

Raymond Bruno Vescovi

May 10, 1929 - March 4, 2021

It is with great sadness that the family of Raymond Bruno Vescovi announces his peaceful passing at home, on March 4, 2021, at the age of 91 years. Ray is lovingly remembered by his daughters Lisa (Bruce) Kohl, Ellen (Eric) Mullen, Cindy Vescovi, Jenifer (Scott) Miller; and son, Robert (Kelley) Vescovi; grandchildren, Daniel Kohl, Michael Kohl, Melissa Kohl, Brandon Crane, Chris Crane, Taylor Epley, Rilee Epley, Benjamin McCullough, Saxon Reynolds, and Alexa Miller; great-grandchildren Alivia Kohl, Elle and Mia Crane, Bennett McCullough, and Denver and Clementine Reynolds. Ray was preceded in death by his loving wife of 65 years, Sue Vescovi (Richey).

Ray was born in New London, Connecticut on May 10, 1929, to the late Theresa and Bruno Vescovi. Ray, a decorated athlete and scholar at Chapman Technical High School, received All-State and All-New England baseball awards in addition to the Lunwall Award for Outstanding Scholar Athlete. He was awarded a baseball scholarship to attend the University of Vermont where he served as team captain for two years, and received All-New England and Yankee Conference recognition. In 1986, Ray was inducted in the University of Vermont Athletic Hall of Fame.

Upon graduation in 1951, he signed with the Boston Red Sox. His baseball career was interrupted by the Korean War, as Ray was drafted into the Army where he served as a First Lieutenant with the 101st Airborne Division for two

years. He was recognized as a best-in-class marksman. Following his military commitment, Ray returned to baseball where he played for the Boston Red Sox AAA Club, the Louisville Colonels. He was awarded a diamond ring for the Most RBIs in his second season. In the off-season, Ray was employed by General Dynamics as a draftsman where he worked on designs for the first atomic submarine, The Nautilus, and the first ballistic submarine, The George Washington. Salaries for baseball players are not what they are today and after three years in the professional ranks, he retired from baseball and settled in Evansville, IN to raise his family.

Ray elected to enter the teaching field, receiving his Master's Degree from Indiana University in 1958. He taught in the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation for 41 years, and served as a high school and college football and basketball official for 39 years. Ray refereed the NCAA regionals as well.

Within the Evansville community, Ray was a member of Resurrection Catholic Church, the Italian American Club, American Legion-Post #8, Knights of Columbus, Eagles, R-Men's Club, Kappa Sigma Fraternity, the University of Vermont Varsity Club and Hall of Fame Club.

There will be a Mass of Christian Burial held at 10:00 AM CST on Friday, March 12, 2021 at Resurrection Catholic Church, 5301 New Harmony Road, Evansville, IN. Ray's final resting place will be in St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, 2500 Mesker Park Drive, Evansville, IN, where the Vanderburgh County Retired Veterans Memorial Club will conduct military rites.

Friends may visit with the family from 3:00 until 7:00 PM on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at Pierre Funeral Home, 2601 W Franklin Street, Evansville, IN and from 9:30 AM until service time on Friday at Resurrection Catholic Church.

Condolences may be made online at www.pierrefuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery

2500 Mesker Park Drive
Evansville, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 11. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Pierre Funeral Home
2601 West Franklin Street
Evansville, IN 47712
(812) 423-6471
info@pierrefuneralhome.com
<https://www.pierrefuneralhome.com>

Visitation

MAR 12. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Resurrection Catholic Church
5301 New Harmony Road
Evansville, IN

Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 12. 10:00 AM (CT)

Resurrection Catholic Church
5301 New Harmony Road
Evansville, IN

Tribute Wall



“ *Pierre Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Raymond Bruno Vescovi*



Pierre Funeral Home - March 09, 2021 at 04:44 PM



“ *Raymond Bruno Vescovi*

January 16, 2023 at 06:53 PM



“ *The Linxwiler family sends our heartfelt sympathy and love.
Eileen writes:
I enjoyed teaching with Ray at Cynthia Heights and playing bridge with him and our spouses (Susie & Gene) many a weekend.*



