



Robert "Bob" William Reading

April 23, 1959 - April 1, 2025

Robert "Bob" Reading, 65, passed away on Tuesday April 1, 2025. He was the oldest son of five children, born to William "Bill" and Natalie Reading in College Park, MD. Growing up in Prince George's County, one of Bob's biggest passions was sports - namely baseball. Playing baseball throughout his entire childhood he went on to play, and eventually coach, at both Northwestern HS and Prince George's Community College. His academic career took him to the University of Maryland, where he cultivated another one of his passions: music. Bob spent many years as a DJ at College Park staples such as The Vous and The Back Room and later in life, on Kent Island, he brought his love of music to countless weddings, school dances, and parties.

For over 30 years he worked as an Environmental Planner in Prince George's County, 22 of them even after moving to Kent Island, MD with his wife and children. After retiring from the county Bob worked for the local Post Office and liquor store in Stevensville. Though his career evolved over the years, two constants remained: baseball and music. Most members of the KI community recognize him as "Coach Bob", "DJ Bob", or plain old B-O-B! For three decades Bob dedicated his time and expertise to coaching various levels of youth, travel, and high school baseball and softball on Kent Island. Recently, he was named the head coach of the Freshman team at DeMatha Catholic High School in Hyattsville. Most importantly, he shared his love of the game with all three of his children, coaching them from t-ball through high school. If

it involved baseball, he found a way to be part of it—whether as a coach or as a devoted fan, following his daughter’s softball career at Drexel University or his sons’ time at DeMatha.

Beyond sports and music, Bob enjoyed fishing, birdwatching, and reminiscing. His stories often featured Baltimore Orioles legends, notable celebrities he encountered while working as a bouncer at Jaspers, and the time he kicked out Hall of Famer Boomer Esiason out of The Back Room—twice. He was an avid Maryland Terrapin fan.

When Byrd Stadium opened, his father Bill purchased season tickets. Bob grew up watching football games on the 50 yard line and eventually would bring his own family to do the same.

Bob will be remembered for his kind and easygoing personality, his ability to fill a dance floor, and his knowledge of the game of baseball. Most importantly he will be remembered for the love he had for his family, friends, and athletes. He is survived by his former wife Arlene Reading; his daughter Jennifer “Jenn” Reading; his sons William “Bill” Reading (Bonnie Reading) and Daniel “Dan” Reading (Natalie Reading); his siblings Barbara “Bunny” Gronki (Joe Gronki), Richard “Rick” Reading (Eileen Reading)”, Noel Reading, and Charles Reading; his grandchildren Elijah and Genevieve Reading who will carry his memory with them along with many members of the Kent Island community.

There will be a private funeral service for his immediate family on Wednesday April 9, 2025. A celebration of life will be held April 13, 2025 and in lieu of flowers or gifts, the family would like to accept any donations to help offset the costs of throwing the party they know Bob would love and deserves. All are welcome, and more information can be found at the following link <https://www.facebook.com/share/15936NYeyz/>

Previous Events

celebration of life

APR **13**. 4:00 PM (ET)

Fisherman's Crab Deck
3032 Kent Narrow Way S
Grasonville, MD 21638
(410) 827-6666

Tribute Wall

MN

“ Mary & Victor Niagro purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Robert "Bob" William Reading.



Mary & Victor Niagro - April 17, 2025 at 01:47 PM

MN

“ Mary & Victor Niagro planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert "Bob" William Reading.

Mary & Victor Niagro - April 17, 2025 at 01:47 PM

PA

“ Paula lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" William Reading



Paula - April 13, 2025 at 11:25 AM

PA

I remember Bob as his childhood neighbor during our elementary and junior high years, and as one of his classmates at College Park Elementary School, where we played Greek dodge during recess and participated in the President's Physical Fitness program and at Hyattsville Junior High/Middle. I'm so sad to hear of his untimely passing, and I want to express my sincere condolences to his family.

Paula - April 13, 2025 at 11:40 AM

JW

“ Joey Wilson purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Robert "Bob" William Reading.



Joey Wilson - April 11, 2025 at 11:51 AM

GR

“ So sorry to hear of Bob's passing. Bob's love of baseball goes back many years. I remember visiting with Uncle Bill when Bob was 4 or five and throwing and batting the ball around with him and his dad. He was a great guy and Kathy and I send our deepest sympathies.

george reading - April 10, 2025 at 12:38 PM

DH

“ I enjoyed my years coaching with Bob at KI, always a bright light to the players and coaches. He will be missed!

David Haber - April 07, 2025 at 07:33 AM

KG

“ When I first back home to Kent Island in 1998, the Readings were one of the first families who I met when my daughter started playing softball here. She was on a team with their daughter Jenn. You talk about one fun-loving, kind and adorable family! Ms. Arlene is all sociable and witty and Mr. Bob was just this kind and low-key as possible. I later had the honor and privilege to work with Ms. Arlene at Kent Island Elementary School and I would see Mr. Bob frequently throughout the community at sporting and school events. Ms. Arlene, I'm so sad to hear of the loss of Mr. Bob. You all will be in my thoughts and prayers. Know that you can reach out to me or my family at any time. We love you all. God bless you all and Rest in Heavenly Peace Mr. Bob.



Karen Green - April 05, 2025 at 10:14 AM

TA

We are so sorry to hear about your loss! We had Bob Dj dome of our events like our daughter sweet 16 and both of our girls graduation parties! Bob was such a light always stopped my husband to ask about our girls! We are deeply sorry, God bless you all! RiP Bob 🙏 The Wolod family

the wolod family(amanda and allie) - April 08, 2025 at 08:16 AM

PC

“ Pamela Chaney purchased the Express Sympathy and Condolences "I Have You in My Heart" with Butterfly Wind Chime for the family of Robert "Bob" William Reading.



Pamela Chaney - April 05, 2025 at 07:01 AM

PC

“ Pamela Chaney planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert "Bob" William Reading.

Pamela Chaney - April 05, 2025 at 07:01 AM