



## Robert J. Burch

February 13, 1940 - June 13, 2021

Robert J. Burch passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on June 13, 2021, at the age of 81 from complications of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. Robert was born to Golden Russell and Alta Martin Burch, the third child of five. He was raised in Oakley, Idaho, prior to graduating from Brigham Young University. While working on his doctorate in educational psychology, he met and later married, Bonnie L. Olsen, in the Salt Lake City LDS Temple the summer of 1967.

Robert was a psychologist for the Provo School District for 35 years. He then was asked to work part-time for the Freedom Academy Charter School District in Provo, Utah, where he counseled children from the ages of kindergarten to high school. By the time he retired in 2019, he had completed 52 years of dedicated service to the Provo School Districts. Shortly after his retirement, he and his wife moved to St. George, Utah.

In 1962, Robert signed with the New York Mets to play professional baseball as a pitcher. His specialty was the curve ball due to his curved pinky finger, which helped him grip and spin the ball. He later served as the pitching coach specialist for Brigham Young University's baseball team. One of Robert's favorite past-times was watching hundreds of games as an Associate Baseball Scout for the New York Mets from 1985-1990 and for the Chicago Cubs from 1990-2019. With his white hair and tan face, he was often recognized as the "Silver Fox" pointing his radar gun at the pitcher.

In addition to loving baseball, Robert was an avid golfer who spent many an hour on the golf course with family and friends. He passed his love of sports onto his children and grandchildren as well as his love of music. At a very young age, he taught himself to play the piano by ear and was often asked to perform, "Bumble Boogie," for school parties, church functions and family gatherings.

His musical talents expanded to playing the chromatic harmonica by ear. Each Christmas, he would go from classroom to classroom entertaining the students with holiday songs on his harmonica. Having won a national harmonica contest in the 1980's, Robert continued

to enjoy performing locally with the LuDon and Sound Qwest band.

Robert was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, having served in a bishopric and a variety of roles in the early days of the sports program. He formed many lasting friendships over the years ministering to ward members on the Grandview Hill.

He is survived by his wife, Bonnie, his daughter, Brenda Burch, of Orem, Utah, his son, James R. Burch (Heather) and 2 grandchildren (Stella James Burch and Vaughn Robert Burch) of St. George, Utah.

In addition to his immediate family, he is also survived by two brothers: Richard Burch (Eva), Salt Lake City, Utah and Alan Burch (Janet), Sandy, Utah. He was preceded in death by his mother (Alta M. Burch), father (Golden R. Burch), sister (Linda B. Poulton) and a baby sister (who died at birth).

Special thanks to Alpha Home Health and Hospice, Dr. Matthew Williams, Nurse Loretta and caregivers (Theresa and Norine), for their kind, loving support.

A Graveside Service will be held Saturday, June 19th, at 12:00 pm, at the Lindon City Cemetery, 600 N. 200 E., Lindon, Utah.

Funeral Directors: Utah Valley Mortuary

# Cemetery

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## Lindon City Cemetery

600 North 200 East

Lindon, UT, 84042

# Events

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**JUN**

**19**

**Graveside Service**

12:00PM

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Lindon City Cemetery

600 North 200 East, Lindon, UT, US, 84042

# Comments

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“ An external video has been added.



**Utah Valley Mortuary** - June 16, 2021 at 11:34 AM



“ He took me under his wing when I was at Freedom. Baseball games, golfing, even went out and bought me a Christmas tree stand for my apartment. The kids loved him and he'll always have a special place in my heart.

**Jen Williamson Allred** - June 16, 2021 at 03:50 PM



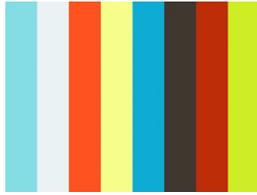
“ I will always remember Bob and all the help he gave to the students I was teaching. His support and help didn't stop with students. When he found out I was personally going through a hard time he would pop his head in after school just to see how I was doing. I am a fellow baseball fan and was able to attend several games and help run the radar gun. He always was doing small things to help those around him even if it was a simple tic-tac to lift someone's day.

**Angela Haroldse** - June 16, 2021 at 03:51 PM

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## “ Graveside Service for Robert J. Burch



**Brenda Burch** - June 24, 2021 at 02:54 PM



“ Beautiful service! I had a previous commitment that day so I very much appreciate you posting this. Such a great man! Much love to each of you!

