

The Honorable Roger V. Bradford

March 14, 1945 - June 15, 2025

The gavel has fallen for the final time, the Force shudders, and Wrigley Field bows its head, as the Honorable Roger Vernon Bradford—a legend robed in justice, fueled by the Dark Side, guided by Goofy’s grin, and forever loyal to the Cubs—has departed this world and joined the stars.

Born on March 14, 1945, in Gary, Indiana, Roger was the third child of Wayne and Hazel Bradford. Roger attended the Portage Township Schools and was a standout basketball player for Portage High School, earning him the nickname “Mr. Machine”. He continued his studies at Indiana State University, joining Pi Lambda Phi where he honed his pun and parody song writing skills. He returned to The Region to teach in fourth and fifth grade at Union Township where he met Mary Kaltenbach. After his attempts to win her the old-fashioned way, through a torrent of love poems, finally succeeded, the two married on August 10, 1969. Roger then attended law school at Valparaiso University and joined the Indiana Bar. Initially working in private practice, he was appointed to county court in Portage and eventually was appointed to Porter Superior Court in Valparaiso in 1979. He served with wisdom, wit, and unwavering integrity for over 40 years on the bench. Never far from his education roots, Roger was a frequent speaker in elementary classrooms, presided over high school mock trials, and taught at the university law school. Before his retirement in 2020, Roger received Indiana’s Sagamore of the Wabash.

In his spare time, Roger could be found on the softball field, golf course, backyard garden, or watching the Cubs or Bears, depending on the season. As a member of the Hideaway softball team, he and his brother Al helped to run many tournaments in Chesterton. To “relax”, Roger also enjoyed rounds of golf with friends at many of the golf courses in the area as well as many across the country. Each summer, Roger enjoyed gardening, a love and hobby he instilled in his daughters and granddaughter, Amelia. He and Amelia bonded over weeding, planting, and harvesting their beloved popcorn. He was also a die-hard Cubs fan who never let his pessimism about the team, or their success, override his love for watching them play.

Roger and Mary celebrated 50 years of marriage in 2019 with a surprise party, orchestrated by Roger and their daughters, Sarah and Rebecca. It was here that Roger said he had his greatest success— he had left Mary entirely speechless. Whether presiding over cases, debating the finer points of Star Wars lore, creating softball brackets, or popping popcorn for his granddaughter, Roger brought passion, principle, and a touch of playful mischief to all he did. His legacy lives on in the countless lives he touched, the rulings that shaped his community, and the enduring reminder that one can uphold the law while still embracing the Force, a hearty laugh, and the hope of next season.

Roger is preceded in death by his parents, Wayne and Hazel Bradford, his brother, Alan Bradford, and his brother-in-law, Sidney Sanders. He is survived by his wife, Mary, his daughters, Sarah (Tyler) Fletcher and Rebecca Bradford, his granddaughter, Amelia, his siblings Madeline Sanders, Larry (Virginia) Bradford, Kendall (Rita) Bradford, Vicki (Keith) Kahn, and sister-in-law, Lynn Betz. He is also survived by his goddaughter, Barbara (David) Wessman, nieces and nephews

Keith (Cindy) Sanders, Scott (Carrie) Sanders, Denise (Jim) Bernthold, Laura Bradford (Jerry Bragg), Karl (Kristen) Bradford, Sarah (Michael) Franssen, Marc (Lisa) Bradford, Beth (Mark) Schumacher, Wendy (Christopher) Harrison, Michael (Jaymi) Sewell, Jennifer Sewell, and Adam Sewell as well as many grand nieces and nephews, great-grand nieces and nephews, cousins, and friends.

May the Force be with him. And may Goofy greet him with a high five at the gates.

Visitation for Roger will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 19, 2025, with sharing of memories to begin at 7:00 p.m. at Edmonds & Evans Funeral Home, Portage Chapel, 6941 Central Avenue, Portage, IN 46368

A funeral service will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, June 20, 2025, at the funeral home with Pastor Scott Jones officiating. Additional visitation will be held on Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. prior to the service at the funeral home.

Interment will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 21, 2025, at McCool Cemetery, Portage.

Memorial contributions can be made in Roger's memory to the Porter County Community Foundation, Portage High School Dollars for Scholars, 1401 Calumet Avenue, Valparaiso, IN 46383. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.ee-fh.com.

