



# Wayne G. Ambrose

MAY 24, 1934 - MAY 5, 2019



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## **Wayne G. Ambrose**

MAY 24, 1934 - MAY 5, 2019

**W**ayne G. Ambrose departed his earthly life and went to his Heavenly home on Sunday, May 5, 2019 at Hospice House in Cape Coral, FL. He was born May 24, 1934 in Cleveland, OH the second of two sons born to Clyde W. and Hilda F. (Scheurger) Ambrose. He moved with his family to Rittman, OH in 1946. Wayne was a 1952 graduate of Rittman High School where he was elected the school's first student council president. He served his country from 1953-1957 as a member of the US Navy. He married the former Donna Bordacs on July 28, 1957 and they shared a beautiful life of love for 61 years. He is survived by Donna; daughter, Elizabeth (Kevin) Rafferty; sons, Kirk (Beth) Ambrose and Franklin Ambrose; grandchildren, Colin and Caley Rafferty, Ella Ambrose; step-grandchildren, Conor (Heather) Rafferty and Erin Rafferty; three step-great grandchildren; niece, Kristin (Joe) Smith and nephew, David (Kathy) Williams; former daughter-in-law, Suzanne Ambrose. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Clyde, Jr. Wayne received his Bachelor Degree of Education from Ashland University in 1961. He served as a graduate assistant in football at Bowling Green State University while earning his Master's Degree of Education in 1963. He was an assistant coach at Warren G. Harding High School and served as head football coach at the following Ohio high schools: Hardin Northern, Eastwood and Celina Senior High School where his 1968 team had the school's first undefeated, untied season. In 1972 he returned to Rittman where he served as head of the English Department and Athletic Director until 1975. He went to Northwestern High School as its principal through 1979. He returned to Rittman to serve as Rittman Middle School Principal until his retirement in 1989. While at the middle school, the school received the honor as the outstanding Ohio Middle School in 1985 and he was chosen Ohio Middle School Principal of the year in 1986. Wayne also served four years as the middle school representative on the Ohio High School Athletic Board of Control. Wherever he



## Obituary

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lived, he served his community through Lions International, an organization he joined in 1961. He was president of his local Rittman Lions Club, governor of District 13-G and then chairman of the Ohio Council of Governors the following year. He was a devoted Christ follower in the United Methodist Church. Serving the Lord as an adult Sunday School teacher, Bible Study leader, and as a board member of administrative councils of the churches in every community he lived. Until recently he was a member of the Counting Team at Grace United Methodist Church in Cape Coral. A Celebration of Life for Wayne will be held 11:00 AM, Friday, May 24, 2019 at Grace United Methodist Church, 13 SE 21st Place, Cape Coral, FL. A reception will follow at Horizon Village clubhouse, 9300 Littleton Road, North Fort Myers, at 1:00 PM. Wayne's cremains will be placed at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Seville, Ohio at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family suggest donations be made in Wayne's honor to Grace United Methodist Church, Hope Hospice or the donor's favorite charity. Arrangements for final care have been entrusted to Fort Myers Memorial Gardens Funeral Home, 1589 Colonial Boulevard, Fort Myers, Florida 33907, (239) 936-0555. To share a story or photo, leave a tribute or to offer a condolence at this difficult time please visit [www.fortmyersmemorial.com](http://www.fortmyersmemorial.com) and sign the guestbook.



## Tribute Wall

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SG

**Sue Granie** posted:

My sympathies to Donna and family. I went to high school with Wayne. He was a cheerful friendly guy. I'm happy that I had the opportunity to know both he and Donna. May God Bless his family. Sue (Pfaltzgraf) Granie.