**Brent Edgington** - September 22, 2021 at 07:10 PM



“ I worked with Bobby at Dixon middle school 26 years ago. I often sent him a Xmas card since then and wondered how he was doing. I just happened to look this up today and found his obituary. I have thought of him MANY times over the years after I moved back to Rhode Island. I even have a CD of your music Brenda that he gave me . He often talked about you Brenda and was so proud of you. We had many laughs and he often kept me sane while at work with his many jokes. We had a great friendship and often talked in his office about life, music and of course baseball. My being a red Sox fan and him playing for the Mets often brought up many fun times and conversations. He was always there for me and never complained about his own problems. He was a huge flirt. I will NEVER forget Bobby! What a great man. I hope to see him again in the eternities. Love you my incredible friend. Peace to you your family.

Lora Gooch

**Lora Gooch** - October 01, 2021 at 07:12 AM

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“ I will always remember Bob for his kindness and sincere disposition. I got to know Bob while I was a teacher at Freedom. He was very supportive of my students. Things I will never forget; he took me golfing a couple times and tried his best to teach me! He always had a joke to share with me. I would enjoy hearing about who he was scouting for baseball. I will also remember him playing his harmonica for the students, and work Christmas parties. I appreciate all the support and kindness he showed me over the years, and I know that he will be greatly missed. May your family find peace and comfort.

**Alisha Walters** - June 18, 2021 at 04:10 PM



“ Bob helped me get threw school. I hated being there . He would let me eat lunch in his office. He helped me in such little ways that made an impact . I'm so sorry to hear about this

**stacey** - September 10, 2021 at 10:16 PM

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“ I worked with Bob at Dixon Middle School. He was always such a fun person to visit with. He would tell stories about baseball and his love for the game would show. His personality seemed to be a perfect fit for his profession as school psychologist. I am sure he changed many lives for the better.

**Sam Hunter** - June 18, 2021 at 12:58 PM

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“ We would often run into each other at East Bay golf course and join up for a round when I was in Jr High and High School. He was always so kind and fun to be around. Such a great man!!

**Chad N.** - June 17, 2021 at 10:50 PM

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“ Dr. Bob came to my second grade classroom and played song after song on his harmonica for us! The kids were enthralled! They were dancing, singing, and loving every second of it. He had the kindest soul. He was always there to make sure I was ok, it just made me happy to see his face and know that he truly cared.

**Lindsey Slater Bradford** - June 17, 2021 at 05:03 PM

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“ I loved seeing Robert play the boogie woogie in his mom and dad's living room In Oakley- his fingers just flew across the piano! Always had a smile on his face. And we loved it when Brendy Blue and little ( what was your nickname??? 😊 ) came to visit.... Alta loved baking her favorite treats for each of her children. May peace be with you all..... you are from Special Stock 🐶  
Oh! And we ran into your dad at an airport once coming back from playing golf in Palm Springs.... life is so good with good men like Robert to lighten things up 🧑🏻♂️

From Anne Martin Oakley Basin

**Anne Martin** - June 16, 2021 at 11:34 PM

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“ Much of my childhood and youth was spent in the Burch home so I have many memories of Robert, they keep coming to me so I'll just list them as they come...I always liked how he referred to me as Krisitina, he had to have been quite patient to put up with non-stop giggling and laughter between Brenda and myself, he would make us garlic toast or popcorn on the stove with melted butter when we watched movies, he drove us many places including to Oakley ID to spend time with his parents, he took us on motorcycle rides in the church parking lot and scared me as he leaned the bike low around turns, he liked to tease us about all kinds of things, I have fond memories of his laugh and sounds of his harmonica playing and countless hours spent at the Burch home...memories that I will always treasure.

**Kristin Francis** - June 16, 2021 at 10:35 PM

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“ My uncle Robert was my favorite and funnest uncle, he lived with my parents when i was small him and i would go to Oakley in his 57 Chevy (cool) . He taught me to step into the ball when ya swing, never forgot. He was a fun person...loving man, kind person...i know he s young handsome, and swinging again (baseball) with hiz dad (my grandpa) pitching over the plate. Carolee

**Carolee Riedel** - June 16, 2021 at 09:05 PM

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“ Mr. Burch was such an amazing wonderful man and friend. He was able to support me in junior high when I needed it and then some of my kids later in life at Freedom. I was shocked he still remembered me so many years later, but he had such a kind heart I believe his love for all helped him remember egret than most. My heart is saddened to see him leave this earth, but I am so blessed to know him while he was here. Rest in love my friend

**Rebecca Christensen Richards** - June 16, 2021 at 08:59 PM

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“ Bobby was always such a kind person and the ultimate cool! I remember meeting him as a kid and found out he was THE baseball guy. I always admired him and was so happy I got to know him better through the high school years. He was always a solid friend and kind soul. His presence will be missed in this world.

