



Harold L. "Sandy" Bright

September 10, 2024

FORMER IHS COACH "SANDY" BRIGHT SUCCUMBS

Harold L. "Sandy" Bright, 81, of Myrtle Beach, SC, formerly of Welch and Iaeger, WV, passed away peacefully on Sept. 10, 2024 at his home following a long illness. He was the son of the late Ernest Bright and Jane Romans Bright. He was also preceded in death by his sister, Pat Bright Steele and his beloved mother- and father-in-law, Joan and FW Turner.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 57 years, Elinor Turner Bright; his daughter, Natalie Bright Ayscue (Scott) of Raleigh, NC and his son, Eric L Bright (Sunday) of Myrtle Beach, SC; his grandsons, Jordan Ayscue of Houston, TX and Logan Ayscue of Raleigh, NC; granddaughters Lillianna Bright and Willow Bright of Myrtle Beach, SC; great-grandsons Kole and Onyx Ayscue of Houston, TX. "Bonus grandchildren" Kristen Murray and sons Landon & Carson, and Tyler Wright & daughter Scarlett; all of Bunn, NC. Sisters-in-laws: Claire Turner Lampert (Terry) of Bluefield, WV and Diane Turner Clemens (late husband Orving) of Charlotte Court House, VA.; Brother-in-law Richard W. Turner (Nancy) of Tallahassee, FL. , several nieces and nephews and a myriad of lifelong friends that he considered to be his brothers.

"Sandy" was a star football player at Welch High School, graduating in 1962. He joined the UNITED STATES AIR FORCE in 1962 through 1966, serving in Viet Nam for 6 months. He graduated from Bluefield State College in 1971,

and began teaching at laeger Junior High School through 1974, then transferring to laeger High School where he started the first Wrestling team. He was extremely successful over the next 21 years. He coached the first State Champion in any sport at IHS in 1994. He was also assistant football coach and baseball coach during his tenure and started the first Golf team at the school. He was Coalfield Conference Coach of the Year in 1994 and was inducted into the McDowell County Sports Hall of Fame in 2013.

He was a beloved husband, dad, grandfather, and friend and was respected by the hundreds of students and athletes at IHS to this day.

He was an avid deer hunter, fisherman and golfer before his illness and will be loved and missed forever.

He learned from his father-in-law: "MEASURE TWICE--CUT ONCE".....A lesson he passed on to his son and grandsons.

Memorial Service on Saturday, September 28 at the former laeger United Methodist Church in laeger at 3:00 pm. Burial will be on October 12 in Charlotte Court House, VA at the White Family Cemetery at 2:00 pm.

Per his request, he has been cremated. The family wishes to thank Heartland Hospice Care of Myrtle Beach, SC . Goldfinch Funeral Home of Murrells Inlet, SC served the Bright family.

Tribute Wall

SB

“ *A good man and good friend. I served with Harold (Smiley to me at the time) in Vietnam and as Air Policemen stationed at Amarillo A.F.B. in Texas. A good man.*

Seaborn Brown - November 10, 2024 at 03:13 PM

BK

“*Mr. Bright or Coach Bright, was more than a coach to us all—he was a mentor, a leader, and a cherished friend to all who had the privilege of knowing him. His kindness, wisdom, and unwavering dedication touched countless lives, and the love and respect he earned from everyone is a testament to the incredible man he was.*



His spirit shone brightly in everything he did. He believed in each of us, encouraged us to be our best, and always led with a heart full of compassion and integrity. He had a way of making people feel special, of lifting them up when they needed it most, and of showing us the importance of resilience and teamwork. His impact went far beyond anything sports related, reaching deep into the hearts of all of us who were blessed to call him a coach, a mentor, and a friend.

Please know that his memory will continue to inspire us every day. His lessons, his laughter, and his warmth will stay with us always, reminding us to live with the same grace, strength, and love that he did. As you navigate this difficult time, I hope you find comfort in knowing how deeply he was loved and how profoundly he will be missed. His legacy will live on in the family and in all of us who were fortunate enough to be touched by his life.

Holding you all close in my thoughts and prayers. May you find peace and strength in the cherished memories you shared with him, and may his love guide you always.

