



Robert J. LaPointe

November 5, 1945 - January 31, 2012

LaPointe, Robert J. January 31, 2012 age 66 of Canton. Loving husband of Carol. Beloved father of Renee (Doug) Babcock, Bo, Daniel, and Karen (Jeffrey) Reich. Dear brother of Bonnie (Tim) Wyman. Proud Papa of Brooke and Daniel Babcock, Andrew , Marynn, and Cameron LaPointe, and Sydney, Liam, and Genevieve Reich. Bob had a 42 year career as a football coach and teacher. He coached and taught at Dearborn Divine Child, Harper Woods Notre Dame, and Belleville High Schools, as well as Eastern Michigan University. His coaching highlights include winning the Class B High School State Championship with Dearborn Divine Child in 1975, and breaking the EMU losing streak in 1982. Visitation Thursday 4-9 PM and Friday 3-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. In state Saturday 9:30 AM until the 10 AM funeral service at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile Road (at Haggerty) Northville. Interment Glen Eden Memorial Park. Memorial contributions may be made to Belleville High School Football Program, 501 W Columbia, Belleville MI 48111. To share memories please use the condolences link on this page.

Tribute Wall

JS

“ *Mr LaPointe was always so nice to all the students. I remember when some of his players were picking on me and word got back to him and I was told he made them do extra bear crawls. He was great person sorry for your loss*

Julie K Stamper - October 04, 2025 at 02:58 PM



“ *Robert J. LaPointe*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM

PE

“ *I'm sorry for your loss. Death is our common enemy as it affects all of us. I therefore want to encourage the family to take heart and be hopeful in the promise by God, that he will wipe every tear and no more will be any death again. Death will be brought to nothing, Isaiah 25:8 and 1Corinthians 15:28. God by means of Jesus will call and all that died will hear his voice and come out. John 5:25. We have an opportunity to see our dead loved ones come back to life again and never to die. What a wonderful moment that will be!*

Peggy - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

R(

“ *I'm so sorry to read about Mr. LaPointe's passing. I used to babysit for his kids in Haggerty Sub and the kids cousins, the Pappas family, as well. He was always such a nice man to me. May he rest in peace! My condolences to his family. I'm not sure if his children would remember me. Take care.--Richelle (AKA-Ricki back then).*

Richelle Fales (Croteau) - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

GM

“ Dearest Carol, We are shocked and saddened to hear of Bob's recent passing. It was an honor to teach beside him all those years at BHS. The memories are many, as he was an exceptional human being and roll model. God speed your healing along with the entire family. Love and prayers, Gerald and Annie

Gerald and Annie Malecek - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

LP

“ My father, Jim Paige and Bob were friends in high school. Bob often kept in touch with my dad over the years and my dad always enjoyed reading about Bob and the teams he was coaching. Our entire family is saddened to hear of Bob's recent passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family during this difficult time.

Lisa Paige - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

JA

“ Renee, Bo, Danny and Karen-I am sorry to hear of the passing of your father. He has left us all a great legacy. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Jeff Adams - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

DL

“ It is with a heavy heart that I wish my condolences to the LaPointe family. Coach LaPointe was much more than a football coach to me and many of my former teammates at Harper Woods Notre Dame. He was a mentor and provided logic, influence, and integrity that has carried on into our adult lives. An old school coach, they just don't make coaches like him nowadays. I do not find it coincidental that Coach LaPointe passed away not too long after retiring from the game he loved, just like Bear Bryant and Joe Paterno. Rest in peace my friend.

Dominic J. LaRocca - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

RS

“ I express my great sorrow for his family at the passing of a truly great gentleman, Bob LaPointe. Bob worked at our school for several years as a teacher and head football coach. Wherever he was, he had a presence about him of a very solid and loving person. As principal of the school at Notre Dame High School in those days, I really loved working with Bob. I was sorry to see him leave Notre Dame, but he always wanted to work at Belleville High School and he finally got his chance. I wished him well, then, and wish him the same again as he starts a new life of grace with the Lord. I wish God's peace to all of Bob's relatives, friend, and admireres. We will miss him. Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m. President, Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy, Pontiac Former principal at Notre Dame High School, Harper Woods.

