



Robert "Bob" Melvin Rapson

August 3, 1935 - July 14, 2015

Bob Rapson

Dayton

Robert Melvin Rapson age 79 of Dayton Mountain died early Tuesday morning at Erlanger Hospital. Bob was born in Bad Axe, MI to the late Issac Rapson and Laura (Rheel) Rapson. He is also preceded in death by his daughter Sandra Lynn Rapson.

Bob earned his bachelor's degree from Taylor University, his master's degree from Central Michigan University, and went on to teach and coach football at Maranatha Baptist Bible College in Watertown ,WI and then at Baptist University of America in Atlanta,GA. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Dayton where he was a former deacon and Sunday school teacher.

Bob is survived by his wife of sixty years, Lois (Kreh)Rapson of Dayton Mountain, three sons; David (Debra) Rapson of Cummings,GA , Dennis (Gloria) Rapson of Dayton Mountain, Duane (Staci) Rapson of Atlanta,GA , a brother Bill (Fran) Rapson of Ft.Myers,FL, sister Karen (Jack) Allan of Marlette,MI , seven grandchildren ; Brent Rapson, Bethany Reed, Stephanie Frazier, Ashley Rapson, Ansley Rapson, Shane Rapson, Brandon Rapson, and five great- grandchildren.

Funeral services for Bob will be held Sunday afternoon at 2:00p.m. in the funeral home chapel with Rev. Milton Knox officiating. He will be laid to rest in Rhea Memory Gardens followed by a white dove release.

Please share your memories of Bob on his online guest register at www.vande

rwallfh.com .

The family is being cared for by the Vanderwall Funeral Home where they will receive friends Saturday from 4:00 p.m. until 7p.m.

Cemetery Details

Rhea Memory Gardens	
Hwy 27	
Dayton, TN	

Tribute Wall

BM

“ Sorry to hear about coach rip ...I often thought of coach over the years I played at BUA in 1983 football and basketball...he was a good man and coach he showed me alot about life outside of sports he was like my second father while I was so far away from my own family got me a job to help pay for school...those basketball road trips where the best...knowing I'd never been to Florida before he stopped the van for me to take a pic of the Florida welcome sign.. and quickly benched me for getting sun burned at pool before a game...I left school after one year but he was always in my thoughts...RIP coach prayers for your family !!

Bill michael - November 28, 2015 at 01:57 PM

KC

“ Kimberly Couch lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Melvin Rapson



kimberly couch - August 05, 2015 at 06:45 PM

KC

So sad to hear about Bob...He was a fanistic man ...I got to know him while in life care.... The last day I talked to him before he left life care he told me that if GOD calls him home that he was ready to go...he said please understand IM ready to be with GOD....

kimberly couch - August 05, 2015 at 06:52 PM

GO

“ Coach Rapson,

You gave me something I had wanted ever since I was old enough to think about it. You gave me an opportunity to attend college and play football at Baptist University. More importantly, you treated me like a member of your family. As an arrogant, cocky teenager who had success in sports in high school, I was quick to create issue with even the minor of disagreement or dislike of school rules. I had grown up with somewhat lack of religious guidance and was still learning a lot. What you, Lois and your entire family did for me is beyond the realm of showing love for others. After pushing the limits of school rules so many times, I was dismissed from school. It was probably one of the most disappointing things to ever happen to me in my life and although I acted outwardly like I did not care, I was scared, depressed and afraid. You saw through the façade and never judged me or beat me up any worse. You encouraged me. You mentored me to continue with school and return to BUA later. You talked to me about how to be an adult and even though I was angry at the school how I should always do what was right and pay the remaining school bills I had and leave in good standing being angry and no one and using it as a learning experience. You invited me into your home and although I had nothing to give you as a player, student or financially, you did nothing but help me. You and your family were the only people at my wedding to Pam, my wife of 32 years. You showed me how to be a loving husband. You taught me how to be a father to my 2 boys and 2 girls. You taught me how to give thanks to the Lord for the opportunities we get in life and to use them for his glory.

