



Robert D Boxell

November 20, 1930 - June 19, 2017

Robert D. Boxell, Newburgh, IN

Robert D. (Bob) Boxell, 86, of Newburgh, IN passed away June 19, 2017 at Deaconess Gateway Hospital. Bob was born Nov. 20, 1930 in Muncie, IN, son of George and Maud Boxell. Bob loved his family, including his high school sweetheart and wife of 66 years, Peggy, son Bob (Marta), grandsons Andy (Elizabeth) and Mark, and great-grandson Zach. Bob was an all-state running back and all-state pitcher at Muncie Central High School, and is a member of the Delaware County Athletic Hall of Fame. Bob signed out of high school in 1949 with the Pittsburgh Pirates, and gladly turned over his \$500 signing bonus so his father could buy a new car. Bob played one year for the Pirates farm team in Bartlesville, OK, then was traded to the Detroit Tigers, playing one year in Wausau, WI before an arm injury ended his career. The end of his baseball career led to the start of his true professional passion, a career in politics. He served as president of the Indiana Young Democrats and served on the campaign of Birch Bayh during Sen. Bayh's upset victory in 1962 over Homer Capehart. Bob was asked to serve on Sen. Bayh's staff in Washington, and did so for seven years, including the senator's successful re-election campaign of 1968. Bob was inspired to enter politics when he saw the deplorable conditions that his father and others worked under as factory employees in Muncie. Bob always strove to give a voice and power to working class citizens who did not have the financial strength or status to force change themselves. He urged Sen. Bayh to vote for passage of Medicare in 1965 even as the American Medical Association fought to stop the bill. Bob also began the national effort to give the President direct authority to provide emergency funds to communities suffering through natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes and tornadoes. Prior to his suggestion, which soon became law, Senate approval was necessary for such funding, causing delays that cost lives. Bob later implemented the statewide Commercial Drivers License Program and Indiana's version of the National Voters Registration Act of 1993 under Gov. Evan Bayh, who in 1996 selected Bob as a prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash. In retirement, he volunteered on political action committees for AARP. Bob was an artist, an animal lover, a prolific reader, and even penned his own novel in the spirit of one of his favorite authors, Agatha Christie. The family would like to thank the staff at Golden Living Center-Woodlands, River Pointe Health Campus and Deaconess Gateway Hospital, caregiver Jeanette Perkins, and Dr. David Schultz. A private celebration of Bob's life will take place at a later date. Contributions in his name may go to the Warrick Humane Society, 5722 S. Vann Rd, Newburgh, IN 47630.

Private Service:

Monday, June 19, 2017

Tribute Wall

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Ray Scheele of Chicago & formerly Muncie

I just learned of Bob's passing. I worked on Larry Conrad's campaigns and I found a great mentor in Bob. He had an intuitive sense of what issues and policies should be addressed and I always asked his advice on policy positions and speeches. He was instrumental in so many ways. He will be missed by me, I know, and dozens of others. Ray Scheele
