



Burt Gustafson

November 30, 1925 - October 22, 2022

Burt Gustafson passed away peacefully on October 22, 2022. Burt was born in Marquette, Michigan in 1925. He grew up in Newberry Michigan. After graduating from Newberry High School, he served in the U.S. Navy during WWII. After the war, he attended Northern Michigan University, where he met his future wife Alice Lundin and was a 12-letter winner in football, basketball, and track. He coached at Escanaba High School and Battle Creek High School before returning to his alma mater Northern Michigan to coach from 1956 to 1961.

In 1962, he was hired as a coach for the Wyoming Cowboys. The 1966 team played in the Sun Bowl and the following season was ranked 5th in the nation, participating in the Sugar Bowl. Both teams were inducted into the U.W. Athletic Hall of Fame.

In 1971, Burt joined the Green Bay Packers coaching staff. He worked for the Packers for 18 1/2 years, serving under four head coaches. His roles included linebacker assistant coach, special teams assistant coach, Pro Scout, Director of Pro Scouting, and Administrative Assistant in Football Operations. In 1989, he retired from the Packers, and he and Alice built their retirement home on Chicaugon Lake in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Burt stayed active with his grandchildren, hunting, fishing, swimming, sailing, golfing, stamp collecting, and reading.

Coach Gus, as he was known for most of his life, was inducted into the Upper Peninsula Football Hall of Fame and the Northern Michigan Football Hall of Fame. He was generous with his time and his talents throughout his life. He would gladly speak at high school commencements, athletic banquets, and football camps. Family and friends enjoyed his wonderful storytelling ranging from Native American legends to personal recollections.

Burt is preceded in death by his wife Alice Lundin Gustafson, son John Gustafson, grandson Nathan Gustafson, and son-in-law Jim Wittig.

He is survived by his son Bill (Cindy) Gustafson of Superior, WI; daughter Mary Serama of Green Bay, WI; daughter Alice (Tom) Wilhelm of Laramie, WY; daughter Kathie Wittig of Cottage Grove, MN; and daughter-in-law Jeannie Relford-Gustafson of Birmingham, AL. He leaves behind four granddaughters: Kali Collins, Abbigail McNamara, Amanda Monahan, and Kathleen Wilhelm, five great-grandchildren, and dear friend Naomi Ropiak.

Visitation will be held from 10:00 to 11:00 am on Saturday, July 22, 2023 at St. Cecilia Catholic Church in Caspian, MI. A Memorial Mass will follow at 11:00 am at the church. Burial will be in the Stambaugh Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be made in Burt's name for the preservation of Chicaugon Lake (checks payable to CLPOA lake preservation, P.O. Box 491, Iron River, MI 49935, or donate at chicaugonlake.weebly.com/) St. Cecilia Catholic Church, Caspian, MI; or a charity of your choice.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Burt Gustafson online at www.nashfuneralhome.net.

The family has entrusted the Nash Funeral Home of Crystal Falls with the

funeral arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Stambaugh Cemetery

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 22. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Cecilia Catholic Church
510 Brady Ave.
Caspian

Memorial Mass

JUL 22. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Cecilia Catholic Church
510 Brady Ave.
Caspian

Tribute Wall

DW

“ in 1985 graciously replied to my request to have a trial as a kicker and invited me to Green Bay. He felt i had potential when he saw me but the kicking coach decided that, though my kicks over the post were excellent, i could not master the hang time needed on the kick offs. I am from London England and having travelled that distance this was not lost on Mr Gustafson. He was very generous with his time and took me to lunch afterwards. This was a mark of the man. Talented and successful himself he also had a good heart. Just thought the family may like to know how far his quality reached and i have never forgotten the time i came close to success but more importantly, rubbed shoulders with great people. Please forward this message to his family and best wishes David. david.white@alignaccounting.co.uk

David White - September 25, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Burt Gustafson.



July 18, 2023 at 01:15 PM

FV

“ My condolences to Burt's family on his passing! I knew him the ten years when I was Pastor of St Cecilia's in Caspian. He was always very humble, gentle, and unassuming! And, a very faithful Catholic Christian Gentleman! May his soul Rest In Peace!

Fr Greg Veneklase - November 09, 2022 at 10:09 PM

FV

“ *Fr Greg Veneklase lit a candle in memory of Burt Gustafson*



Fr Greg Veneklase - November 09, 2022 at 10:05 PM

BS

“ *To the Gustafson Family: so sorry to hear about Burt's passing. He had a great family and career. I'm a granddaughter of Mabel Gustafson Stubbs of Newberry. Burt was also Best Man at my parents wedding in 1948. James and Florence Stubbs Dake.*



Barbara (Dake) Stewart - October 29, 2022 at 02:30 PM

B(

My deepest thoughts and condolences to the family. I have the fondest memories with the entire family and wish them comfort and peace and love.

Blythe Engen (Burman) - October 30, 2022 at 03:21 PM



“ *Tess Newby lit a candle in memory of Burt Gustafson*



Tess Newby - October 27, 2022 at 04:56 PM

SF

“ *Starr L Ferrara lit a candle in memory of Burt Gustafson*



Starr L Ferrara - October 26, 2022 at 03:24 PM

SF

Hello, we own the Goodney Cottages which are just down from the "Lundin" cottage on Chicagon Lake. My mom is Roxanne Goodney, and she remembers Alice and Burt, also Burt from church and would like to send her condolences. She turned 85 today. God's blessings to you.

Starr L Ferrara - October 26, 2022 at 03:25 PM

MA

So many memories of Burt and Alice❤️ His ability to tell a great story was legendary! He will be greatly missed🙏

Mary Arcand - October 26, 2022 at 04:30 PM

TK

it is with deep sorrow that i learned of Burts passing. the great times i had with Burt, Kermit, and Dale on the golf course will never be forgotten, May he continue his game on Gods great course.

tom karvala - October 26, 2022 at 05:55 PM



He used to substitute teach at West Iron in the 90's - didn't know much, but he had great stories to tell!!

Dean Kunchynski - October 27, 2022 at 07:37 AM

ER

Coach Gus was at Wyoming when I was a sophomore, intense, knowledgeable coach. Very good to me even though he wasn't my position coach. RIP Coach

ed ricks - October 27, 2022 at 10:19 AM

BR

My Mom, Jean Vanzo, was good friends with Alice growing up in Stambaugh, MI and sends her sympathy in the loss of your Dad. May all your wonderful Memories help you through this difficult time.

Brenda Robinson - October 28, 2022 at 09:35 AM

JM

Burt was one of my coaches at NMU '57 thru '61 in the Frosty Ferzacca era. Very talented. Wrote meticulous scouting reports and a model of a person. I believe he was a 12 letter winner in three sports while at NMU.

*Jim Mansfield
Spokane, WA*

Jim Mansfield - October 28, 2022 at 02:32 PM

RJ

Willy, Alice and Mary....thinking of you,now, reflecting on such a stalwart legend Burt was.....and what strength he imparted on all of you. A great, full life....

ralph johnson jr.

ralph johnson - October 30, 2022 at 06:54 AM