



Ralph Anton Broman

January 26, 1928 - December 19, 2011

Ralph Anton Broman, 83, of Bluffton passed away at 3:45 p.m. Monday, December 19, 2011, at the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home.

Ralph was born in Mishawaka, Indiana, on January 26, 1928, to Roy Arthur and Rosa Emelia Nelson Broman. He married Barbara Ann Hunt on December 25, 1951, in Richmond, Indiana, and she survives.

Ralph graduated from Mishawaka High School in 1946 and from Ball State University in 1950. He served our country from September 15, 1950, to September 15, 1952 and was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army with the rank of Corporal. He studied at Indiana University and graduated from there with a master's degree in 1960.

Ralph lived in Wells County since 1953. He was a high school math and science teacher for 37 years in the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District retiring in 1989. He served as president and treasurer of the teachers association. Ralph also served on the negotiating team of the teachers' association. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church and a former member and past-president of the Kiwanis Club.

Ralph was a private pilot and enjoyed flying his Aercoupe airplane. After retirement he enjoyed gardening and participating in an investment club.

In addition to his wife, Ralph is survived by four sons, David Alan Broman (wife: Joyce Cylkowski) of Kokomo, Indiana; Robert Eric Broman (wife: Karen) of Mequon, Wisconsin; Nelson Arthur Broman (wife: Linda) of Bluffton, Indiana; Carl Edward Broman of Chicago, Illinois; one daughter, Nancy Christina Leonesio (husband: Paul) of Mebane, North Carolina; one sister, Veral Mae Sharp of Warren, Indiana; nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Calling hours are 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 27, 2011, at the Bluffton First Church of the Nazarene, 1515 Clark Avenue in Bluffton and also one hour prior to services Wednesday at the church. A service celebrating Ralph's life will be held 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, December 28, 2011, at the church with Pastor Caleb Reynolds officiating. Burial will follow in the Garden of Chimes at Elm Grove Cemetery with military honors by American Legion Post #111 and the U.S. Army Honor Guard. Preferred memorials are to The Ralph A. Broman Scholarship Fund with checks payable to the Wells County Foundation. Online condolences may be made at www.thomarich.com. Thoma/Rich, Chaney & Lemler Funeral Home are in charge of the arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 27. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Elm Grove Cemetery
3500 East State Road 124
Bluffton, IN

Visitation

DEC 28. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Elm Grove Cemetery
3500 East State Road 124
Bluffton, IN

Service

DEC 28. 10:30 AM (ET)

Elm Grove Cemetery
3500 East State Road 124
Bluffton, IN

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Ralph Anton Broman*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - December 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Ralph Anton Broman*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *I am very thankful that Mr. Broman was my Math teacher at BHS for two years. He challenged us to push ourselves and to do our very best. He provided a very solid foundation of knowledge that I am still benefiting from today. My sincere sympathy to the Broman family.##imported-begin##Betsy Williams Knoke##imported-end##*

January 07, 2012 at 12:35 AM



“ *Bluffton High Class of 1961
Ralph Broman challenged me to think and do like no other teacher. He lives in my memory forever young, enthusiastic, demanding, and brilliant - a great teacher. Thank God for a long life well lived.##imported-begin##Vicki Scott##imported-end##*

January 04, 2012 at 10:19 AM



“ We are both former students of Mr. Broman, BHS '62 and BHS '64. $F = m \times a$, an equation Mr. Broman wrote on his chalkboard in 4' letters a day after our physics class performed below his standards on a test. Due in part to his efforts, I am a retired science teacher, after forty years teaching in FWCS. I often referred to my former physics/chemistry teacher when applying lessons he taught me. Thanks Mr. Broman, for your high standards, and your ability to help create in me a love for teaching science.##imported-begin##Charles & Suzanne Murray##imported-end##

December 28, 2011 at 08:52 AM



“ To the Broman family: I have had many teachers and professors, but none made chemistry and physics (or any subject) as interesting as Ralph Broman. But he was much more than that to his students. He was an example of determination, discipline and courage, but most importantly, he taught us to think. His example touched us in so many ways, one can only thank God for putting him in our lives. Of course he will be missed, but you can be extremely proud of how he guided his family and his students.
Bob Henry##imported-begin##Bob Henry##imported-end##

December 27, 2011 at 10:19 AM



“ I too was a student of Mr. Broman's. I believe it was his first year of teaching. Always enjoyed his class and admired his determination when he came back after the polio. May God give you beautiful memories and ease your hearts.##imported-begin##Suzanne McFarren Markley##imported-end##

December 24, 2011 at 04:29 PM



“ Peace be with you.##imported-begin##Tom and Maureen Butler##imported-end##

December 24, 2011 at 03:18 PM



“ I remember Mr. Broman as a rigorous and inspiring teacher and an individual of great courage and character. In the classroom he demanded undivided attention and was a commanding presence. He always had time for groups and individual students, and encouraged initiative and creativity. He stands among the top few really outstanding teachers I knew from both high school and college.

Were any other site visitors present at the science club meeting where the carefully-staged demonstration of a thermite reaction took an unexpected direction? It was good that Mr. Broman had made sure we had a bucket of water handy, and I was impressed with the way he kept his cool in a potentially very hot situation.

