



Randy E. Little

MAY 7, 1953 - JUN 26, 2020



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Randy E. Little

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Randy E. Little, 67, of Zanesville, Ohio died Friday afternoon, June 26, 2020 at his home.

Born May 7, 1953 in Zanesville he was a son of the late Robert F. Little and Wenda J. (Longaberger) Little of Dresden.

Randy was a 1971 graduate of Tri-Valley High School where he was a multi-sport standout and is a member of the Tri-Valley Sports Hall of Fame. Following high school he attended West Liberty State College where he excelled in football, earning a starting position for four years. He earned WVIAC first team all-conference in 1972, 1973 and 1974. In 1974 he was WVIAC co-conference player of the year. Following his playing career at West Liberty he was selected by the World Champion Pittsburgh Steelers in the 1975 NFL draft. In 1999 Randy was inducted to the West Liberty Hall of Fame.

Randy was a member of Chi Nu Fraternity and a member of the United Carpenters and Joiners of America Local Union 200 where he worked as a carpenter for many years.

Surviving is his mother, Wenda Little of Dresden; his loving wife of nearly 39 years, Cheryl A. (Wood) Little whom he married August 5, 1981; two sons, Jason (Anna) McBride of Westerville, Ohio and David (Amanda) Little of Lithopolis, Ohio; one daughter, Danielle (Adam) Hardwick of Granville, Ohio; two grandchildren, Lily and Theo Hardwick and a brother, Steven (Chris) Little of Lake Placid, Florida. Also surviving are several cousins, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and many friends.

Randy was preceded in death by his father Robert F. Little and a brother, Jim Little.

There will be no public calling hours.



Obituary

Randy E. Little

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Public graveside funeral services will be at 3:00pm Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at Dresden Cemetery with Pastor Donald Rowland officiating.



Tribute Wall

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BM

Bill Meyers posted:

The "Cat", was a good friend of mine and a teammate at West Liberty, he always a place in my heart as a friend and as a phenomenal football player and athlete. I will miss him. Monk Meyers

December 3 at 2:19 PM

JC

John Cowan posted:

I miss his call at 7 AM to discuss Morning Joe. Our talks in his garage about sports, politics and every subject under the sun. Our trips to Urbana for football and basketball games. We worked at the power plant together. My sympathy to his Mom , Wendy. One fine lady. And to Cheryl, the same.

July 6 at 8:39 AM

TM

Tom Mcquain posted:

Randy was always a good friend, with a smile and a kind remembrance

July 4 at 7:09 AM

JP

John Pattison posted:

Sympathy to the Little family and friends. I met Randy on the basketball court in the MVL Alumni Tournament at West M years ago. They permitted ZHS alumni to play. That bond carried on through last year when I last saw Randy at a basketball game. We would always chat a few minuets and "analyze" the game The community has lost a Great Athlete, Fan and Person

July 2 at 8:16 AM

RR

Ron Riley posted:

To all of the Little family I am sorry to hear of the loss of a true sports fan of our county. You could always see Randy at any sports event supporting the youth and cheering them on. I will always remember the time him, his brother Steve, myself and my son Josh went to Columbus to the McDonald all star game. May the many memories you have bring you comfort. Ron Riley

July 1 at 2:17 AM



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PD

Pamela Denney posted:

May God bless you and your family in this time of sorrow. may he rest in peace, randy will be missed by so many Myron & Pamela Denney

June 30 at 6:35 PM

CH

Chuck Jeswilkowski / Wlu posted:

Our deepest sympathy to Randy's family. I did see Randy play many football games at WL. Over the past 14 years I always enjoyed talking to Randy and Tony at the WL Basketball games. Life is to Short!!! Chuck J '69er WLU - Pittsburgh Alumni Chapter

June 30 at 12:29 PM

GC

Gary Caplinger posted:

Cheryl I am so sorry to hear this, my heart is aching for you. Randy was and is a great friend of mine and I will truly miss him.RIP my friend

June 30 at 8:33 AM

MK

Mike Kelly posted:

