview Lutheran Home - [www.prairieviewlutheran.com](http://www.prairieviewlutheran.com); Iroquois Memorial Hospice - [www.iroquoismemorial.com](http://www.iroquoismemorial.com); or the Kankakee Jaycees Little League. - [www.facebook.com/pages/Kankakee-Jaycees-Little-League-baseball/](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Kankakee-Jaycees-Little-League-baseball/)

Memorials may be made to Prairieview Lutheran Home, Danforth.

# Cemetery Details

## Mound Grove Gardens Cemetery

1000 N. Greenwood  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 933-6726

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 4. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.  
295 Main St., NW  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

## Funeral Service

OCT 4. 1:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.  
295 Main St., NW  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Robert K. Dunn*



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**Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes** - October 06, 2014 at 09:06 AM

EK

“ *Bob coached me in '83 & '84. I played for First Trust. I played all nine positions. He was definitely a father figure. He and I would sit and watch the other teams on the days we weren't playing. He instilled a lot of confidence in me.*

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**Elmore Kelly** - May 12, 2023 at 06:44 AM

RF

“ Bob hired me to work as a paperboy for the Chicago Daily News in the early 1970's, helping me set up my first bank account at Kankakee Federal Savings... I still remember getting the deposit book with a \$67 balance! Though paperboys (and the Chicago Daily News) have gone to the wayside, my youthful job responsibilities, and Bob's encouragement, were valuable life lessons.

Bob was born the same year as my father, who died in 2008. When going through dad's and mom's keepsakes recently I found an envelope, dated for my 13th birthday in 1973, and addressed to me from Robert K Dunn - Chicago Daily News, saying "thanks much for a good job", and "I know you made lots of friends with your route, including me."

All of my childhood friends were expected to be courteous and respectful to our elders, but never did I expect that my elders owed me the same, yet Bob certainly did.

Thanks Bob

Ron Finch formerly 621 Park Place, K3, IL

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Ron Finch - September 10, 2017 at 05:50 PM

RB

“ I played for Bob back in the 60s when He coached Kankakee Hotel then in 1984 I too coached a team peoples bank, there was a game in the late 80s that had Bob's team First Trust playing against My team Bob asked Me to try something that He had never done before in all the years that He had coached, He asked and I agreed we both took lawn chairs and sat behind the fence out in left field and let our team captains manage and coach the game with no input or prior warning from us, Bob and I shared a popcorn and watched it was a close game and My team lost 3 to 2 but most importantly everyone played and there was absolutely no arguing in the dug outs very amazing to see and as Bob told Me afterword's Congratulations that His and My team had just done something that other coaches didn't think could be done! thanks' Bob for being a great mentor!

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**Rick Blanchette** - October 28, 2014 at 01:16 PM

SR

“ Special thank you to David Benson...you are a man Coach is proud of. Thank you for all you have done!

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**susan riley** - October 04, 2014 at 02:12 PM

SR

“ It was my pleasure to know and care for Coach Robert Dunn for his entire stay at Faith Place. The beauty of his kind, wise and delightful spirit he showed to the kids, he maintained even during these final years. Even in illness, he had a loving, kindhearted spirit and a quick laugh...truly a unique individual. I remember all the time he came to our "rescue" when other patients were giving us a hard time...So many fond memories of this great man! Love you, miss you, never forget you! Sue Riley, LPN

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**susan riley** - October 04, 2014 at 01:53 PM

DW

“ I am saddened to hear about bob's passing. I also was on bob's team and to this day I have offened thought about what a great teacher and mentor he was both on the field and in life. It showed the true character of the man. He will be missed. Rest in peace Bob.

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**Don Wisniewski** - October 04, 2014 at 01:03 PM

JS

“ Bob was my Peoples Bank coach in 70,71 and 72. He was my boss when I had my Chicago Daily News paper route. He pitched batting practice to me when I made the All-City team in 77. He even visited me in college. But more than that, he was my friend for 44 years. I played baseball through college, but never had a coach that showed more passion for teaching the game of baseball. Hard work, pride, teamwork and compassion were some of the lessons he taught us every day. His lessons were part of what I tried to bring to the baseball field when I coached my boys baseball teams. He will be missed by more people than he could have ever imagined.

*John M. Stukenborg*

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**John M. Stukenborg** - October 03, 2014 at 11:05 PM

TY

“ Bob was my little league manager for the First Trust team from '78-'80. Bob was the best coach I ever played for! He will always be one of my Hero's and Mentor's. God needed a coach in heaven!

*R.I..P. Coach Dunn!*

*Tim Yoder*

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**Timothy Yoder** - October 03, 2014 at 11:19 AM

LO

“ I was a 10 year old Jaycee Little Leaguer in 1952. I became so frustrated after a practice with team Sinclair that I came home and threw my glove into the trash can and told my Dad that I was finished with baseball. That very same nite, after dinner, there was a knock at our door. It was Mr./Coach Dunn. -- he was aware that I was giving up baseball. He calmly, coolly, was able to convince me that I could play this game -- probably pretty well -- I bought in and went on to play Pony, American Legion, and one year of College. -- All thanks to Bob Dunn. I am sure that he influenced hundred of kids after me in the same way. I will always remember that Coach Dunn treated the star players and the guy at the end of the bench the same way -- always with class, respect, and encouragement. Thank you Coach for the Memories. Lenny O'Connor.

