

Robert E. Lehr

April 20, 2021

Robert E. Lehr, 86, passed away at home on Tuesday, April 20th 2021, surrounded by the love of his devoted family. Born in March 1935 in Millersville, he was the son of Milton E. Lehr and Florence Erisman Lehr. He was married to Mary Gochenaur Lehr for 61 years.

He graduated from Millersville State Teachers' college with a Bachelor's degree and from Temple University with a Masters Degree in Education. From 1957-1959, Bob served in the U.S. Army stationed in Baumholder, Germany.

A life-long educator, Bob's career began as a sixth-grade teacher in Lancaster Township. He became a principal at Paradise Elementary school and at Price Elementary school in Lancaster PA, retiring after 40 years in education. As an educator, Bob strongly supported and employed an arts Infusion Program at Price, participated in DADD's (Demonstrate against Drug Dealers), and served with Cadet and Camp Brairwood. Even as a young man, Bob started an Indian Lore Club for Millersville area boys, employing hands-on approach for learning about American Indian culture.

Bob was active in his community organizations, such as, Millersville Historical Society; the Conestoga Area Historical Society, where he was a board member, docent, and exhibitor at the fall festivals; the Lancaster Woodcarvers Club where he served as a president and was a recipient of the John

Herrington Award; the Millersville University Alumni Association, where he received the Outstanding Volunteer Service Award.

Athletics also played a major role throughout Bob's life. At Penn Manor High School, he participated in soccer, basketball, volleyball, baseball, and swimming. In 2008, he was inducted into the Penn Manor Athlete Wall of Honor. While at Millersville University, he played baseball and basketball. Later he enjoyed playing volleyball on a community or church team. An avid supporter of Millersville University basketball, Bob was especially proud of carving a 6-foot Marauder which stands in Jefferson Hall, MU's Athletic Department.

One of Bob's passions was his love of his Morgan sports car. He was a member of the Philadelphia and D.C. car clubs, enjoyed participating in annual national Morgan meets and served as a judge at the 75th Anniversary of the Morgan Motor Company in England in 1984. Bob drove his Morgan to school where the students admired but knew not to touch.

In his later years, a deep interest in history of piracy resulted in reading and collecting hundreds of related books and giving informative talks to organizations on the Golden Age of Piracy. His love of history also led to participating in Early American Rendezvous with his grandchildren introducing them to Native American Life.

In addition to his wife, Bob is survived by his son, Scott Lehr (Lucie) and daughter, Kelly Gallagher (James), his grandchildren, Samuel Lehr, Madeline Lehr, Anne Gallagher, Leah Gallagher, step children, Shawn Gallagher, (Laura), Shannon Gallagher, Alexa Balwin, Geneva Balwin, his step great-grandchildren, Colin, Adam, Bridget, Zaius. Also surviving is a brother, Bruce Lehr (Betty Lou) and their family.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, May 1, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at The Groffs Family Funeral Home, 528 W. Orange Street, Lancaster, PA 17603. Friends are welcome to greet the family starting at 10:00 a.m. at the funeral home. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or Wounded Warriors. The family would like to thank Hospice and Palliative Care Compasses for its excellent care of Bob.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc
528 W Orange St.
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 394-5300
admin@thegroffs.com
<https://thegroffs.com/>

Memorial Service

MAY 1. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc
528 W Orange St.
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 394-5300
admin@thegroffs.com
<https://thegroffs.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Robert E. Lehr*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - April 30, 2021 at 04:34 PM



“ *Robert E. Lehr*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM

BC

“ *To Mary and Family,
Bob was a sixth grade teacher at Burrowes Elementary when I knew him, first through the summer recreation program he ran at the school, later when he coached our junior high school basketball team at Lancaster Township. He taught us everything from flag football to watercoloring. As a coach, he was terrific, no nonsense, high standards, very skilled in teaching techniques. We enjoyed many conversations about life, and he was a north star for me and countless others. When he was disappointed in a basketball player, his eyes could burn a hole in your chest, and you just wanted to try harder to become better. He always cared, knew when to be tough and when to laugh as our coach. And back then, he was still in his twenties, with so much yet to experience and achieve. Knowing him made us better and we carry on sensing his is rooting for us.*
Bill Cooper

Bill Cooper - August 19, 2022 at 11:45 AM

JC

“ *I just read the obituary and wish to express my condolences to the family. Bob was my first basketball coach at Lancaster Twp. Junior High back in 1964 or so. He was demanding, inspiring, and, most of all, caring. He had quite the life!*
Joe Carper

Joe Carper - November 03, 2021 at 03:59 PM

SL

“ *When our son was in preschool at Price elementary school, Bob created a space in the entrance hall for kids to fill with bottle caps, so they picture the enormity of 1 million. That always impressed me. Even though it was over 40 years ago, I never forgot.*

I am so sorry for your loss, Mary and family. He was one of a kind.