I was invited to attend a BUA reunion a few years ago. Although, I was not going to attend, still feeling embarrassed of my actions of a teenager, you encouraged me to not let the past keep me from doing something that my heart told me to do. It was wonderful to see you there. As always your smile, sense of humor and laugh made the evening. More importantly, you did what you had done for so many other years when I lived with you. You mentored me. You told me to seize the opportunity to make amends with others who I may have mistreated or felt disparaged by. I took your advice and

for the first time in 30 years I felt some peace. I told some school leaders I was sorry. I was sorry for not representing our school the way I could have and should have. You stood by me when almost no one else seemed to care. I love you. I love the person you always were. I never told you when I had the chance. I know you can hear it now. You really were a second father to me. I love you.
Greg Overstreet

Greg Overstreet - July 18, 2015 at 09:32 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Melvin Rapson.*



July 16, 2015 at 12:07 PM



“ *Lorri James lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Melvin Rapson*



Lorri James - July 16, 2015 at 10:06 AM



“ *Cheryl & Bobby Beard lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Melvin Rapson*



Cheryl & Bobby Beard - July 15, 2015 at 05:35 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Melvin Rapson.*



July 15, 2015 at 03:41 PM



“ *Bob was the real deal.....no shams, no airs, no sugar coating words. You knew his opinions, and you knew his convictions. All of this was because you knew Who he loved.....and you didn't have to be around Bob very long to know he loved Jesus.*

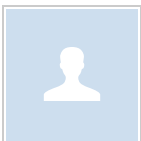
No doubt about it, Bob will be missed by many, many people.

Chris and Vicki Gould, Dayton TN - July 15, 2015 at 02:01 AM



We lost a very close friend and he will be missed he loved to drink coffee and visit with everyone in the barbershop and loved talking with us about JESUS trying to lead someone to the LORD, Miss you BOB 🍷

Cheryl & Bobby Beard - July 15, 2015 at 05:24 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Melvin Rapson.*



July 14, 2015 at 10:48 PM

JG

“ Bob sat in front of us at Rhea County football games and we so enjoyed his sideline coaching. Praying for comfort during your time of grief....Billy and Janie Graham

Janie Graham - July 14, 2015 at 09:33 PM



“ Dennis and Brent I am sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers for you and your family.



Greg Chambers - July 14, 2015 at 09:07 PM

SS

“ My all-time favorite Walmart greeter! He loved to tease me and I'd give it right back. Then he'd see me at church and say with a gleam in his eye, "Welcome to Walmart!" I always enjoyed cutting up with him so much. Fast forward years later and I got to know Dennis and Gloria. It took awhile for me to realize that Bob was Dennis' dad. Now I know where Dennis gets that laugh! Sending prayers for comfort and love to the family!
Sharon Stockton

Sharon Stockton - July 14, 2015 at 08:48 PM

TT

“ He was a sweet man! He always had a smile. I really enjoyed talking to him. So sorry for your loss.

Theresa Thrasher

theresa thrasher - July 14, 2015 at 08:31 PM



Remembering when we were growing up and you put me on your shoulders and took me to the movies.our tumbling acts in the livingroom when mom and Dad were out for the evening and we broke Mom's lamp and tried desperately to glue all the little pieces together, thinking she wouldn't find out. Remembering when you came home from Taylor University and thought you could take Dad down in wrestling.....that lasted 2 min.....learning quickly Dad could still take you down!! Good times!!!! lots of good times!!!
Your brother,
Bill

Fran Rapson - July 14, 2015 at 08:56 PM

RR

“ *He always sat in front of me in Church..and the lunches we shared and the visit at his home last summer ...He always had a kind word as I would kid him about Tennessee football..God has a true Angel with him now...I shall miss Bob dearly. May God Bless the family and keep his loving arms around them...*



Ronnie Roe
Dayton, Tennessee

Ronnie Roe - July 14, 2015 at 08:10 PM



“ *Callie Belk lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Melvin Rapson*



Callie Belk - July 14, 2015 at 07:11 PM