Eileen Linxwiler - April 18, 2021 at 09:15 PM

“ Dear Ves,

Its what we used to call you, you know, in the years after we left Cynthia Heights and went on to Reitz. When we would come back to visit you, we would call you, “Ves”. You would be so cool and relaxed then. You treated us like we were your friends. We would all be laughing our heads off about this, that, or the other. You were a very intense man when you were in serious mode, but when you had fun, boy did you have fun. You laughed heartily, and often a real belly laugh, which is to say, you put your whole heart into everything you did. With you it was either fully commit or don’t do it at all. We loved you, Ves. You were the best. We revered you. Like the 1980 U.S. Olympic Ice Hockey Coach, Herb Brooks, you pushed us beyond our “limits”. I daresay we were the most physically fit adolescent youth in Vanderburgh County and would easily rival all youth in the state of Indiana. You used to play dodge ball with us, or at other times, basketball. If we weren’t trying our best, or were whining, you would call us out in front of the class. Your classes were not for sissies. For those of us today who are so proud to call ourselves “Old School,” you Ves, were the Father of everything “Old School.”

When I ran track for Reitz, I had desperately hoped that you had been at the meet or had read about me in the paper. I had always liked and honored my track coach, Bob Padgett, but you were the one, Ves, you were the one. When you refereed the basketball games at Reitz, I paid as much attention to you as I did the game. You were just such a dominant personality. A force of nature, really. Raymond, I don’t think we’ll see the likes of you again in our lifetime. You were a once-in-a-lifetime, the original article. And you weren’t just a physical education teacher. You loved teaching science as much as you did P.E. And you were an outstanding teacher, filled with passion for our subject, holding your student’s attention with ease. Mr. Vescovi, thank you for shaping my life.

Thank you for grounding my life. Thank you for teaching me about

blood, sweat, and tears. Thank you, quite frankly, for the masculine initiation you gave me. It's not just those of us who knew you who are going to miss you. Friend, Brother, and Father. America is going to miss you. Please look down from Heaven, Father Raymond, and smile upon us. Whisper in our ear some bit of guidance, and place your hand on our shoulder, giving us something of your grace. Yes, it was my supreme honor to have been your student. Fifth-three years have gone by, and I remember you like it was yesterday. You made an indelible imprint upon my life. May your memory be eternal!

With Love,

Zane T. Nevils (Tuck)

Zane Nevils - March 17, 2021 at 03:58 PM

JD

“ *Our deepest sympathy to Ellen and Family. Your Dad will be missed by so many. God Bless you all during these difficult times and always.*

Love, Jane, Bob, Robby, and Katie Davidson



Jane Davidson - March 12, 2021 at 06:47 PM

MC

“ *Ray Vescovi: teacher, coach, referee. A shepherd with a voice like a claxon.*

Thanks Ray.

Mike Chambers

Michael Chambers - March 12, 2021 at 12:12 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Raymond Bruno Vescovi.*



March 11, 2021 at 09:54 PM



“ *What a wonderful tribute to your Dad.. Enjoyed spending time with Ray and Sue in Evansville. They even introduced us to Citrus Park. We have many wonderful memories shared with them. Sorry for your loss. They will be missed.*

Mike and Del Schiavone

Del Schiavone - March 11, 2021 at 02:36 PM

JS

“ To the family of Ray Vescovi,
So sorry for your loss. I couldn't help to reflect on the day Mr. Vescovi's Obituary was published in the newspaper, it was listing the candidates for the Elementary Teacher of the Year. Wow! Ray Vescovi, after reading the numerous comments from his former students and my own thoughts, should be remembered as the Teacher For All Time Years. He was such a motivational factor in my life. He challenged us in the classroom and in physical activities. I was fortunate to have him as a teacher in 5th through 8th grade daily either for health and science or in gym class on a rotational schedule. There are many memories that I can still recall today from my childhood in the late fifties involving his instruction. With his pushing my study habits were already well formed for high school classes. I will share one memory long after he had retired and I was a teacher myself 3 years ago. During a faculty meeting we were instructed to write down the name of the teacher who had the most influence on our life. Then we would share that name with others. I didn't hesitate and wrote down Mr. Vescovi. When we shared that name with others, to my surprise, another teacher at least 25 years younger than I had written the same name. To top it off Mr. Vescovi had switched schools with the advent of the middle school and was teaching different subjects. This lady and I shared some common thoughts. So he had made a successful and I can only imagine a painful switch, but was still influencing young students. As I stated at the beginning Ray Vescovi, in my mind, is the Teacher For All Time Years. The Evansville community was blessed with his involvement. May his family find comfort during this difficult time, but at the same time be so proud!