**Gavin Bentley** - June 16, 2021 at 06:25 PM

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“ Dr. Bob was a great support my first year as a teacher. He was incredibly kind. Anytime I had a question or needed to bounce ideas about a student, he was always willing to help. I'm grateful I got to meet and work with him.

**Cristal B** - June 16, 2021 at 04:16 PM

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“ Dr. Bob became a dear friend during my time at FPA. With the students I had needing his help, he was never too far. He was a great listener, musician, and storyteller. Grateful he shared his love of baseball and music with me.

**Lyndi** - June 16, 2021 at 03:55 PM

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“ I will always remember sitting at a great big conference-room table in elementary school—just me and Dr. Burch. He let me sit wherever I wanted, and I always thought it was funny to have him sit at one end and I would sit all the way at the other. The distance, I'm sure, made it somewhat difficult to have important conversations, but Dr. Burch didn't seem to mind. In a school with hundreds of students, he somehow managed to make one struggling girl sitting all the way across the table feel like she was the most important one. On behalf of all of the thousands of students that you helped feel like One, thank you for everything, Dr. Burch.

**Alexa Merrill** - June 16, 2021 at 03:41 PM

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“ He was a great friend while I was a teacher at Freedom Academy. I'm sad to hear about his passing. He will always have a special place in my heart! I love how much he loved playing the harmonica and I expressed interest in learning and shortly thereafter he brought one in and gave it to me to learn on. Bob you made a difference in so many lives, including mine.

**Leslie Thompson Jones** - June 16, 2021 at 03:25 PM

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“ Dr. Bob was amazing. I can't think of anyone I've worked with over the years who has made me feel more loved and accepted without judgment. He also made our school a safe place and made a huge impact on two of my kids as they struggled through elementary school. My heart goes out to his family. The world has lost a great one.

**Scott Stringham** - June 16, 2021 at 01:26 PM



“ My wife and I were both classmates with Robert in Oakley. We all grew up together as friends and neighbors. We have fond memories of him playing the piano and harmonica. One of my best memories was playing sports with him. I was his catcher when he pitched, always had to put an extra sponge in my mitt. Jerry & Sharon (Harper) Adams.

**Jerry** - June 18, 2021 at 04:45 PM



“ I am really saddened by this news. I have many memories of playing baseball, basketball, and football with him. His Father was a great mentor to me. He had a wicked curve ball. He was a great classmate. He was really fun. All of my memories are really good memories. Vaughn Woodhouse and the class of 1958.

**Vaughn Woodhouse** - June 20, 2021 at 09:18 PM



“ Bobby did and always will hold a special place in my heart. Perhaps it's because my father was also a school psychologist or perhaps it's because of my children with special needs and his ability and efforts in taking care of those in need. Or maybe it's our shared love of golf. But whatever the reason, I love Bobby Burch and have from the moment we met. Grateful that in time we'll be reunited and greet each other with big hug. Much love to his posterity. You make him very proud!

**Brent Edgington** - June 21, 2021 at 01:57 PM



“ Thanks for being at the little League games and practices. Sorry the antennas they put in players the deep state target destroyed your career with the wrong body movement and then used the cia 6.13 as your day. My ssn and another person with the same number....also 1987 Ken Dayley 1 pitch to Hrbek with a trade for Dayley to the Cardinals. A ump at the 87 world series two Twins grand slams for the Twin Towers after 17 years of none. 17 years from 1970 then 17 back to 1953 Playboy first pmom. Deep State. Ken Dayley's ancestors from Oakley too. Jack Morris byu grad pitcher in 92 world series grand slam. Two Mormon pitchers for Mitt Romney. Deborah Batts first gay judge and Loveloud ysed the Dayleys with mine and Veloyr owners kidney failure.

**Jared Dayley** - November 08, 2021 at 06:04 PM