I didnt have the good fortune of knowing Randy but I will never forget him and his act of kindness!Back in the late 80s our son Shane was in high school and was involved in an accident at the Old Falls Rt 16 intersection. He was t-boned and his car was totaled, fortunately no one was injured. Randy witnessed the entire thing, stopped to make sure no one was seriously injured, got my name & # from Shane and stopped at the 1st pay phone to call me and went on.When I got their Shane and the gentleman that hit him were in the cruiser finalizing the report. The gentleman (in suite and tie) had convinced the officer Shane had run the light and he was being sited. Randy, heads up guy he was returned just in time (he had worried that the young kid might get the shaft) to informed the officer that the gentleman had actually run the red light!! I have never forgotten the name and later learned he was a great guy from TV.Prayers to all family and friends.Sincerely Mike Kelly Lake Wylie SC

June 30 at 6:03 AM



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GS

Gary Swinehart posted:

So sorry to hear of Randys passing. He was such a Great Athlete and Better Person. Always enjoyed competing against Randy in Basketball during High School. RIP

June 30 at 5:50 AM

SD

Sharon Dittmar posted:

Cheryl, So Very Sorry! Your Family's Loss Is God's Gain!

June 30 at 3:57 AM

IM

Indea Miller posted:

Thoughts and prayers to all. Indy Miller and Ray (Buster) Durant

June 30 at 1:10 AM

RM

Roger McClure posted:

My brother Robert "Bun" McClure delivered the tragic news that we had lost " Dinkus" shortly after the news had broken of Randy's untimely demise. Dinkus was the nickname Randy had that was common amongst all Dresden boys. He was always a larger than life character achieving things most of us only could dream of but Randy never recognized his celebrity and always remained humble and was a true friend to all of us commoners. I am deeply saddened to lose my friend and lifelong idol. May the fond memories of Randy comfort all of his family and friends at this difficult time. May peace be in your hearts.

June 29 at 6:51 PM

SY

Shane Young posted:

Sorry for your loss, Randy and I spent a lot of time together over the years and will be greatly missed.

June 29 at 3:58 PM



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MG

Mary Brandel-Guard posted:

Cheryl and Family, So sorry to hear of Randys passing. I bet him and Bumper will have a great time. Ruth told me there were so many of Dons friends there now we would have to change the name, The Licking View Gang! Please know I realize what you are going through and hope you have lots of family and friends to help, its a hard thing to do. Thanking of you - Mary Brandel- Guard.

June 29 at 2:32 PM

RR

Ruth Rinehart posted:

Cheryl & Family, We are so sorry for your loss. You have our deepest sympathies and love through this time. Ruthie Guard Rinehart, Mary Brandel & Stacy K.

June 29 at 2:32 PM

JR

Jim Rockwell posted:

Sending condolences to the Little family. May God comfort you during these difficult times. Randy was an outstanding athlete in both high school and at the college level and we experienced competing against each other in the MVL and in Fighting Muskie-Hill Topper football openers in '71, '72, and '73. Randy was very humble as he achieved greatness on all levels. RIP Randy Little.

June 29 at 9:57 AM

JJ

Judy Kain Jones posted:

Please accept my deepest sympathies. Way back in elementary school, Randy was always the tallest and I was always the shortest in our grade, but he was always sweet to me. I am so very sorry for your loss.

June 29 at 9:16 AM

LK

Lynda King posted:

So sorry for your loss:(

June 29 at 9:08 AM



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JL

Jim Lazear posted:

So sorry to hear of Randy's passing. Got to know Randy over the last several years on the Hilltop and being XN Fraternity brothers. God bless the family..

June 29 at 8:34 AM

SW

Sheryl Starner Williams posted:

To my dear Wendy and family, My heart goes out to you in this time of sadness at the passing of Randy. Thoughts and prayers are with you. In loving friendship, Sheryl Starner Williams and Chuck

June 29 at 8:33 AM

TP

Thomas Pasinetti posted:

May God bless you and your family in this time of sorrow. Thomas P Pasinetti A teammate from WL

June 29 at 5:13 AM

AC

Adams, Charles D posted:

Condolences from Charlie Adams. Randy and I were team mates at West Liberty.

June 29 at 4:05 AM

BA

Billie Anderson posted:

So sorry for your loss. May he RIP.

