



Mr. Warren B. Stanley

APR 6, 1933 - MAY 20, 2015



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Legendary Rhein-Main Air Base West Germany Coach Warren B. Stanley passed away on Wednesday, 20 May at the age of 82 in Clearwater, Florida after a brief illness. Warren was born at home in Minneapolis, MN on April 6, 1933 but the family soon moved to Glen Rock, NJ with his 4 brothers and one sister. Always engaging and a natural born athlete who excelled at every sport, he graduated from Ridgewood High School, Ridgewood, NJ in 1951 and attended NC State College on a baseball scholarship; however, the Korean War interrupted and he was drafted in the Army and served 2 years in Germany as a medic and played on the post Army baseball team with some of the major leaguers of the day who were also drafted (Don Newcomb and Gus Triandos). He met the love of his life, Topsy, in college in they were married in 1956. He then pursued a career as a stock broker on Wall Street. After 10 years, Warren accepted a position as a financial advisor to the troops and American ex-pats in Germany. The family now included Doug and Karen and left NJ for a 2 year stint in Frankfurt, Germany. The 2 years became 22 years and were the happiest, most satisfying & enjoyable days of his life and his family. Warren volunteered coaching his son to a Little League European Championship and continued to lead the men's military Rhein-Main Rockets AF baseball, basketball and football teams to championships for the next 20 years. The road trips lead to AF bases throughout Europe, including Germany, Spain, United Kingdom and the Netherlands with "ambassadors of goodwill" trips to Luxembourg, France and Portugal. Stanley coached the Cold War era Rhein-Main AB military "Rockets" basketball, baseball and football teams of USAFE Continental Sports Conference from 1975-89 to a combined 7 USAFE titles: 2 basketball in 77,79; 3 baseball 81-83 and 2 football crowns 88-89; earning him the nickname the "Winningest Coach in the Air Force". He also coached the 16-18 age European Baseball All-Star team in the Big League Division of Little League World Series in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to its first



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ever victory by military brats in the tournament in 1978 defeating powerful Venezuela. In 1988, he turned around the R-M military football team and led them to an 13-0 undefeated championship to capture R-M's first title in many years and followed that with another USAFE Football Championship in 1989, his last year of coaching. He was named Coach of the Year in all 3 sports as well as being named football coach of the 80's by the Stars & Stripes. Always sharply dressed and well spoken, he represented Rhein-Main and the Air Force with class and distinction. Warren was a winner, produced winners of men through sports with his Christian faith examples of life skills & his exceptional leadership qualities. He encouraged all the players to be the best they could be and his legacy is alive today, 40 years later. He is survived by his beloved wife of 59 years, Sherry (Topsy) Stanley of Clearwater, Florida; children Douglas Stanley of San Antonio, Texas and Karen (Ray) Dicker of Nashville, Tennessee; granddaughter Marina Stanley of Kiev, Ukraine. A celebration of life will be held at Memorial Park Funeral Home on Tuesday, June 9th at 10am with a committal service to follow at Bay Pines Cemetery at 12:45pm. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to the Wounded Warriors Project at www.helpwwp.org.




Events


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Celebration of Life

 **Tuesday**, June 9, 2015


 10:00 AM ET


 **Memorial Park Funeral Home and Crematory**
5750 49th Street North, St. Petersburg FL 33709

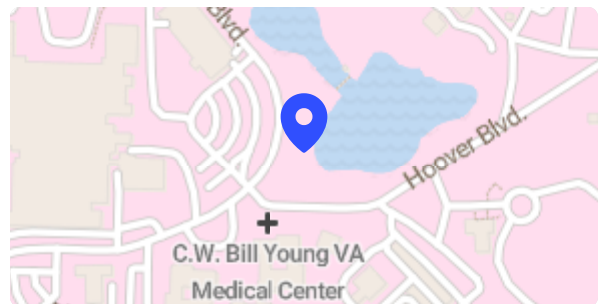


Interment

 **Tuesday**, June 9, 2015

 12:45 PM ET

 **Bay Pines National Cemetery**
10000 Bay Pines Blvd, Bay Pines FL 33708





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CC

Charles Coleman posted:

