



John "Jack" Bobroff

December 5, 1935 - January 3, 2014

John "Jack" Bobroff, age 78, resident of Albuquerque for 64 years, died Friday, January 3, in his home.

Jack was born on the Walker River Paiute Reservation, Shurz, Nevada, the son of Henry Kenneth, a doctor for the Indian Health Service, and Millie (Crockenberg) Bobroff, a registered nurse. He was deeply impacted growing up with his younger brother, Robert Lyman, who was born with Down's syndrome.

Jack attended Washington Jr. High and graduated from Albuquerque High School in 1963. He was an avid Lobo fan his entire life and earned his Bachelors, Masters, and Doctorate degrees in Education at the University of New Mexico.

He began his career as an elementary teacher in 1957, retiring 37 years later as Superintendent of Albuquerque Public Schools. Jack taught junior high and high school English and Social Studies and served as Elementary, Junior High, and High School Principal, working at Mission Elementary, Taft Jr. High, Ernie Pyle Jr. High, Valley High, Kennedy/Tomasita and the Career Enrichment Center. Later he served as an Assistant Area Superintendent, Area Director of Middle Schools and Director of Staff Development for APS. He directed the UNM Community College and taught Basic English at the Technical Vocational Institute (CNM). Throughout his career he was always a strong advocate of parent advisory councils and PTA's.

Jack was APS Superintendent from 1988 to 1994. His proudest

accomplishments in the position were leading the district's transition from junior high schools to middle schools, year-round education, school-based health clinics (precursors of community schools), and site-based management/school improvement teams. He initiated strong efforts with northern and central New Mexico school districts to develop instructional support.

The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and the New Mexico School Administrators named him "Administrator of the Year" and the Albuquerque and New Mexico School Secretaries associations named him "Boss of the Year". Other distinctions included Albuquerque High Honor Graduate, Phi Delta Kappa Spotlight on Quality, Outstanding Service Award – United Way, Fellow at the National Endowment for the Humanities, University of Wisconsin, Conference Planning Committee and Board of Directors for the International Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, and President of New Mexico ASCD.

At the heart of Jack's leadership was bringing people and organizations together, putting aside differences to work for a common vision for teaching children. Throughout his life, Jack paid close attention to the people he worked with and almost always remembered the names of those he knew made a difference to children.

He believed deeply in equality and the value of diversity. Upon being given the 2010 Martin Luther King Award, he said two of his proudest moments were being given a "Giraffe" Award for "sticking his neck out for kids" and helping found the MLK Multi-cultural Celebration, the City's first and now in its 24th year.

Jack carried three aphorisms with him: "Remember that nothing is as unequal as the equal treatment of unequals"; "We are created and are present on this earth to make things better, not to let things be"; and "It is better to seek forgiveness than to ask permission."

After retiring as Superintendent, Jack served on the Advisory Board of Eagles' Wings Youth Ranch, Governing Board of Amy Biehl Charter High School, and

Board of Directors of the New Mexico Educators Federal Credit Union.

Jack served as a deacon at Hoffmantown Church and was active in the Men's Ministries. As a Christian, his faith reinforced his beliefs that all people are created equal, that all should be treated with dignity and respect, that we must be slow to judge, and that we should all be committed to serving our fellow human beings.

Jack leaves his beloved wife of 26 years, Bettye, and her brother, Paul Morris; son Jay Bobroff and his wife Louise Martinez, daughter Dana Bobroff and partner Michael Mirimanian, son Kip Bobroff and his wife Michele Pfeiffer, son Michael Bobroff, daughter Kara Bobroff, son-in-law Paul Campbell, and step-son Steven Coffey and his wife Sandra Ayala Coffey; grandchildren Jason Bobroff Clay, Desiree Martinez, Matthew Martinez, Jackie Bobroff, Reed Bobroff, Kaitlyn Coffey, and Gabriella Coffey; great-grandchildren Naomi, Nikki, and Josiah Martinez, Xander Parra, and Azzlyn Martinez; dear friend Ona Bellino; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

He was pre-deceased by his parents and brother. In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to Eagles' Wings Youth Ranch, PO Box 465, Mountainair, NM 87036 or the Native American Community Academy, 1000 Indian School Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104 (www.nacaschool.org).