June 29 at 3:38 AM

DW

Doug And Ellen Winland posted:

Sorry to hear of Randy's passing. Always enjoyed talking to him when our paths would cross.

June 29 at 2:32 AM



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RO

Randy And Joyce Lincicome Grove City,Ohio posted:

To Wendy, Cheryl, and the rest of the family, sorry to read of your loss. Your family are in our prayers. In first grade , the 59-60 school year is when I met Randy. You see in first grade my Dad died on Thanksgiving Day. Randy, Dee May, and Tom Prince were the first class mates to invite me to their homes to stay over after that happened. From that point on, I had a friend in Randy. We both had great moms, Randy Lincicome, Randy Little, all through school, I was proud to be next to Randy. Our lockers, seats, pictures in yearbooks, and championships. For example in baseball for Fulks, we batted 2 and 3 in the line up and played first and second next to one another and were Tri-Champions. In basketball we got two championships during our two years as teammates 69-70 and 70-71 teams. It was during the J-Hawks years we both became sport enthusiasts. Randy was "Little Jeff", and I admired Paul Prince. All the years I played with Randy or against him there was always a strong mutual respect between us even though we played on different teams or people we ran around with. Randy and I always had had a deep appreciation for the class of 1974 and a particular football linebacker, basketball guard, discuss and shot putter in the class of 1975. Randy rode to work and was a teammate of Tom Harrier, Tom and I were teammates in college for three years. About the only issue we ever argued over was the sports page our jr. year in study hall where Mrs. Martin was the librarian. If I had it first, I would hear this voice, hurry up Lintz, you see our seats were next to one another. And we never dinged pennies off of the metal shelves either. I also had the great pleasure of meeting his son Jason, at Hocking State Park where we played chess around the campfire. A few years later I try to recruit Jason to ODC to play basketball when I was there. I didn't get him but I was happy for him when he played at my school OUZ. Randy always thanked me for taking an interest in Jason over the years when our paths crossed. I ran off 14 obituaries of Randy , for various basketball notebooks I have. That's another record for Randy. We played on 8 basketball teams together over the years. In 1971 I saw his first Gold Medal game when he scored 15 points for Birkhimer 's. We played in 1990 for Frazeyburg Merchants the last team we were on together. Randy was an outstanding semi-pro basketball player for Birkhimer's, Jrs. Bar, R.J. Drilling, Dresden Pepsi Merchants, and Frazeyburg Merchants. In 1974 he played a key role in Jrs. Bar winning the Ohio Parks and Recreation State Open Basketball Tournament. In college he was the best basketball player on campus at West Liberty State College and he didn't play on their team. In the Wheeling area he was all tournament in two separate semi-pro basketball tournaments. The two tournaments that picked him all tournament, Randy was the only player, still in college. Randy when you arrive at Heaven's Gate :There will be your Dad, Jim, My Dads, My Mom, Tom Harrier, Larry McKitrick, Neil Miller, Larry James, Oz, Tom McBride , Clayce Kishbaugh (he thought the world of you), and a host of J-Hawks, Scotties, and Hilltoppers to hand you a basketball and a hammer. Then God will give you your wings to go along with your unique "tip it" and back up after it rebounding technique that you developed over the years. P.S. Randy you also get the record for my longest condolence breaking the one I wrote last summer for my close friend Gene Ford. And in closing every time I go up route 60, I will always remember stopping and talking while you were working on a wood project for your house in the driveway. Last thing if God asks you to build a basketball court, make sure you get a burn out railroad tie for the guys not playing to sit on. Your friend, classmate, and teammate Lintz.

June 28 at 2:46 AM



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WB

Wayne Blizzard posted:

So sorry to hear about Randy. What a Great guy he was! He always was positive & enthusiastic! Even though I was a few years behind him he was always a class act and good to me.

June 28 at 12:48 PM

LS

Lynn McBride Schlaegel posted:

Please accept my sincerest sympathies as you mourn your husband, father, son, and grandfather. I have probably known Randy longer than any other person in my life as we grew up next door and then graduated from HS together. He was a force in so many ways. Prayers that God may grant you comfort and peace. I am so very sorry for your loss.

June 28 at 12:25 PM

JP

James E Powell posted:

A legend among the men of the Chi Nu Fraternity. Rest in Peace.