Rev. Leon M. Olszamowski, s.m. - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

GH

“ Tim and Bonnie, we are so sorry to hear of Bob's passing. He was such a good man, a nice man, we are so sorry. Righ now, we are in Gulf Shores, Alabama and will not be with you. But, our thoughts and prayers are with Bob and you...love, George and Chris

George and Chris Harrison - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

JJ

“ Dear Carol, My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. Janet

Janet Johnson - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

JZ

“ I am saddened to hear of the loss of Bobby. I know that he was a wonderful man and role model to many. He will be sadly missed by all.

Jess Zacharias - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

SE

“ May God give you comfort and peace; our thoughts are with you. So very surprised to see of Bob's passing. We will keep him in our daily prayers. May God grant him joy beyond all we can imagine.

Sister Marie and Sister Elena - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

DO

“ Carol, I am so sorry for you loss. I have really enjoyed working with Bob over the years. He will be missed. Dan Ortman

Dan Ortman - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

HH

“ My prayers and thanks to your family in the support of Bob's influential career in both teaching and coaching as he shaped the characters of so many students and athletes

Harvie Dale Harrier - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

FL

“ Im truely saddened to here of the passing of Mr.LaPointe, he has big a very big part of my sons lives (Corey & Anthont Lietz) he will always have a special place in my heart,as well as my family"s. He will always be a legend and a some one so many people will always look up to. Im truely sorry we all had to loose him...

Faith Lietz - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

CG

“ Thanks for the memories of History Class while at DC. My thoughts and prayer's are with you during this time.

Connie (Bachor) Gray - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

CC

“ Dear Renee, Iam so sorry to read about the lost of your father. Iam sure he will be truly missed. Thinking of you at this time. Cheryl Cassidy (Jabil)

cheryl cassidy - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

CN

“ Dear Carol, I was so shocked and saddened to hear of your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Thinking of you.

Carol Nems - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

LI

“ I was extremely hurt when I heard that my coach had made the transition from labor to reward. Then, I smiled because of the gift he left me with. When he gave it to me; I was young and couldn't understand it, but now I do. I am accountable and responsible to the people that depend on me. I am a man of my word. I am a better husband, father, son, brother, uncle, co-worker, friend and coach because of the values Coach LaPointe instilled in me. To touch someone's life (especially young people) in a positive light and to give them something to pass on, is the greatest gift we can leave. I want to thank Coach LaPointe for that gift. To the family, I send my condolences. Remember the good times, laugh and know that you are in the prayers of many. Luke Edwards III c/o 94

Luke Edwards III - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

J'

“ I played for coach at Notre Dame. As a grown man, father of two young boys and a football coach myself over the years, I suppose I have drawn from his lessons more as an adult than I did back then. He did things the "right" way which is lacking in society today! Rest in peace coach and thank you for the lasting life lessons! To the entire LaPointe family, may God continue to grant you strength and comfort. Take peace and pride in knowing he has changed the lives of so many for years to come. A mark of a truly great man!

Jeff Konal-NDHS '89 - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

MP

“ Coach LaPointe was such a great man, teacher and coach for our graduating year of '96 at Belleville High. He will be greatly missed by everyones lives he touched.

Michelle Powell - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

KC

“ Exceptional man and coach!

Ken Caratelli - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

BU

“ I am so sorry for your loss. He was a good man. I knew him as Coach LaPointe at Belleville High School.

Brittney Underwood - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

JP

“ We so looked forward to the end of school year when you & Bob would head out on your lighthouse tour. He enjoyed himself no matter where he was. We were so glad he welcomed us as Carol's friends and we were glad to add him as our friend. We'll miss him very much.

John & Pam - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

HM

“ My deepest condolences to the family. Bob was a true gentleman and will be missed by all.

Henry Moses - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

JH

“ I am so sorry for your loss, Carol. I am with you in spirit and in my heart, praying for rest for you. love you bunches.