A visitation will be held Sunday, January 5, 2014, 3:00 p.m., at FRENCH – Wyoming. Memorial Services will be held Monday, January 6, 2014, 10:30 a.m., at Hoffmantown Church, 8888 Harper Dr. NE. A reception with time to share remembrances will follow the service.

FRENCH – Wyoming

7121 Wyoming Blvd. NE

(505) 823-9400

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 5. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (MT)

FRENCH Funerals - Cremations (Wyoming)

7121 Wyoming Blvd NE

Albuquerque, NM 87109

(505) 823-9400

<https://www.FrenchFunerals.com>

Memorial Service

JAN 6. 10:30 AM (MT)

Hoffmantown Church

8888 Harper Dr. NE

Albuquerque, NM

Tribute Wall



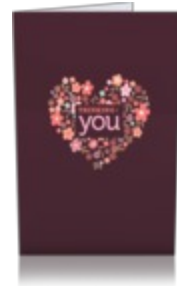
“ French Funerals created a Tribute Video in memory of John "Jack" Bobroff



FRENCH Funerals & Cremations - January 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM



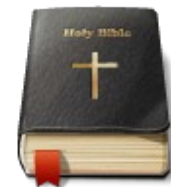
“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of John "Jack" Bobroff.



January 17, 2014 at 12:10 PM



“ Dear Bettye,
Our hearts ache for you. JR and I are saddened by this news. Our prayers and thoughts are with you today. We know that God will carry you through day by day and give you His strength to carry on. What a kind man Jack was. He had so many accomplishments. God used him (and you) in a mighty way to His glory. May His love sustain you and heal you.
Love in Him,
JR & Amy Turner



Amy Turner - January 17, 2014 at 10:47 AM

CK

“ Dear Bettye and Family,
Our prayers are heartfelt for you and your family. My father Ed Marinsek, and Jack were lifelong, dear friends and treasured colleges. They loved teaching, people and the culture of New Mexico. They enjoyed many memories as educators and friends.
With much love,
Cassandra Kitchens

Cassandra Kitchens - January 13, 2014 at 05:25 PM

RR

“ Dear Bettye and Family,
So sorry to hear about Jack. I knew Jack first as a parent, having taught math to his great kids at Taft Junior High School, then as Bettye's husband when she was Assistant Principal at Sandia High School and, of course, as APS Superintendent. After 45 years of teaching in three different districts, I can truly say that Jack was the best superintendent I ever had!! Also, thanks Jack and Bettye for keeping an eye on both of our sons who were great friends in high school! You are all such special people and I loved seeing the photos on this site. Such great memories!!
Love to all,
Randa Ryan

Randa Ryan - January 12, 2014 at 01:56 PM

GR

“ Dear Bettye & Family,
We were saddened to learn of Jack's passing. We met Jack & Bettye thru ASCD & NMASCD. Jack was respected as an educational leader statewide as well as at the National level. A true Christian gentleman. We send our love & prayers.
GC & Jan Ross, Clovis, NM

G C Ross - January 10, 2014 at 05:11 PM

PE

“*Mr. Bobroff was a great inspiration in my life"! My wife and I will miss him and the wisdom, advise, and kind words he gave to people and friends alike. He was a leader in the education field and He gave me advise on what favorable paths to take in life and for that I truly appreciate his wisdom! His legacy will live on and He will not be forgotten!"*

Phil and Judy Ewing

Phil Ewing - January 07, 2014 at 02:32 PM

LW

“*I knew Jack as a school administrator, but really developed an understanding of the kind of man he was in my interactions with him at Hoffmantown. He was truly a man of God who lived his faith. God's Peace and Blessings to the family and the assurance that Jack has gone home to be with the Lord.*

Larry Waters

Larry Waters - January 07, 2014 at 12:57 PM

JV

“ I was sad to hear of the loss of Jack, but also really appreciated the difference he made in so many lives. I enjoyed attending the funeral yesterday and hearing all of the positive stories. He was the superintendent which appointed me to my first principalship and I always enjoyed my interactions with him. He was always concerned about each one of us as individuals and you knew that he was going to be there to support you.