Jim Schmidt - March 11, 2021 at 01:34 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Raymond Bruno Vescovi.*



March 10, 2021 at 09:11 PM



“ *Mr. Vescovi was my 8th grade homeroom teacher at Cynthia Heights, way back in 1957-58. Obviously, he has left an indelible impression on his former students. How fortunate so many of us were to have had him as teacher, coach, and role model. Sincere sympathy to the Vescovi family.*
Jane Schnakenburg Chesney

Jane Chesney - March 10, 2021 at 12:11 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Raymond Bruno Vescovi.*



March 10, 2021 at 10:03 AM

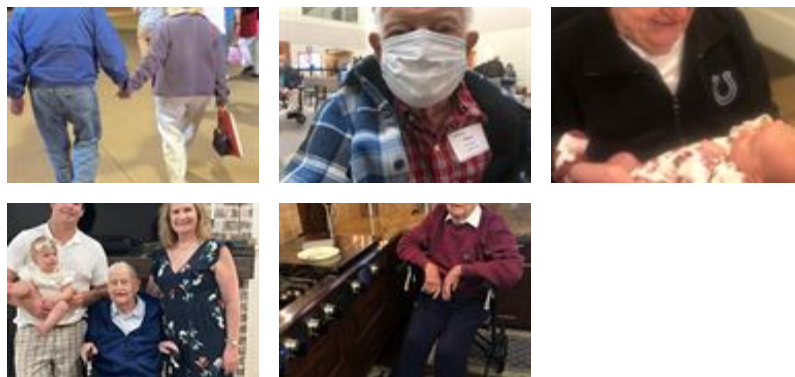
GB

“ RAY AND SUE VESCOVI ADDED JOYS, LAUGHTER AND TREASURED MOMENTS TO OUR TIME IN CITRUS PARK. I LOVED LISTENING TO STORIES AS HE REMINESCED ABOUT HIS LIFE AS A SEMI-PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE AND AS A FOOTBALL REF. HE WAS A GOOD BRIDGE PLAYER WHO WENT FOR THE GOLD!! GOD BLESS ALL OF THE VESCOVI CLAN WITH LOVE AND PEACE.
IN GOD'S GRIP OF GRACE, GINNY BERNSTORF

GINNY BERNSTORF - March 09, 2021 at 05:06 PM



“ 116 files added to the album LifeTributes

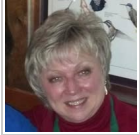


Pierre Funeral Home - March 09, 2021 at 04:40 PM

DC

“ I learned more about science and life from Ray Vescovi than from anyone else in my life. What a great influence he was.

Dennis Cox - March 09, 2021 at 04:36 PM



“ Oh my, I admired and respected him, and after reading about all of his accomplishments, I can see why Mr. Vescovi made a difference in so many lives! I remember being told to fear his science class as I approached the eighth grade, but soon found that although tough, he was kind. I couldn't decide on a science project, so he suggested a sweet potato grown into a beautiful vine which was enjoyed by the class. We added red food coloring to the water that changed it's color.

God bless you, Mr. Vescovi....you will always be remembered.

Linda Ragsdale Link

Linda Link - March 09, 2021 at 04:04 PM

CW

“ There was never a better history teacher for me than Mr. Vescovi. I had him at Helfrich Park and will forever value the lessons that he taught me. Most importantly, respect and hard work. Years later I ran into him at Schnuck's North Park while visiting my parents between med school and my intern year and he was a gracious and caring gentleman, very interested in my plans going forward. I feel that Mr. Vescovi no doubt shaped the lives of countless students over the years and I am thankful to have lessons from him.