JoAnne Hutton - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

JR

“ My prayers goes out to the family. I had the pleasure of knowing Coach Lapointe when he coached my son (Sam Reid) during his high school years. He gave me the opportunity to be supportive on the side lines at home and away games. He was love by us all. He was a great role model for the young men he coached. He may be gone, but he will NEVER Be FORGETTEN. God bless and much love to the family.

John O. Reid - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

WB

“ My deepest condolences to the family. I coached with Bob at Notre Dame. He was a good friend and football teacher. He will truly be missed, but will be remembered for all the young mens lives he touched with his love. I would be at the service but at present I am in Florida. He will always be in my thoughts.

Wally Brzenk - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

AE

“ My heartfelt condolences to the entire La Pointe family. Bob was an outstanding teacher and Football Coach. He had a positive impact on so many young people coaching the sport he loved.

Al Freund EMU - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

SV

“ GOD BLESS YOU BOB AND YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY. I WILL ALWAYS CHERISH AND REMEMBER THE GOOD TIMES WE ENJOYED TEACHING AND COACHING AT BHS. SUCH A SHAME TO LOSE A WONDERFUL PERSON , COLLEAGUE AND FAMILY MAN AT SUCH AN EARLY AGE. WE WILL MISS YOU BOB. GOD BLESS.

sam and sandy vicchy - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

GL

“ What can I say. Coach was a man that boys to be men. He taught leadership and team work. I am very honored to have played for him and to have known him. He will be greatly missed. Thank you for everything. c/o 2004

Gary J. Little - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

JP

“ As a former classmate from Edsel Ford High School, I have many fond memories of Bob and I playing on the football team together. Bob was a great player and I will never forget the time we beat Fordson and Dearborn High. I also was able to watch Bob coach at Belleville High and I was so proud of him. I will miss him alot!

Jim Paige - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

RA

“ You don't think of certain people passing away, and for me Coach LaPointe was one of those people. I didn't get the chance to have him as a teacher, but I knew him as a coach. I saw how he taught, mentored and inspired the young men that came through Belleville's football program, and the things he taught them he also taught me. I used to love going up to BHS to visit after I graduated. I'd go to the office that the coaches used and he'd be there with a warm smile, a hug, and advice. Coach, you ARE a great man. You'll truly be missed.

Rainelle - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

KL

“ So sorry for your loss, my condolences to the LaPointe family.

Kevin Logan - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

DO

“ i am very sad to hear about this and am sorry for your loss. i was coached by him from 2001-2004 at bhs and he was a great coach and mentor. it hurts to see him pass but he'll be looking down on all of us. he also help make me the man i am today and because of it i thank him dearly. daniel obryan

Daniel Obryan - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

BC

“ Carol, we are so sorry. Our hearts go out to you. We will miss Bob very much.

Bill & Carol - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

KM

“ coach laPointe was a great man. He made me the person i am today. I love playing football for him back at ND. Great man.

kevin mio - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

JC

“ Dear Carol, Chris and I are so sorry for your loss. We fondly remember your fun wedding and the happiness that that event exuded. Sorry we are unable to personally give you these conndolences. You are in our thoughts and prayers. I will offer a special prayer for you Sun as we attend church. Jan Connolly

Jan and Chris Connolly - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

KT

“ Thank you for everything Coach. You helped mold me, and many other young boys into the men they are today. It is amazing how many lives you've touched. You'll be missed. Love, Kevin Tanner c/o 04

Kevin Tanner - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

BG

“ We are so terribly sorry for Carol and all Bob's family and friends, of which there are legions. He was a warm, wonderful and gracious man. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Sincerely, Birdie and Ted Grignon

Birdie and Ted Grignon - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

PB

“ Sending my prayers and thoughts for Bob and to his family at this most difficult time. An EFHS '64 classmate and friend, may you rest in peace. You will always be remembered as a very kind and considerate person Bob. I am so very sad and sorry to hear of your passing.

Pat (Smith) Bruno - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

FB

“ Bob and I coached together at Divine Child and competed against each other during his time at Notre Dame. I kept in touch and followed his career. Bob was very well respected by his fellow coaches and i am sure by those that were lucky enough to have him as a head coach. My condolences to his family and friends.