My condolences to Coach Stanley's family. I played on his first Rockets basketball team. He was a pleasure to play under his tutelage. The fall of 1975, he assembled what I consider the most talented base team ever in Europe. I saw and participated in 8 years of basketball in Europe during my career. I recall how Continental Sports Conference leadership at Ramstein AB changed the eligibility rules causing us to lose 5 players from our team. We had just defeated Ramstein mightily by scoring 108 points. I always considered that change the Warren Stanley rule. Four players on that team received scholarship offers to University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Coach was always nice to me. Later years, anytime I visited Rhein Main I made a point to visit Coach and we reminisced about the 75-76 team. It was an honor to be acquainted with Coach. Charles 'Cooley' Coleman

December 17 at 10:26 AM

DC

Dottie Cannon posted:

I have tried to reach Topsy and it has been unsuccessful. Does anyone know how I can get in touch with her? Dottie Cannon dwcgrifton@vermontel.net

September 27 at 5:06 PM

HW

Harry Whittles posted:

My condolences to Doug and family and coach's wife Topsy. Warren was a great man and coach. I had a terrific time playing baseball for him at Rhein Main AFB from 1985-1987. We had one hell of a fun team. Great memories. Coach and son Doug put together some great seasons for all us service guys. Everyone I knew enjoyed and fully appreciated Coach Stanley. He was a positive roll model for us all. I wish I had some pictures I could share with everyone from those days, but he and the team are seared into my memory banks! Harry Whittles AF 1984-1988.

December 28 at 12:30 PM

MT

Margery Tippie posted:

So sorry, Topsy. It sounds as though he and you had a wonderful life together. It was so great to see you when you stopped in Sayville a few months ago, and I'm sorry Warren couldn't join us. My deepest sympathy, and I hope we can see each other sometime. Margery Tippie

June 16 at 2:33 AM



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Anonymous sent a Garden To Go Basket to the Stanley family.



June 8 at 10:09 AM



Dotty Pessillo posted:

So sorry to hear about this. I enjoyed our conversations at Feather Cove events, at the post office, at Publix - always friendly - he will be missed. My prayers to the family. Dotty Pessillo

June 3 at 11:59 AM



Anonymous sent a Strength & Solace Spray to the Stanley family.



June 3 at 10:19 AM



John Crooks posted:

I met Coach Stanley when I arrived at Rhein Main AB, Germany in 1987. Always a gracious and class act. RIP Coach and my condolences to Doug and his family.

June 3 at 12:32 AM



Rocky Crang shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Warren Stanley will be forever in my thoughts. He was one of the biggest influences in my life and I am sure many others will say the same. He helped guide all of us young boys and turned us into men. My thoughts and prayers go out to Topsy and Doug. May Warren (Coach) R.I.P.



June 2 at 1:03 PM



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GL

Gary R Lewandowski posted:

I will always remember Warren Stanley as a role model and mentor to all participants, athletes, coaches, and sports directors worldwide. He has been instrumental in shaping our military athletes through teamwork, physical fitness, discipline, and esprit de corps. These are the exact traits we would want for our military. I was honored to work with Doug for 5 years. I'll never forget when we visited the Rhein Main gym at closure as it brought out tears of such majestic memories. Please accept my heartfelt condolences and thank you for being a great part of my life.

June 2 at 12:36 PM

PN

Paul Natale posted:

I am very sorry to hear of Warren's passing. I saw him often at the Feather Sound Publix. Always upbeat. Always wanting to engage in conversation. I didn't know him well, but I will miss him. Paul Natale

June 2 at 3:42 AM

RC

Randy Carver posted:

I am a better person for having met Warren and will miss his stories and passion.

June 1 at 8:10 AM

MF

Melinda Fritz posted:

Topsy, I just found out about Warren tonight! My deepest condolences to you and the family. Steve and I loved and had the deepest respect for Warren. I'm sure Steve has welcomed him home to heaven! God bless you!

May 31 at 7:00 PM

MA

Mac sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Stanley family.



May 31 at 11:51 AM



Rocky Crang shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

June 2 at 1:03 PM



1983 Champions



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Warren by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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