Charlie J. Williams

Fishers IN (graduated Reitz HS 1995)

charles williams - March 09, 2021 at 03:50 PM

KF

“ This was a man who made a difference. His teaching style was unique, but, WOW, it worked! I had no trouble with science and math classes in college because it was a review of 8th grade. No textbooks, we took notes! We loved him, feared him, wanted to succeed, and most of all respected him. He may have been gruff, but we knew he truly cared. I know that he made me realize what I was capable of if I gave it 110% and that one year in his class was exactly what was needed. I think of him so often and have talked to so many others who feel the same way and have wonderful Vescovi stories to share. I have a sampler hanging on the wall and I embroidered on it his words that have followed me in my life, A pearl of great value is not given for the asking”. So true and glad I was taught them early by a teacher who lived them. Thank you Mr. Vescovi.

kathy foerster - March 09, 2021 at 12:41 PM

JJ

To the Vescovi Family,
Our heartfelt condolences to you on the loss of first ,your beautiful mother and now your Wonderful father. We were friends of both since 2004 when all of us hit Citrus Park.
We had great times playing bridge, going to dances and shows and participating in many other events. As your parents have departed so have lots of others who started out over 20 years ago. Rest In Peace Sue and Ray. You will be remembered by all. God bless as He welcomes you home.

Jim and Shirley Jaros - March 09, 2021 at 02:17 PM

MJ

“ michael jarvis purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Raymond Bruno Vescovi.



michael jarvis - March 09, 2021 at 12:40 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Raymond Bruno Vescovi.*



March 09, 2021 at 10:30 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Raymond Bruno Vescovi.*



March 09, 2021 at 09:09 AM



“ *We have all had teachers in life that made us better people. I was fortunate enough to have Mr. Vescovi. I think now I can call him Ray. I can also say Ray brought out the best in me. Boy did I learn a lot from him.*

I am sending out prayers for his family and friends.

One of the tough good guys!

Mark Risley

Mark Risley - March 09, 2021 at 07:49 AM



“ *America the Beautiful* was purchased for the family of Raymond Bruno Vescovi.



March 08, 2021 at 08:56 PM

KT

“*Mr. Vescovi was my math and gym teacher at Cynthia Heights. He was known for being tough academically as well as in the gym, with zero tolerance for kids who didn't pay attention, try their best, or otherwise got out of line. He enforced his limits with what he called "Willy the Wasp", and anyone who remembers that will know Mr. Vescovi was a true authority figure who kids quickly learned to respect. At the time, I had a fearful reverence for his authority, his barked words which resounded like military orders, and his mere presence - his classroom and gym demands were gruff voiced; he was lean muscled in stature and always wore a buzzed haircut that anyone with any sense would respect. Today, especially as I understand why his tolerability for kids' nonsense could be limited, I am grateful for his exceptional ability to teach. I still remember and use many of his words of wisdom and phrases that will forever be etched in my mind.*

He would pass out graded exams while we sat on the edges of our seats with fingers crossed, hoping for the best. As he handed each student their exam, he'd bark "READ 'EM AND WEEP!!" (And many disappointed kids would in fact nearly weep or otherwise want to crawl under their desks upon seeing their scores!) Not so fun at the time, but today a hilarious memory...

In gym class, during running laps, jumping jacks and sit-ups, he would count required reps out by grunting loudly like a commanding military sergeant. For kids who couldn't quite find the strength or meet the count, they'd get some extra words barked out for encouragement. I know for fact that some of those kids were made better for it - physically and mentally – and today in their 50's have significant fitness achievements, rewarding careers, and beyond. It was Mr. Vescovi's tough exterior that motivated and challenged kids, though we may not have realized it at the time.

And finally, after many college math courses and nearly forty years later, it remains Mr. Vescovi who serves as a reminder after absolutely drilling in my mind that there is no division by zero and

carrying zeros through when doing math by hand is for “meatheads”. (I owe Mr. Vescovi for my love to this day of using ‘meathead’ as appropriate.)