May 21 at 12:08 PM

BT

**Bradley Troxel** posted:

Donna and Family, we are so sorry for your loss. Wayne was a good man, a good husband, a good father, and a good Christian man. He will be missed by all. Brad and Nancy Troxel

May 13 at 3:00 PM

TB

**The Beerys** posted:

To Wayne's Family and Friends, Our deepest sympathies go out to you. May God, and the many good memories, sustain you; now and also in the future.. Our thoughts and prayers are for you and your families. Sincere condolences from Art Beerys, Smithville, Ohio

May 13 at 7:32 AM

JD

**J. Wagner (Daughter Of Dolores)** posted:

Sympathies from The Wagner Family~

May 12 at 3:01 PM

BS

**Bob And Cindy Sickman** posted:

Donna, Beth, Kirk, Frank; We are so sorry to hear about Wayne. The Ambrose family was such a big part of our lives as we started our life together in Rittman. We Have such great memories of all of you and will be keeping you in our thoughts and prayers.

May 12 at 12:29 PM



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DH

**Dr. John Haschak** posted:

Great coach, principal and caring person. It was my pleasure and honor to have Wayne on my team while superintendent of Rittman. He lives on in the positive impact his leadership had on the students he served.

May 12 at 7:45 AM

DF

**Dick Frase** posted:

Donna, Beth, Kirk and Frank, Sorry to hear of your loss. I have a lot of fond memories of the entire family and growing up in Rittman.

May 12 at 5:14 AM

DT

**Deb Thompson** posted:

So sad to hear of Wayne's passing but I know he is in heaven rejoicing. He was a wonderful principal to work for and I was lucky enough to have him as my Sunday School teacher. He taught me so much about God and life. Rod and I are keeping you all in our prayers.

May 11 at 8:23 AM

FH

**Fred Holland** posted:

Wayne was part of the committee that hired me as football coach at Rittman. His role was to quiz me on my technical knowledge of football. He really peppered me with all sorts of questions. I hope he was pleased with my work even though we ended up on opposing sides at one point. Also, he provided me with one of the most interesting evenings of my life when he invited me to his house to visit with the Assistant Director of Personnel for the Cleveland Browns. I was fascinated with a look behind the scenes of the Browns. My condolences to your entire family on your loss.

May 9 at 4:04 PM

NS

**Norma (Beery)Spence** posted:

To The Family and Friends of Wayne You have My Deepest Sympathy My Prayers and Thoughts go all out to You I used to live in Rittman God Bless All of You Norma( Beery)Spence

May 9 at 3:09 PM



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MR

**Mike And Sue Rudolph** posted:

So sorry for your loss. I have plenty of great memories from being at your house growing up in Rittman . I always thought a lot of Mr. Ambrose. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

May 9 at 2:44 PM

BA

**Barbara Anderson** posted:

I am so sorry about your loss. I remember vacations as a young girl with Wayne's parents. They were wonderful neighbors. I also remember attending football games at Ashland College where Wayne played. And of course Kirk is now my brother-in-law. You are in my thoughts and prayers Barbara Bauders Anderson

May 9 at 2:35 PM

CL

**Carolyn Duskey Lutz** posted:

My love and prayers are with each of you who loved and cared for Wayne. Now he has received his greatest reward. He is home at last with the Lord he loved and served and with all those gone before. Such a vibrant person in passing leaves a void no other could replace. Back of the dark sad clouds the sun is shining and after the dark clouds disappear the sun will shine. You can look to the day of a great reunion with him and our Lord. A kind gentle servant has come home. In Jesus Love,

May 9 at 1:20 PM

KS

**Kim Strable** posted:

Donna and family, Wayne was a hero in my eyes during his time at Celina Senior—a great mentor, coach, and role model. He believed in me more than I believed in myself, and he insisted that I become a leader. Kirk and Frank, it was always great having you guys around our football practices (especially two-a-days) and your Dad often reminded me and others that you two were looking up to us and we should never forget our role model responsibilities. He also pointed us to Christ and his passion for FCA gave us young believers courage to let our faith show. I thank God for planting Coach into my life and I have no doubts that he is right now enjoying the biggest and best victory of them all!

May 8 at 11:21 AM



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**Randolph Lee Creeden** posted:

Great job Coach, you will be missed. Randy C. 1968 Bulldog.

May 8 at 5:39 AM



**Joe Bath** posted:

Touched allot of people's lives Coach!!

May 8 at 4:38 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Wayne by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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