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**Lenny O'Connor** - October 02, 2014 at 09:58 PM

BS

“ Bob was my little league manager for the A.O. Smith team from '59-'62 including the Jaycee's trip to Williamsport in '62. He was a kind and generous man who knew the fundamentals of baseball and life; and was able teach both well.

*He understood that there were more important things for him to teach than simply winning, particularly in a league composed of 9-12 year old boys. Please don't misunderstand, he insisted on effort and his teams were extraordinarily successful. His message was respect for the game of baseball (i.e., know the fundamentals and always give your best effort) and respect for your opponents .*

*Like many I feel blessed to have had Bob as a mentor.*

*Bill Schmidt*

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**Bill Schmidt** - October 01, 2014 at 05:28 PM

DK

“ I am honored to have been able to know Coach!! He will always be remembered and he embedded a spot in my heart!!! He can now coach in heaven and will have many more winning teams!!! He was a wonderful man!!!

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**Deena Kissee** - October 01, 2014 at 11:41 AM

AP

“ Bob was an all time great. He help a lot of us kids get thru some rough times growing. Sportsmanship, respect and friendship is what growing up and baseball was about. Couch Bob you will be missed.

*Art Prouty, Tucson Arizona*

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**Art Prouty** - October 01, 2014 at 08:55 AM

DK

“ Dewey Kilbride lit a candle in memory of Robert K. Dunn



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**Dewey Kilbride** - October 01, 2014 at 05:26 AM

DK

*My condolences to Bob's family and his extended family, of which I was one. I was drafted by Bob in 1952 to Sinclair team and he was an inspiration to me and all that came in contact with him. His legacy will live forever at the Jaycee Little League park. He will be missed by all who knew him. May he rest in peace.*

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**Dewey Kilbride** - October 01, 2014 at 05:28 AM

DE

“ As a fellow coach in 1971, a true friend, a mentor to me during my years as a volunteer with the Kankakee JC Little League -his legacy for baseball youth sports will be remembered for years to come. He would truly enjoy the continued programs at the Chet Yokum-Bob Dunn Little League park.

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**Denny Elimon** - September 30, 2014 at 09:44 PM

TD

“ Bob was my Little League coach in 1952 for the Sinclair Team. What a great role model he was for me and my teammates. He gave me the nick name "RBI Draude" since I was usually able to get a hit when needed. He was an inspiration for me throughout my days at Annapolis and in the Marine Corps for over thirty four years. May he rest in peace!

*Semper Fidelis,*

*Tom Draude*

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**Tom Draude** - September 29, 2014 at 12:04 PM

LI

“ Uncle Bob~

*You have been the BEST UNCLE ever!!  
God blessed me sooo much to have you as my  
UNCLE!!! I am sooo PROUD of you and all of  
your accomplishments!!!*

*I will MISS you sooo much here ~ I know you  
are with the LORD and his ANGELS now and I know I will see you  
again and I am happy to know that:))!*

*Thank you for always being so loving to me and soooo many others  
!!!*

*Love,*

*Linda Dunn*

*OXOXOXOX*



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**linda** - September 29, 2014 at 12:36 AM

JG

“ *That's Puerto Rico by the way. John Gregoire oire01@aol.com*

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**John Gregoire** - September 28, 2014 at 06:57 PM

JG

“ A great man I was proud to call a friend for 45 years. He was such a positive role model helping Kankakee kids for 50+ years as a little league coach (and a really good one), friend and mentor. I first worked for him as a Chicago Daily News carrier and later as head carrier in his office. I also sold newspaper subscriptions with him and a team of K3 kids to win trips. Bob would pick us up M-F and we would “canvas” K3 neighborhoods for 10 weeks from 6-9PM. So this guy gave up his summer evenings for 2 ½ months so some kids could try to win a trip (while he was also coaching). I won trips to Disneyland, the Astrodome, Utah white water rafting and to Puerto Rico over 4 years. We were able to get Bob to win and come with us on 2 of the trips. Lastly, I talked to Bob within the last few months and he always told me how much fun we had. He would also tell me his favorite story of ours. One year I won a TV (pretty good for a kid in 1969) and while delivering it to me he dropped the box he took out his trunk on our sidewalk. I was shocked, assuming my dream TV was now in pieces in the box. I opened the box and it was Bob’s bowling ball. The TV was safe still in the car. That was Bob, a big kid, who lived a remarkable life! Thanks Bob, love you. John Gregoire

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**John Gregoire** - September 28, 2014 at 04:58 PM

DK

“ I am so sorry for your loss! Coach was a wonderful man and the minute he saw children or a lady his eyes lit up. He will be greatly missed!!! And will always have a special place in my heart!!!

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**Deena Kissee** - September 27, 2014 at 08:13 AM