Forrest Bone - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

DC

“ I am very fortunate to have spent my highschool years surrounded by this man. He provided inspiration and motivation to everyone he came in contact with. I am a better person because of the things he taught me, it was a priveledge to have known him. R.I.P. Coach

Doug Cottrell - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

DT

“ DCHS class of 1981 I remember Mr LaPointe and he was such a nice man. He left a legacy at Divine Child and will always be remembered by those that knew him. He was taken to heaven way to early!

Diane Taglioli-Hura - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

PR

“ Carol and Family, My deepest sympathy for your loss. Bob was such a nice guy and true gentleman. He will be greatly missed!!
Paulette

Paulette Rancour - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

PS

“ LaPointe Family, You are in my thoughts and prayers. Bob was many things to me coach mentor, friend, confidant and inspiration. The world is a lesser place without him. Bob helped me get my first teaching job. I commuted with him to Notre Dame for 2 years as he taught me how to coach and teach. You, his family, are his greatest accomplishment. All the young coaches and teachers he mentored are a lasting legacy to him. I will miss Bob tremendously but I know Heaven is a better place today because Bob is there.

Paul Sherzer - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

CS

“ My sincere condolences to the LaPointe family. Mr. LaPointe was an inspiring man and energetic teacher and coach. You're in my prayers.

Carrie (former student) - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

JW

“ R.I.P. COACH LaPointe you will be greatly missed.

jamie winnie - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

AM

“ There are so many people who come in and out of lives but only a select few will leave a lasting impression on you. Coach(Mr) LP was one of the select few. I had Coach LP as teacher at BHS. 13 years after graduating, I could probably tell you the names of 3 of my teachers thoroughout my entire schooling, this shows what an impression he has left on me and so many other students and athletes. My thoughts and prayers go out to the entire LP family. RIP Coach and thank you for everything. I will forever remember your tough guy appearance and Teddy Bear personality.

Amanda - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

TI

“ Mr. LaPointe was my teacher back in high school in Belleville. He was a great teacher and an amazing person....he will be missed.

Tiffany - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

DA

“ RIP Mr. LaPointe. You were an amazing teacher, coach, and human being! My deepest condolences to the LaPointe family! God bless you all! You will all be in my prayers!

Dawn - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

TF

“ Bob will be missed,he gave us many great memories. He was a GREAT,caring man that many looked to for guidance. R.I.P.

The Steve Farr family - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

RS

“ Coach LaPointe was truly a great man and he influenced the lives of many. Anyone who was ever blessed by just being in his presence will always remember him. Please accept my condolences. My thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of sorrow. As many lives as the coach has touched, and the sadness that his passing brings to so many, I can only imagine what you, his family and the ones that knew him better than anyone else, are going through. Let God wrap his love around you and comfort you during your time of need and continue to do so always. And Coach, rest safely in the arms of Jesus, until we all meet again. You will truly be missed!!

Ruby Stoops - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

CP

“ Thoughts and prayer are with the family.

Cresencia Prieskorn - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

CT

“ Coach LaPointe was a very special man and loved by all he was an blessing to the Belleville Football program. I got to know him when my son Daniel Obryan played football for Belleville. He was great with the boys he was willing to take the time to work with them never put the boys down only gave them words of encouragement let them know when they did a good job. I hope that more coaches learn what he showed for all learn and show respect for all and it will come back to you many times over and those you gave respect will give others the same. I am sure he knew what he meant to those he mentored. I know I will miss him. He gave his all. He loved coaching and those he coached loved him. My thoughts and Prayers are with his family and friends. Rest in Peace with the Lord.

Connie Thacker - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

EG

“ You will truly be missed Coach, now you are the big eye in the sky. God has brought home a great man and coach. Love fast Eddie

Edward Goree - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

BL

“ A man, A mentor, A coach. These three titles could never speak of the true character of a man such as "Coach" LaPointe. He taught boys to become men. And there are many who owe their success to him. Thank you for everything Coach. God Bless.