Robert Pence, Class of '57##imported-begin##Robert Pence##imported-end##

December 24, 2011 at 08:59 AM



“ Over 30 years later, I still think of Mr. Broman often and remember a number of his lessons about math, physics, and life. We who were touched by him and his example count ourselves as fortunate, and extend our sympathies for your loss.##imported-begin##Barry Steffen##imported-end##

December 23, 2011 at 05:57 PM



“ Dear Mrs. Broman,
We were sorry to read about Mr. Broman in the paper and wanted to express our sincere sympathy to you. We were students at the high school when you came to Bluffton and we appreciated knowing him on the teaching staff. He set a very fine example for his students and was a true inspiration to all. You are in our thoughts.##imported-begin##Jim and Pat (Thoma) Maller##imported-end##

December 23, 2011 at 01:31 PM



“ I was so sorry to read about Ralph's death. He will be missed by many. He set such a great example for all of us.

My thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this most difficult time.

You have my deepest sympathy.##imported-begin##Jane Hullinger##imported-end##

December 23, 2011 at 07:28 AM



“ Please accept my condolences on the loss of your dad he was a good man. (Pete)##imported-begin##Philip T Bricker (Pete)##imported-end##

December 23, 2011 at 06:28 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Ralph's death. You have my sympathy and prayers.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Charles (Mary) Emrick##imported-begin##Mary
Emrick##imported-end##

December 22, 2011 at 09:50 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Ralph's passing -- although I should say Mr. Broman, because that is how I will always remember him. He trained generations of students at Bluffton High School, not only in math and physics, but in being better human beings. He'll be missed.##imported-begin##Mike Elliott##imported-end##

December 22, 2011 at 09:49 AM



“ *Ralph Broman was one of the most inspiring teachers at Bluffton High School. The lessons he provided in math and the sciences served as the foundation for many of us as we entered our professional lives but the inspiration he provided to us in persevering in the face of adversity and challenge provided us the foundation for living our lives.*

Uncompromising in his expectations, he helped us rise to a level that even we did not think possible. My deepest condolences to my friend Nelson and all the Broman family on their loss.

Joseph L. Lohmuller, MD, MS, FACS

*President
Davenport Surgical Group,. PC
Davenport, Iowa*

*Adjunct Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery
University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine
Iowa City, Iowa###imported-begin###Joseph L. Lohmuller, MD, MS,
FACS###imported-end###*

December 22, 2011 at 07:29 AM



“ *From the past and afar I knew you. Through your son Carl I knew you better. Rest in peace. Thank you for a life that served others with all you had to give them. A teacher who cares will always live on to make others better. God speed. Jim.....###imported-begin###Jim Glenn###imported-end###*

December 22, 2011 at 12:47 AM



“ I just read of the passing of Nelson's father. You are in our prayers as you say your final goodbye. As I read the obituary, I thought how much he must have enjoyed life. God is so good and He promises never to leave us. We take our stand on that as we face the days ahead. God bless you.##imported-begin##Tom and Nancy Haiflich##imported-end##

December 22, 2011 at 12:08 AM



“ I also had the pleasure of having Mr. Broman for a teacher. Students of BHS could not have been blessed with a finer man. Peace be with your family through this difficult time.##imported-begin##Tonya Aerts##imported-end##

December 21, 2011 at 08:14 PM



“ Most of us have listed Mr. Broman the finest teacher at Bluffton High School. He prepared many students for further education at a variety of institutions, and it was always an honor to return home for vacations to visit him in class where we could thank him for those efforts (and incidently where he could show off a few of his former students). Although Polio cut short his running career it never really slowed him down. His family can be extremely proud of their father, grandfather, husband and teacher/friend to all his students. He will be missed but he laid seeds for great careers in a multitude of Bluffton graduates.##imported-begin##Tom Tangeman, M.D.##imported-end##

December 21, 2011 at 04:52 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear about his passing. He was my Trig teacher and also a good friend. I remember how he had a positive attitude and full of encouragement. I will remember him.##imported-begin##Rita Atherton (Miller)##imported-end##

December 21, 2011 at 04:24 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear that the world has lost Mr. Broman. He was such an inspiration to us all... " Sunrise on the desert." " A good carpenter always measures twice and cuts once." Just a few of the many memories from his chemistry class... Best wishes to all the family.##imported-begin##Susan Cook Kosma (BHS class of '66)##imported-end##

December 21, 2011 at 04:23 PM



“ Mr. Browman was my chemistry teacher. I knew him later as a friend of my aunt's husband. They flew together. I don't know much about his family, but I send you my deepest sympathy for this great man.##imported-begin##Ronda R. Chapman (Gavin)##imported-end##

December 20, 2011 at 02:26 PM



“ I just read about Mr. Broman passing. I am so sorry. I never had him as a teacher, but did enjoy talking to him. He would encourage me to go for my dreams when there were other teachers that said I shouldn't. I am a kindergarten teacher in Houston, Texas and have put him down as an example of a teacher. You are in my thoughts and prayers at this time of sorrow and the holidays.##imported-begin##debbie heckma##imported-end##

December 20, 2011 at 11:50 AM