Sandra j Leonard - May 12, 2021 at 06:11 PM



“ 3 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - April 30, 2021 at 04:22 PM



“ *Sweet Tenderness* was purchased for the family of Robert E. Lehr.



April 29, 2021 at 03:53 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - April 29, 2021 at 03:03 PM



“ 0 file added to the *tribute wall*

The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - April 29, 2021 at 01:06 PM

FE

“ I would like to express my deepest sympathy to the Lehr family. Being his younger cousin, also born in Millersville, we had some things in common. When I was younger, I looked up to him because of his involvement in athletics, the community, church, and in education. I became a teacher and coach myself. Loved children, sports, and caring for others, just like Bob did. Our family and his got together at Christmas time and summer picnics.

God Bless all of his family.

Sincerely, Fred and Deb Erisman

Fred Erisman - April 28, 2021 at 06:54 PM



“ 33 files added to the album LifeTributes



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - April 28, 2021 at 04:54 PM



“ 15 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - April 28, 2021 at 10:25 AM



“ 16 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - April 27, 2021 at 02:02 PM

JB

“ Bob, Dick Erisman and I grew up together, went through high school and some college together, staying in touch at Christmas and family reunion picnics in the summer. His mother, Florence, my mother, Beatie, and Dick's father, Arthur Erisman were siblings. Riding in the car rumble seat of Uncle Micky's car (Bob's dad), was one of our happiest joys together. Rest in peace, my dear cousin. You have been a good servant of the Lord.

Comfort and love to Mary, to your family and to your brother, Bruce, his wife Betty and their children. Love, Jean Myers Brenner.

Jean Brenner - April 25, 2021 at 10:10 PM

ML

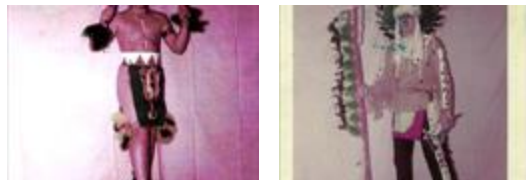
“ My personal memory of Bob was fast dancing with him at the Millersville Women's Club Fund raiser dances! Quite a few times we were the only ones out on the dance floor. I know he was a good friend of my father (Joe Glass). We are so sorry your loss.

Mark and Sue Loiseau

Mark Loiseau - April 25, 2021 at 04:08 PM

JL

“ Indian Lore Club was a great experience in my early life. (That came before Latin class at Penn Manor.) "Less-One-Finger"



James D. Lawrence - April 25, 2021 at 01:07 PM



“ I have many fond memories of Bob and his dedication to education, particularly at Millersville University. I formerly served as the alumni director at MU. One of my special memories was when he carved a very large Marauder statue from a massive piece of wood, painted it and it is now in the MU athletic administration building. And he made hundreds of small Marauder wooden pins and donated them to the University for several purposes. He was a skilled craftsman. Bob was also a very caring man and had a great sense of humor. Again, I enjoyed working with him (and Mary too) on class reunions and many other alumni outings. He will be missed by many.

Steve DiGuseppe - April 25, 2021 at 11:52 AM



“ It was an adventure and a privilege to have taught at Price Elementary when Bob was our principal. He was the heart of our school. I am so sorry for your loss.
Anne Albright

Anne Albright - April 25, 2021 at 10:48 AM



“ Nancy and I extend our sympathy to Mary and family. We had several get togethers with the families, including going to Phillie Phanatic's games and the bridge club nights. Bill remembers Bob from days at Manor High, now Penn Manor. One night at a basketball game at Brooks Hall Bob made a shot that went three lengths of the court. His Morgan was his prize. His many interests were indicative of his many abilities. God Bless.

Nancy/Bill Brackbill - April 25, 2021 at 10:37 AM

DM

“ *Price Elementary was a unique school, thanks to Mr. Lehr’s leadership and his unique views on education. Twenty-five years is a long time to have the same principal and i am so thankful he was my *boss.* ”

Deborah Marko - April 25, 2021 at 10:10 AM

SA

“ *I’m so sorry to hear about the passing of Bob. I remember when I was little and my Gram used to bring me over to play with Sam. Bob always called me the elephant trainer, which I could never remember how that started, but it always brought a smile to my face. He always called me that up until the last time I saw him at my Grandfather’s memorial. Bob was such a happy upbeat guy and I’ll always remember his laugh and smile. Wishing all of you the best with love. -Sage* ”



Sage Albright - April 24, 2021 at 08:41 PM

CG

“ *To Mary and Family,
We have many memories of Bob’s help and interest to our club over the years. Whether it was directing parking in the dark at club functions or helping set up rooms for fundraisers, he was always ready to lend a helping hand... and always the first one on the dance floor at our April Socials! Wishing you peace in memories of times past and comfort in knowing that our hearts are with you. The Millersville Woman’s Club* ”

Carol W Goss - April 24, 2021 at 08:04 AM