



## Robert "Bob" W. McFarland

October 27, 1933 - June 3, 2025

Robert (Bob) W. McFarland, Sr, age 91, of Murrells Inlet, SC passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, June 3, 2025.

Bob was born on October 27, 1933 in Oakdale, PA, son of the late Frank Wible McFarland and Helen Bernice (Beaumont) McFarland. Bob was predeceased by his loving wife of 55 years, Claudia Faith (Smith), son, Matthew Scot and daughter, Jill Ann.

Bob is survived by his son, Robert Jr. (Mary Lou); daughter in law, Angie; grandchildren, Robert, III (Leah), Megan, Kerry, and Christopher (Chelsea); and great grandchildren, Sloane, Colton, and Wyatt.

Bob was a 1951 graduate of West Allegheny Senior High School. Bob interrupted his studies at Indiana State Teachers College (ISTC) to serve in the US Army in the military police stationed in Garmisch Partenkirchen, Germany where he was a standout football player playing offensive and defensive end. He continued his education at ISTC after completing his service. He ended his college football career, in 1957, by being named a Little All-America and also the Western Pennsylvania Small College Player of the Year.

After graduating in 1958, Bob went on to teach Social Studies and coach football in the West Mifflin and West Allegheny school districts. Most notably he was an assistant coach on West Mifflin North's 1963 WPIAL AA Championship Team and Head Coach of West Allegheny's 1969 Black Hills Conference championship team in which he was also named that

conference's Coach of the Year. Bob cared about his players and took a personal interest in them. His former players remember him not only as a great coach but someone who taught lessons that helped them through life beyond the football field.

Bob retired from teaching in 1988, moving first to High Rock Lake in Lexington NC and then to Murrells Inlet, SC in 2004.

He was inducted into the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Athletic Hall of Fame and the West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame.

Bob enjoyed golfing three times per week up through his 91st birthday with his friends at Wachesaw Plantation East. He will be remembered for his easy-going manner and quick wit.

The McFarland Family would like to thank his doctor, Ginger Bell, and caregivers, Ellen and Karen Carr, and April Green and Amedisys Hospice.

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 AM on Thursday July 31, 2025 at Oakdale Presbyterian Church in Oakdale, PA. The family will receive friends one hour prior at the church.

The family asks that Memorial donations be made to the "Foundation for IUP".

On the check's memo line please write: "In memory of Bob McFarland Sr. – Football". Please mail to The Foundation for IUP at 1011 South Drive Sutton Hall, Suite 419, Indiana, PA 15705.

Please sign the family's guestbook at: [www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com](http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com)

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel assisted the McFarland family.

# Tribute Wall

TW

“ Thomas W. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Robert "Bob" W. McFarland.



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**Thomas W.** - July 22, 2025 at 04:29 PM

DB

“ Bob was a colleague, a fellow Social Studies teacher, euchre partner, and friend. Don Bozick

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**Don Bozick** - July 21, 2025 at 08:20 PM

BZ

“ This is a crazy story, Bob lived one house over and every time we came down we played golf and i'd pick him up. so one day i'm backing out of the driveway and my air conditioning guy/kid was there for service. so i stop get out of the car and just talk to him for minute to see what's what, and ask him see that old timer out there ? i said he's 89, great shape, long time coach, in his college, IUP hall of fame. and i said this PA high school coach Bob Palko (who i had the pleasure of golfing with twice when he came to visit Mac who just won the states and was a guest at halftime of the super bowl) played for him. and this kid says coach Palko coached ME!!! i yelled down to Bob, Mac come here !, you gotta talk to this kid. i swear, if we didn't have a tee time, they'd still be out there,,,good stuff.

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**Bob Z** - June 12, 2025 at 11:38 PM

GD

“ I'll never forget the first time I heard Coach McFarland speak. It was the beginning of the school year in 1967, and he was addressing the entire student body before his first game as West Allegheny High School's new Head Football Coach. I was just a 9th grader, not yet one of his players, but his message regarding the importance of sacrifice and commitment was literally life changing for me. It left me feeling that great things were on the way for WA football, and I definitely wanted to be part of it!

Later, as one of his players (1968-70), I was fortunate to have experienced the cultural change he brought to our football world. He was everything he appeared to be in that first impression, and I can honestly say he was the very best coach I ever had, whether in high school or in college. He was exceptional at communicating team concepts and relating to young athletes. He was honest, tough and fair. He always seemed to know the right thing to say and how to motivate us, and I believe he truly felt each one of us was equally important.

I know I speak for many in saying that he was a great role model. He had a powerful impact not only on our athletic endeavors, but more importantly, on the way we handled many of life's challenges in later years. We were blessed by his mentorship during a time that, while relatively short, was a very important time in our lives, and we are forever grateful.

Greg Daniels

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**Greg Daniels** - June 11, 2025 at 03:43 PM

BZ

*i wish i met him back in his prime, it would have been something to see him coach*

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**Bob Z** - June 12, 2025 at 11:25 PM

RZ

“ We met the McFarland's 16 years ago when we bought our house in Murrells Inlet. We were in the process of moving in when Claudia rang our bell and invited us over for a drink. Through Bob i met another great group of guys who when we came down, as we're part timers, always included me in their group for golf. I was fortunate to meet some of the guys who Bob coached over his career as well, played golf with some of them as well. their love and respect for "Mac" was obvious, very obvious.

We count ourselves extremely lucky to have bought where we did and met Bob, Claudia and over the years the rest of their family. It won't be the same anymore when we come down.

Bob my friend, you will be sorely missed.

I've always said when a person's name comes up in a conversation, and people say, "yeah, he was a good guy" is probably the highest compliment you can pay someone.

Bob Mac was a good guy. RIP my friend.

*Bob and Evette Zawadski*

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**Robert Zawadski** - June 11, 2025 at 10:41 AM

BJ

“ We were blessed to have Bob as a friend, neighbor and golf partner for the past twenty years. He was an inspiration and example of how a real gentleman carries himself. Bob will be greatly missed.

*Bill & Liz Jemal*

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**Bill Jemal** - June 10, 2025 at 05:43 PM

KT

“ Coach Mac helped countless young men, through his coaching, prepare for life. His example and Life Lessons will endure forever. Thanks Coach, you were simply the best.

*Karl Tribelhorn*

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**Kar Tribelhorn** - June 10, 2025 at 05:18 PM

DF

“ You all have our deepest sympathy! Bob was a great guy and neighbor! We enjoyed many happy hours together on the back porch! He will be missed dearly! RIP Bob 🙏

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**Deb and Doug Fox** - June 10, 2025 at 04:26 PM

AD

“ I am so very sorry for you loss, Bob, Mary Lou and Family. Anne Demkin



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**Anne Demkin** - June 10, 2025 at 03:48 PM

BL

*Class act*

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**Bill L** - June 11, 2025 at 09:43 PM