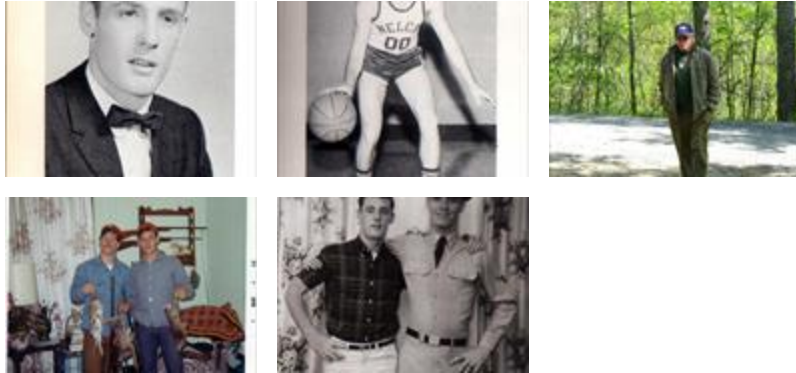
With all my love and deepest sympathy,

Billy Kiser

Billy Kiser - September 25, 2024 at 06:57 PM

AJ

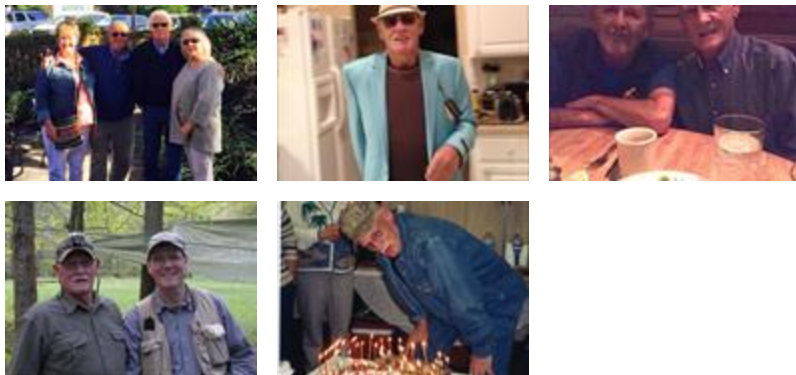
“ 16 files added to the album Sandy Bright



Alan Lloyd Jenkins - September 20, 2024 at 03:11 PM

AJ

“ 14 files added to the album Sandy Bright



Alan Lloyd Jenkins - September 19, 2024 at 08:52 AM

HB

“ The story Sandy told was how the laeger golf team came to be. One of his students asked him about starting a team. No small feat, since the closest course was a "right fur piece" from laeger! Sandy's response was to cut a hole out of his driveway and create a place from which he and his future golf team could learn the game. I don't know whatever happened to the team, but whatever did was because of Sandy, who became a pretty good golfer in his own right.

Harry Ballard - September 18, 2024 at 05:57 PM

AJ

“ 8 files added to the album Sandy Bright



Alan Jenkins - September 17, 2024 at 06:18 PM

RA

“ Sandy and Elinor were role model teachers parents and friends. Our lives crossed in all these areas. They had two beautiful successful children and many students who greatly admired them Sandy had a kindness about him My love and prayers to family



Ray and Karen Perdue are - September 16, 2024 at 06:42 PM

DY

“ David and Priscilla Yasbick purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Harold L. "Sandy" Bright.



David and Priscilla Yasbick - September 15, 2024 at 12:08 PM

S(

“ Sharon and Rob Mellenkamp (Ratcliff) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harold L. "Sandy" Bright.

Sharon and Rob Mellenkamp (Ratcliff) - September 14, 2024 at 03:09 PM

S(

“ Sharon and Rob Mellenkamp (Ratcliff) purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Harold L. "Sandy" Bright.



Sharon and Rob Mellenkamp (Ratcliff) - September 14, 2024 at 03:09 PM

JW

“ Wonderful memories of Coach Bright....from attending church together, to wrestling matches, to watching him and Mrs. Bright showing us all how to really "dance!" I know how much his family loved him and I pray for their comfort during this difficult time. laeger was a great place to grown up and I remember him fondly when I think back on those days.