June 28 at 10:10 AM

DL

David Ludinich posted:

Sorry to hear of Randys passing.

June 28 at 10:03 AM

CF

Casey Foster posted:

So Sorry to Hear About Randy He was a great man The Foster Family sends their condolences.

June 28 at 9:12 AM

JC

John Cowan posted:

RandywasmybestfriendandIwillmisshimforever.

June 28 at 8:01 AM



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JF

Joe Falco posted:

So very sorry for your loss. I will keep Randy and your family in my prayers. Wishing you peace, hope, and love.

June 28 at 6:28 AM

BB

Barbie Anderson- Brewer posted:

So sorry for you loss.. Randy was a friend and classmate. Sending my thoughts and prayers to his family and friends.. RIP Randy..

June 28 at 6:18 AM

TL

Tami Longaberger posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with you .

June 28 at 6:06 AM

MW

Mary Wagner posted:

Wendy so sorry for your loss. From Judy Hamilton and Mary Wagner. Lots of hugs and prayers .

June 28 at 5:55 AM

SL

Sue Lake posted:

I met Randy at West Liberty. He was a fun loving and kind friend. We reacquainted when my children went to TV. What a great guy. He stayed true to West Lib and was supportive of many area athletes. So sorry for your loss.

June 28 at 5:52 AM

RP

Rick And Becky Priest posted:

Our sincere sympathy to your family

June 28 at 5:28 AM



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MW

Mary Wilson posted:

Sorry for your loss. May God be with you during this time.

June 28 at 5:16 AM

MC

Mary Ann Cormican posted:

My heart goes out for your whole family. God bless all.

June 28 at 5:14 AM

DM

Dave Mccutcheon posted:

Big Man... You left as far too soon and you will be missed!! Your crazy laugh, your sense if humor, and the way you enjoyed other people and having fun will always be remembered!!! Prayers are coming for your family for peace and comfort in your loss!!! RIP my friend see you again on the other side!!!♥

June 28 at 4:52 AM

JM

John Magistro posted:

I was privileged to get to know Randy, when he and Tony started following our teams at Bellaire, when I served as the head coach. It became a lasting friendship after that. He was so proud when he became a Grandfather and we would talk about how great it was. It saddens me to hear about his passing. RIP my friend!John Magistro

June 28 at 4:23 AM

DM

Daryl Miller posted:

I am lost for words. My heart felt and sincerest sympathies to the Little family and all who knew Randy. You have my unconditional love and prayers ♥ Daryl Miller Tri-Valley Class of 1969!

June 28 at 3:52 AM



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AF

Aaron Sworden (Mickey's Family) posted:

To the Little Family; I know how this feels. These guys are legends. They are what made growing up in the 1990s so much fun. They had no cell phones and no Google search and no GNC when they were kids. They just had guts. The stories of these men will only grow in legend as the years go by. My father's family wishes to send you all of our thoughts and prayers from all of the place where we are today. There are dozens and dozens and dozens of people who wish to give you a hug and wish to pay their respects and can't because of this crazy situation we are all in with this pandemic. Rest In Peace Randy.... there is one hell of a squad forming up there in the clouds....

June 28 at 3:49 AM

HF

Herb Fitzer posted:

Randy was a senior at TVHS when I was a frosh. Dude walked in the locker room when seniors were hazing me. Randy told them, "If you mess with him, you mess with me." Not another thing was done to me. Randy was a force of nature--with a heart as big as the outdoors. Saw him at Kroger not long ago. If I had known it was going to be the last time I would see him--I would've given him a hug and thanked him again for being the bigger man and helping a little kid. Randy will always be my hero.

June 28 at 3:46 AM

ER

Erma Riley posted:

Steve, Chris, Wendy, Cheryl can not put into words the sorrow that I feel for all of you in the sudden and unexpected death of your loved one. I know he will be deeply missed by all of you. May you all find comfort in knowing that he is now in heaven in the arms of God and having a great reunion with Bob. I am sure they are both talking about woodworking already. May Randy rest in peace, and the love of God bring all of you peace and comfort. With deepest and heartfelt sympathy Erma Riley

June 28 at 2:46 AM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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