



## Mr. Robert Whitehill Woodruff

October 23, 1941 - March 22, 2011

Mr. Robert Whitehill Woodruff passed away March 22, 2011 at Rose Arbor Hospice in Kalamazoo, Michigan from complications associated with Parkinson's disease. He was born October 23, 1941 in Petoskey, Michigan, the son of Robert and Margaret Woodruff. He graduated from Petoskey High School in 1960. He was named an All-State running back in football, received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy, and later attended Kalamazoo College where he was a member of their undefeated football team of 1962. He was forever proud of that achievement, and the team's recent induction into the college's Hall of Fame. They have, to this day, maintained the comradery of its members and their wonderful coaches Rolla Anderson and George Acker. Bob worked at FAG bearings (now the Schaffler Group) and for a time at Seeyle Ford. He moved from Michigan to Breckenridge, CO, where he met his future wife Patricia McKay; they were together 29 years. He always loved tinkering with cars, but fell in love with rugby and became a player, then a coach for the local team, the Gentlemen of the Blue Goose. While in Breckenridge, he and Pat built a log home together with the occasional yet dedicated assistance of his club players. His last productive nine years of his life were spent in Twisp, Washington where he, Pat and her sister, Carolyn owned a beautiful peice of land on the Methow River. Throughout his life he loved to sing songs (some a bit salty) and converse with people of all walks of life. He often tried to encourage positive activities out of young men who had more unfortunate lives. This was probably in part a

response to the struggles he had wrestling with manic depression, especially through his early years as an adult. He is survived by his wife, Patricia McKay; daughter, Mary Brooke Woodruff of Kalamazoo; granddaughters, Mara and Sophia; great granddaughter, Alicea; a sister, Ann (Dave) Martin; brother, John (Rita) Woodruff; sister, Marcia (John) Teichman; and all of their respective families. A Memorial Service will be held 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 29, 2011 at First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Hospice Care of SW Michigan, or to Aurora Saracens at [aurorayouthrugby.com](http://aurorayouthrugby.com). Bob has many friends who showed their concern throughout his illness; his family thanks them all for the support they have given. [www.harperfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.harperfuneralhomeinc.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Robert Whitehill Woodruff*

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ *Mr. Robert Whitehill Woodruff*

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ *I just learned of Bob's passing. I knew Bob in Breckenridge. We played rugby together, drank beer together, lived life together. I lost track of Bob when he moved to Washington and I moved to Wisconsin. One of my favorite stories about Bob was when he traded me my old volkswagen with a blown engine, for a really nice pair of rugby cleats-good trade. I was very sad to hear of Bob's passing. He will always be one of my favorite people that I have had the pleasure to have known in this life. Pat, I hope you get to see this and know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. I have often thought of you two and hoped that things were going well for you. PEACE.*

*Jim Creed*

**Jim Creed** - March 30, 2011 at 01:40 PM

GC

“ I haven't seen Bob since High School.  
I graduated from Harbor Springs one year ahead of his 1960  
graduation from Petoskey.  
We were sort of "shirt tale" relatives. His connection to the  
Whitehill's in Harbor Springs  
matched mine on the other side of the family.  
We always had a mutual respect for each other through sports and  
occasionally would  
have a chance to chat. I always felt Bob would do well due to his  
dedication and commitment  
to what ever he was active in. He was a good man and I wish I had  
known him more  
during our adult lives.  
Rest in peace, Bob.  
George Coveyou

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**George Coveyou** - March 28, 2011 at 11:39 PM