Jamie O'Connor Winterbotham - September 14, 2024 at 02:46 PM

CF

“ Love and prayers for Mrs.Bright and Coach’s Beautiful family ❤️!!
I will never forget having him in Class! Great teacher.... 😊

Chad Follrod - September 14, 2024 at 02:41 PM

IC

“ Loved Coach Bright , he was an excellent coach and teacher. In HS the Head Coach would send me to the sidelines and say you’re going to hurt all your teammates. Coach Bright would come over and say keep up your aggressive play I love it when players Jack up every one on the field in practice and games . He was my Math teacher to and was my favorite teacher and HS & Middle school coach. Prayers and blessings for his family. We will see you on the field up in heaven Coach Bright .

Ira Coleman - September 14, 2024 at 08:04 AM

TJ

“ I will miss his funny jokes and he always had a wonderful story to share! Uncle Sandy embodied the old Latin phrase Carpe Diem! He cherished each day and found pleasure in activities with Aunt Elinor and his family! I never remember seeing him angry even though he could be quite competitive and passionate when it came to wrestling tournaments! I will forever love that he was such an amazing person and grateful that I got to spend so many wonderful years under his influence ! ❤️🙏

Tiffany Jones - September 14, 2024 at 07:42 AM

KA

Love and prayers to you all. Sandy was an amazing person that many people admired. You are all so lucky to have had him in your life. 🙏❤️

Kim Aloia - September 15, 2024 at 10:06 AM

JB

“ Mr. Bright was always a fair and caring teacher. He would call roll, and I always grinned as he got close to my name because I knew what was coming. “Juannnn....eeeeee.....toe!!!” Every time. He would always mispronounce it and add his little flair at the end. I knew his day was off whenever he would say it correctly. I still smile on occasion when someone is learning my name because I recall his habit. He took the time to remember his kids, checking on us as he passed outside the gym and stopping to chat when he could. To put it simply, he was a good man, and in today’s world, that’s monumental.

Juanita Bryant - September 14, 2024 at 04:34 AM

BG

“ Mr. Bright was an Educator who turned boys into Men. I hold him in the Highest Regards and often asked myself in times of troubles, What Would Sandy Do? My Deepest Sympathies to the Family during this time. The world has lost a Great Man.



Blake Gregory - September 14, 2024 at 02:01 AM

LH

“ Mr. Bryant was a caring teacher. And a great person. He will be missed!!Condolences to Mrs. Bryant & family❤️🙏❤️❤️

lisa bailey hall - September 14, 2024 at 01:07 AM

RB

“ Coach Bright was more than a coach. He taught us to men . To never quit and keep going on. I knew this family as they lived as neighbors with my family .

Robby Butler - September 13, 2024 at 11:26 PM

CP

“ My heartfelt prayers go out to the entire Bright family at this sad & difficult time. It was indeed an honor and privilege to have not only known Coach Bright, but to have been a student, and athlete, under his Coaching during my high school football days, are memories I'll keep with me always. Molding boys into men, he done it with great pride, and he was a fun guy just to be around. He gave his all, no matter what he was doing, and he expected the same outta you! God took another good man Home, but, through those who were fortunate enough to be around him, his legacy will live within us all. Blessings, prayers, and much love to Coach Bright's family!

Clifford Payne - September 13, 2024 at 10:29 PM

IC

Amen ole Pal he was my favorite coach and teacher prays for his family. 🙏

Ira Coleman - September 14, 2024 at 07:57 AM

LW

“ Condolences 🌺 and prayers to the family. The Haskins Family. Laryssa Haskins Williams Class of 1986 and brother William “Pedro” Haskins class of 1975. Iaeger High School

Laryssa Williams - September 13, 2024 at 10:26 PM

DA

“ Please include my brother, Scott and Debbie Gallimore, with the tree. Coach was a very influential person in my brother's years at IHS. God bless

Dorothy Asbury - September 13, 2024 at 05:10 PM

DA

“ Dorothy A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harold L. "Sandy" Bright.

Dorothy A. - September 13, 2024 at 05:05 PM

DA

“ My thoughts and prayers are with each of you. May God and your memories give you peace and comfort in the days ahead. My brother was a member of Coach Bright's first Wrestling team at laeger. What an experience for our school. Prayers hugs love. Dot Gallimore Asbury



Dorothy Asbury - September 13, 2024 at 04:56 PM