A few years ago Mr. Vescovi attended a grade school reunion that I unfortunately missed. Wish I'd had the chance to thank him personally. Thank you, Mr. Vescovi, for being an exceptional teacher that had a significant, impactful role in my life and career. Rest in peace, sir. My sympathies to the Vescovi family.

Kristen Toone - March 08, 2021 at 08:19 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Raymond Bruno Vescovi.*



March 08, 2021 at 07:44 PM



“ *Harmon Feather lit a candle in memory of Raymond Bruno Vescovi*



Harmon Feather - March 08, 2021 at 07:33 PM

LG

“ Jim and I met Ray as members of the Italian-American Social Club. I loved the times we could sit next to him at dinner and be regaled with his stories and his wry no-nonsense wit. As a teacher myself, I often asked him for his advice on things, because it was easy to see he was a great one. I hope he and Sue are enjoying a glass of vino together now in paradiso. Con amore, Lois and Jim

Lois M Gray - March 08, 2021 at 02:56 PM

BC

“ Ray and my husband were both teachers at the old German Township School. They coached together and he Sue and I became good friends. We played bridge together, but I don't remember who won. When Lisa and our daughter we little we went to their apartment and Sue made our first Pizza. I have craved it ever since. He was a great person. I will never forget either of them.

Bernice Canterbury - March 08, 2021 at 02:16 PM

MJ

“ Great teacher and role model. Definitely had a big impact on me growing up and was one of many positive influences. RIP Mr. Vescovi.....see you on the high ground.

Matt Jesop - March 08, 2021 at 01:49 PM

RL

“ My sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Mr Raymond! Thank you for allowing me to be a part of his life! I will always cherish our conversations and memories! Rest in paradise my friend!!!

Roel Lopez - March 08, 2021 at 01:11 PM

HC

“ My saddest of hearts to his family. He was an amazing teacher loved him. I asked his wife if I could dance with him at my 8th grade graduation. He impacted my life so much

Heather vaughn(cavanah) - March 08, 2021 at 11:06 AM

KS

“ Mr Vescovi was an amazing teacher. He took a group of young ones and made us into confident young men and women. From the “F-troop” to the “Amen corner” he knew how to keep us engaged. I learned to love history because of him. I will never forgot him and am grateful that I had him as a teacher.

Kelly Snider - March 08, 2021 at 10:41 AM

TJ

“ Jim and I spent many winters in FL with Ray and Sue. We were part of the Monday golf and happy hour group. What laughs we had! Ray always shared stories about growing up Italian and about teaching school. We have loved reading tributes from his students. Jim and I shared a “lobsta” roll over the weekend at one of Ray’s favorite places. We reminisced about all of Ray’s stories and were reminded of a great man. To all of the Vescovi family, you were blessed with wonderful parents. Love and hugs.

Terry and Jim - March 08, 2021 at 09:55 AM

SB

“ *Mr. Vescovi had a profound impact on my life. One of the few teachers for which I have specific memories. He was confident, strong, true to his word, and expected the same from his students. He was a role model and a person that I have looked up to my entire life. His life lessons help in molding me into the person I am today. He had a profound impact on many lives. May he Rest In Peace.*

Stephen Bennett - March 08, 2021 at 08:37 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Raymond Bruno Vescovi.*



March 08, 2021 at 08:04 AM

TT

“ *Mr. Vescovi by far the best instructor[all my friends] we ever had. yes I say Mr. Vescovi be cause he called all of us by our last name. he made us look outside the box, for instance the leaf notebook. I missed talking to him at the ymca, I noticed he was slowing down, but still sharp as a tack. He will be missed, but never forgotten!*

Tony r Thacker - March 07, 2021 at 11:31 PM

TH

“ I've heard a lot about the man from my husband. Mr. Vescovi changed his life because he believed in my husbands abilities & pitched for him to be placed in honors classes where other teachers believed he would fail. Had it not been for him, my husband would not be the man he is today. Thank you so much for believing in your students and pushing them to succeed. You've been a blessing. Prayers for your soul.

tracey hudson - March 07, 2021 at 09:45 PM

CM

“ Cindy and family, so sorry to read of your dad's passing. What an amazing and accomplished man, I know he will be missed. May your memories bring comfort and peace.

