



## Ralph Bunche Holloway

February 8, 2024

Ralph Bunche Holloway, affectionately known as Bear, was born on October 8, 1949, in Oberlin, Ohio, to Fred and Luereacie Holloway. He was the youngest of nine and departed from this world on February 8, 2024.

Ralph's journey began in Oberlin, where he attended Oberlin High School. It was there that he showcased his talent and passion for football, earning the most valuable player award in 1965 and graduating in 1967. His remarkable skills caught the attention of Woody Hayes, leading to his recruitment to The Ohio State University Buckeyes football team.

As a pivotal member of the "super sophomores", Ralph's contributions were instrumental in the team's success. He proudly represented The Ohio State buckeyes in the 1969 and 1971 Rose Bowls. His dedication and hard work bore fruit with two National Championships in 1968 and 1970.

In addition to his athletic achievements, Ralph pursued his academic aspirations, earning a Bachelor of Education from The Ohio State University. His commitment to excellence extended beyond the field, earning him the Varsity O for football in 1968, 1969 and 1970.

Ralph played briefly in the Canadian Football League for the Toronto Argonauts and then taught in the Columbus public schools. He went on to

enjoy a fulfilling and rewarding career as a Sales Executive for Worthington Industries until his retirement. Subsequently, Ralph waged a hard fought, valiant battle with Multiple Myeloma.

To those who knew him dearly, Ralph was more than a sports icon; he was a beloved husband, father, uncle and loyal friend. His radiant smile illuminated the lives of many and will forever be cherished in their memories. Throughout his life, Ralph touched the hearts of countless individuals with his kindness, generosity, and unwavering compassion.

A true embodiment of integrity and perseverance Ralph approached every endeavour with enthusiasm and determination, inspiring those around him to strive for excellence. He was an extremely good judge of character. Whether in his personal or professional life, Ralph exemplified the values of honesty, humility and resilience. His legacy of love and kindness will forever endure in the hearts of those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Ralph Holloway is preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Luereacie Holloway, as well as his brothers; Albert C. Holloway, David, L. Holloway and James R. Holloway and his sisters; Carrie Linell Walker, Louise Holloway Glover, and Luereacie "Reacie" Holloway.

He is survived by his beloved and devoted wife, Sandra Lavis Holloway; his two sisters, Martha Hodge and Ada (William) Dixon; his son, Adam (Danielle) Holloway; and his granddaughter, Zelda Holloway to whom he was "Grandbear". Additionally, he leaves behind a host of very special nieces, nephews and countless friends, who will continue to honour his legacy.

Though Ralph Bunche Bear Holloway may have departed from this world, his spirit lives on in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to know him. Rest in peace, dear Bear, your memory will forever be treasured.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ralph's name to:

[thepmcf.ca/donate](http://thepmcf.ca/donate)

A Celebration of Life will take place in Oberlin in the spring.

# Tribute Wall

CH

“ So shocked and deeply saddened to hear of Ralph’s passing . We will always remember his warmth, his spirit and infectious smile. A beautiful soul gone far too soon. Our heart goes out to you Sandra at this difficult and heartbreaking time. May you find peace and healing. All our love, Colleen, Rob, Brooke and Lauren xo

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**Colleen Hoyles** - March 30, 2024 at 05:22 PM

JB

“ I called him Sniper. I used to see this guy sitting on his balcony on Longboat Key when I walked through the parking lot. Most of the time he was listening to music. It was as if he was watching over the place from his perch. One day I got off the elevator and there he was with Sandra. What a smile! We became fast friends. We talked about family, music, wine and sports. He turned me into a Buckeye fan. It was his genuine nature, kindness and compassion that left a lasting impression on me. I cherished our friendship and think about him often. I miss you Sniper.

*My deepest condolences Sandra, and to the rest of the family. John Brett*

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**John Brett** - March 05, 2024 at 07:46 PM

MC

“ We are so sorry to hear the sad news about Ralph. We did not know Ralph at the time he played football but in any encounter we had, Ralph had this genuine smile. He was always pleasant to be around and brought happiness to his surroundings. Our condolences to Sandra and his family for the loss of a wonderful human being. Mostafa and Carole



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**Mostafa & Carole** - February 21, 2024 at 08:06 PM

TE

“ Ralph was a wonderful, caring friend and neighbor. He was very competitive and tried hard at everything he did. Ralph and I played Hot Stove baseball for several years together. He played first base and I played second...and we won several county titles and one state title together. I hope I can live the life he lived so I can see him again in heaven! Terry Eastin

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**Terry Eastin** - February 21, 2024 at 11:34 AM

TB

“ The smile says it all!  
That's what I remember. Sure, tough on the field, always seemed to work hard and got along with everybody. He helped make us all better.  
He was one of the good ones! We were lucky to know and have him as a teammate!  
Tom Backhus

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**Thomas Backhus** - February 19, 2024 at 07:33 PM

CH

“ I ran into Bear at O'hare. I had not seen him in quite some time. He greeted me with his trademark radiant smile and of course a bear hug that nearly crushed me ! Ralph was special.

*Chuck Hutchison. OSU Teammate*

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**Chuck Hutchison** - February 19, 2024 at 02:07 PM

MC

“ We are two of those blessed to have called Ralph a dear or best friend. Whether listening to tunes curated on a disc from the “Bear’s Den” or discussing a good movie or of course our beloved Buckeyes - just being with him was enough. Dinners shared, sunsets in Longboat and Niagara on the Lake with him and Sandra. Special times. Most of all, we honor him for the grace and stoicism he showed while enduring the indignities that a lengthy illness can pose. A big man with a big heart. We’ll miss him so.

*Tom and Marty Campana*

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**Marty Campana** - February 18, 2024 at 03:39 PM

SW

*So sorry to hear about Bear. It was always so much fun to see him at our Buckeye get togethers. His laugh was always so infectious. God Bless him and his family. He definitely will be missed by so many*  
*Stan and Patty White*

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**Stan White** - February 19, 2024 at 05:57 PM

JR

*Ralph and I worked together at Worthington steel.we had a great time playing golf together*

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**jim rapp** - November 27, 2025 at 08:17 PM

DG

“ Bear was an Oberlin High School Icon for his character, athleticism and example on and off the field and beyond. He made Oberlin Proud! He's back Home with The Lord. Our deepest sympathies to his Family. 🙏🙏🙏 Dean and Susan Gibson

Dean Gibson - February 18, 2024 at 05:48 AM

SP

From pick up baseball and football games and basketball games to little league baseball traveling teams, where legacy started as a home run hitter . I remember Ralph coming home on his bike with his gallon of Dog and Suds root beer for each home run he would hit, which was at least 2 a game this is were his legacy started to A other Magnificent Oberlin Marching Band as a trumpeter, then Mr. Kalin got him to play football , what a blessing ,Gold Helement award Lorain County. I could go on and on.

We had a great time and our friendship lasted 65 memorable years,

Miss u Buddy 🙏🙏🙏

Condolence to his family and all that got the to know him 🙏

Rest in Peace Ralph!

Skipp Pettiford - February 20, 2024 at 11:08 AM

TO

We did not meet Ralph prior to the onset of his illness. We became friends through some of the most difficult days of his life. His resolute optimism, openness and passion for life were; and are; truly inspirational. We will always remember his smile, and cherish his friendship. Tim & Betty O'Neill

Tim O'Neill - February 27, 2024 at 10:39 AM

CP

Our sincere condolences. Carol & Kurt V.P.

Carol Von Pasecky - March 02, 2024 at 12:31 PM