Brock Luker - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

CC

“ Coach LaPointe, How do you say great man, incredible coach, and a teacher in a class all by himself? You don't... You "FEEL" it through the experience of an encounter with coach LaPointe. Something he shared with me almost 20 yrs ago, I teach my children, young people nationally, and every audience I come in contact with. "Every day you either get better or worst, but you never stay the same!" This phrase has increased my level of integrity, saved me from regret, and raised the standard and quality of the lives of thousands across the country. I feel honored to have crossed paths with you and find it hard to believe that your transition has come. There will never be another like you, but you will always live on through the lives of many who are eternally grateful for the impact you've made in our lives! May God bless, cover, protect, and invest back into them, what you've invested over a life time in us! I love you LP, Chris Cannon

Chris Cannon - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

JM

“ Thank you Coach for everything.

Jody Minor - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

RH

“ I am so sorry for the loss of such a great Teacher. You will always be in our hearts. My thoughts and prayers are with the family in this sad time. May God Give You Wings Of Gold!!!

Rachel Howard - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

SH

“ I am so sorry to hear about your loss. He was a great teacher I had him at North Middle School then as a drivers ed teacher and then had him at Belleville High school. He was one of the best teachers there. I just stated this the other day when someone asked me about who my favorite teacher was and he is the one that stuck out the most in my head because he told me that he knew that I was very smart and that I could do the work and get the grades. Again I am so sorry about your loss.

Stephanie Hunter - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

KS

“ Bob, was a fellow teacher, coach and most of all a good friend. He will be missed! God Bless

Kirk Spangler - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

RE

“ So sorry for your lose he touched so many peoples lives... may god watch over you and your family...

Renee - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

PM

“ My deepest condolence to the family of the Lapointe's you are in my prayers. Mr.LaPointe was a very nice man from your Newspaper girl back in the 70's. And from the family of Neptunes family resturant & Granny's.

Patricia May - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

LA

“ Coach LaPointe was a great coach and a wonderful teacher he will truly be missed by many

LaWanda - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

DO

“ So sad when I heard the news today. I had Coach LaPointe while I attended BHS, He was a great man, loving and stern you didn't mess around in his classroom. You will be missed but Never forgotten Coach, until we meet again... TO the family I am so sorry for your loss of such a wonderful man.

Dorothy - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

EM

“ You will be missed Coach LP!!!

Emily - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

SG

“ I am so sorry to hear of Bob's passing. Bob and I went to school together from elementary school thru college. A long time and alot of memories. He was always such a nice person. I will cherish my memories of him. Please accept my sincere condolences. Sheree (Kopp) Grens

Sheree Grens - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

SW

“ Was very surprised and saddened to hear of Coach LaPointe's passing this morning. Bob touched so many lives in so many ways. Whether it be in the classroom or on the football field, Coach was a Great Man of great character and integrity. He was and will always be the true definition of what a Teacher, Mentor, Leader, Role Model and most of all; Friend should be. They say when a great man passes his legacy lives on. And as I sit and write and reflect upon Coach LaPointe I think of the ripple effect his life has had and will continue to have on so many for generations to come. I think of all the young men he coached and coached along side and I know that his message is carried through them in strength, teamwork, toughness and compassion each and everyday. I'm truly grateful and blessed to have had Coach LaPointe come into my life to coach and teach me about more than just history and football. He taught me in so many ways how to be a Man. Thank you so much Coach LaPointe, you'll be missed more than you could ever know. -Shiloh Wadsworth c/o '95

Shiloh Wadsworth - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

HL

“ Dear Carol and Family...I am a former classmate of Bob's and will ALWAYS remember him fondly. His adorable smile and boyish personality always melted hearts as I'm sure he did yours. He has left a beautiful family of many, but I'm sure in your hearts he will always stay, as well as that picture perfect smile that remains in family eyes forever!

Helene (Skorich) LaRussa - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

MH

“ My dear Carol, Know that I am thinking of you. I am sure that you have many happy memories to get you through this difficult time. You are a wonderful person and you are treasured by many friends.

Mindy Herman - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM

PE

“ *Dear Carol, My heart, prayers and thoughts are with you Love, Pat*

Pat Ebersberger - December 12, 2014 at 10:14 AM