Sincerely,
Carol & Daryl Moore

CAROL MOORE - March 07, 2021 at 08:52 PM

DH

“ Middle school history. My mother laughs at the story about me and the coat. I always wore a jacket or coat. I was 87 pounds and freezing cold. One day he said I needed to remove my coat and I said “but I am cold”. Lol he said fine and he gave me his 100 lb wool duster. He thought it was teaching a lessson. He called my mother and asked about the jacket and told her what he made me do. My mom chuckled and said “ she was probably happy and comfy. They had a chuckle and he never asked me to remove my coat again. He was a great teacher. I loved his class.



Dawn Brady Hiner - March 07, 2021 at 08:28 PM

JB

Ray was not only one of my favorite teachers ever, he and Susie were friends of my parents, Lee Roy and Pauline Covey. He had a great sense of humor, which not everyone understood. I truly hate to hear of his passing. He was an original!

Janet Covey Burkes - March 07, 2021 at 09:54 PM

CW

“*Mr. Vescovi taught me history at Helfrich Park in 1985-86 and refereed some of my high school volleyball games. I loved him because he was tough and funny. I remember once in class, a guy got sick in the back of the room. All the kids were getting pretty disgusted by it and Mr. Vescovi says, “That’s nothin, in the military we’d be fighting over the big chunks with straws!” We all laughed and he went right back to teaching. He was a great teacher.*”

Carrolette Winstead - March 07, 2021 at 08:08 PM

DH

“*Mr. Vescovi was a wonderful teacher and role model. Was my teacher in the 70’s saw him a few years ago on the riverfront and he remembered who I was. He will be missed.*”

David Hyslop - March 07, 2021 at 07:55 PM

TB

“*Lisa, I’m sorry to hear about your Dad. May he Rest In Peace with your Mom at his side once again and may your memories get you through this time. My sympathy and prayers for you and your entire family.*”

Terri Graves Blazier - March 07, 2021 at 07:49 PM

CM

“ Mr. Vescovi was one of my favorite teachers. Some kids thought he was too strict but I as a middle schooler could tell he was a no nonsense who really cared about education and us kids learning. I was blessed some years ago seeing him out at a store and I told him how much I appreciated his teaching and that he was one of my favorite teachers. He was so kind and thanked me with a smile on his face. I'm sorry to your family and his friends for the loss. Grateful he's with God now.

cara muensterman - March 07, 2021 at 07:42 PM

JJ

“ Condolences to the entire Vescovi family. He touched so many lives. Great teacher and role model. We still tell “Mr. Vescovi” stories. Prayers for Christ's peace as you celebrate his life.



Jan Jenkins - March 07, 2021 at 07:23 PM

KC

“ Mr. Vescovi taught my dad and me. I saw him just a couple years ago at the American Legion and stopped to say Hi to him and take a selfie with him. He was sure one of a kind. He was the best teacher I believe I ever had. He is the teacher who was hard. the one you didn't act up in class, you knew you didn't want to get in trouble in Mr Vescovi's class. Once you grew up many looked back and still talk to about him and how you had such respect for him. The one teacher you would never forget. Prayers to his family and friends. but man what a life he had. many of his former students are shedding a few tears tonight as well. Mr Vescovi if you see my dad in Heaven make sure he is behaving.

Kelly Pfender Clark - March 07, 2021 at 07:07 PM

KA

“ *Mr. Vescovi was an amazing science teacher, a nice, handsome and supportive teacher. A class friend and I had a crush on him in 7th grade, and brought him a Christmas present to his home. His kind wife answered the door with a knowing smile on her face, also very kind to two young silly girls. I'm glad he lived a long and exceptional life. I never knew of his many accomplishments but am not surprised. He was special and will be missed by his family and friends.*

Kathy - March 07, 2021 at 04:13 PM

MD

“ *Ray Vescovi was a great teacher, coach and mentor to me as I grew up. I loved the man as an instructor and later on as a friend. He is one of the few men who helped me shape my life! May God rest his soul.*

Mike Derrington

Mike Derrington - March 07, 2021 at 03:06 PM