Cemetery



MCCOOL CEMETERY

2700 McCool Rd,
Portage, IN 46368

Events



VISITATION

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Edmonds & Evans
Funeral Home, Portage
Chapel 6941 Central
Avenue, Portage, IN
46368



SERVICE

6:00 PM

Edmonds & Evans
Funeral Home, Portage
Chapel 6941 Central
Avenue, Portage, IN
46368



GRAVESIDE

10:00 AM

McCool Cemetery
2700 McCool Rd,
Portage, IN 46368



SHARING MEMORIES

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Edmonds & Evans
Funeral Home, Portage
Chapel 6941 Central
Avenue, Portage, IN
46368



VISITATION

4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

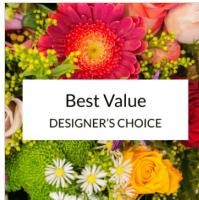
Edmonds & Evans
Funeral Home, Portage
Chapel 6941 Central
Avenue, Portage, IN
46368

Tribute Wall



Anonymous

Mary and family - This is such a sad time for us all. I'm so glad you have each other to lean on. Hugs to everyone - Laura



"Designer's Choice Bouquet"
was purchased for the family of The Honorable Roger V. Bradford

 [Tribute Store](#)

Show your support with flowers



A tree was also planted in memory of The Honorable Roger V. Bradford.

G

Ginny Reed

Rog will always hold a very special place in my heart. Mary and family, may God hold you in His arms and grant you comfort and peace. Love to you all. Ginny Reed

P

Pamela McClure

Judge Roger bradford was amazing judge. I remember when had him for judge against my son dad when was trying get child support. I remember how he made my son dad stay in courtroom why I left .I appreciate judge bradford doing that for me prayers for judge bradford family and friends and former colleagues. May you rest in peace how you made difference in so many people



"Material_candle_blue_thumbnail"
was lit in memory of The Honorable Roger V. Bradford

 [Light a candle](#)

Show your support by giving a symbol of remembrance

R

Rebecca Wyatt

Sending you all the love -The Wyatts



Anonymous

Mary, Sarah and Rebecca- so sorry for your loss. Roger was an amazing person and he will be missed



"Red Designer's Choice"
was purchased for the family of The Honorable Roger V. Bradford

 [Tribute Store](#)

Show your support with flowers

H

Hannah Conley

Playing cards until dark, annual family cookouts, and sharing booth intel for the Pumpkin Show will always be some of my favorite moments with Uncle Roger!



"Material_candle_red_thumbnail"

was lit in memory of The Honorable Roger V. Bradford

♥ [Light a candle](#)

Show your support by giving a symbol of remembrance



The Golden, Sturges, and Hunt Family

Wishing you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your hearts.



"Medium Dish Garden"

was purchased for the family of The Honorable Roger V. Bradford

🛒 [Tribute Store](#)

Show your support with flowers



A tree was also planted in memory of The Honorable Roger V. Bradford.



Stephanie Musolf

We are so grateful that we got to know and love Roger like family. All our love, The Musolf, Sandor and Dewitt Families



"Blue Caribbean"

was purchased for the family of The Honorable Roger V. Bradford

🛒 [Tribute Store](#)

Show your support with flowers

E

Evelyn Kidd Plymouth, In

My sincere condolences to the Bradford family.

D

Don Ember

Our warmest feelings and condolences to family and friends. Roger was our longtime friend. His gravitas (when needed) belied his unique humor and love of really corny puns. He was a great softball teammate and exceptional player. We shall miss him. Rest in Peace, Your Honor.



Anonymous

Rebecca- We love you and you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.



"White Designer's Choice"

was purchased for the family of The Honorable Roger V. Bradford



[Tribute Store](#)

Show your support with flowers



A tree was also planted in memory of The Honorable Roger V. Bradford.



Joey Castillo

You are in my thoughts & prayers



"Beautiful in Blue"

was purchased for the family of The Honorable Roger V. Bradford



[Tribute Store](#)

Show your support with flowers



A tree was also planted in memory of The Honorable Roger V. Bradford.

P

Penny Jo Dennis-Pyle

My thoughts and prayers are with Mary, Becca, Sarah, Tyler, & Amelia. Roger will be missed.



Anonymous

Deepest sympathies. Your family will be in our thoughts and prayers.



"Large Basket Garden"

was purchased for the family of The Honorable Roger V. Bradford



[Tribute Store](#)

Show your support with flowers

M

Mark & Tammy Betz

From the memories of him teaching at union center to our epic night time easter egg hunts we will never forget you!



"Material_candle_white_thumbnail"

was lit in memory of The Honorable Roger V. Bradford



[Light a candle](#)

Show your support by giving a symbol of remembrance

M

Mark & Tammy Betz

We were always grateful for your friendship, you will truly be missed.



Tribute Store

A memorial tree was planted in memory of The Honorable Roger V. Bradford.

A

A Memorial Tree was planted for The Honorable Roger V. Bradford

We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Edmonds & Evans Funeral Homes