I also really appreciate Betty and all of her support through the internship program. The two of you made a huge difference in my career. I was really happy to hear about your deep faith and know that that will help you get through these times.

We will miss him!!

Jack Vermillion

Jack Vermillion - January 07, 2014 at 09:25 AM

KV

“ Dear Bettye and family,
Our deep condolences to you and your family!
Only meet Jack once, but you were such a special person during my tenure with the Bernalillo School Board, I wanted to let you know how sad I am for you. May God give you strenght and courage!

*Sincerely,
Karin Vallo*



Karin Vallo - January 06, 2014 at 09:02 PM

VS

“ *Dearest Bobroff Family,
My dearest heart goes out to you! Jack gave me his dedication and support as the head man of APS. We have laughed at Sandia parties as friends. I had your son Mike at SHS - "Marine"- I am proud to have been loved and always having his and your support. He was the best Superintendent that APS ever had.*



*God Bless To You All,
Vicki Scorsone-Smith
1979- 1996*

Vicki Scorsone-Smith - January 06, 2014 at 08:37 PM

FL

“ *Dear Bettye and Family,
We were saddened to learn of Jack's death and send our deepest sympathy to each of you.
We will continue to appreciate his many accomplishments in serving the youth of our city and long remember a fine friend and gentleman.
May you find great comfort in your memories of a wonderful husband, father and grandfather.
Frank and Judy Love*

Frank and Juy Love - January 06, 2014 at 08:12 PM

GW

“ My condolences to Mr. Bobroff's family. He was my 7th grade teacher at Mission Ave. elementary and later my boss at UNM Visual Aid Dept. Mr. Bobroff was a big inspiration in my life in many ways. He treated everyone he met with respect and equality and always remembered me & would take the time to talk and sincerely ask how my life was treating me anytime I happened to see him. I thank God he was a part of my life.
Gayle Webb

Gayle Webb - January 06, 2014 at 07:46 PM

JF

“ To the Bobroff family, Steve and Sandra Coffeey and friends; our deepest condolences at your loss of your loved one. I will never leave you nor forsake you saith The Lord! And Mr Bobroff heard The Lord call him and went home. May he be remembered and not forgotten!

Joe Valdez and family - January 06, 2014 at 06:26 PM

JL

“ Bettye, we have many fond memories of times spent together on Credit Union trips and at other CU events. Your testimonies of God's work in your lives was always encouraging, and the service today was really a special tribute to the faith that you both espoused. May God comfort you and the family during this time as Jack's homecoming is celebrated. You are in our prayers -- John & Lucy Landis

John Landis - January 06, 2014 at 05:29 PM

BB

“ We attended the wonderful tribute to Jack's life today! Just seeing your family together is a living memorial to Jack's love of life, people, and creative spirit. That we may all continue to live as joyfully as Jack did! It was so good to hear of Jack's faith, which was a blessing. May you continue to rest in His hands as you remember the life that gave so much to so many of us.
Barbara and Bert Blackwell

Barbara and Bert Blackwell - January 06, 2014 at 05:24 PM

NM

“ Jack leaves a hole as big as his heart, but also leaves sweet memories. We have two we'd like to share. Weeks before the APS announcement of Jack as superintendent, we had invited Jack and Bettye to dinner. As it happened, a day or two before the scheduled announcement, we contacted Bettye and said that we'd understand if they'd like to postpone dinner at our house. However, Jack being Jack, said that no matter what, he would be at our house for dinner. So...we entertained the new superintendent of APS! We gave him a drink, after which he proceeded to take his shoes off, put his feet up and relaxed in our den. It made us feel that we were as special to him as he was to us.

We said there were two...oh, yeah! The second is one that most of our Ernie Pyle colleagues remember with a belly laugh! Jack was to address our faculty, and our good friend and his, Toots Obenshain was asked to introduce him. Toots got a bit flustered and said, "I'd like to introduce my friend Jack Bobroff..." However, she inadvertently switched the "Jack" and the "Bob" Jack responded, with his great sense of humor, "Please don't have Toots introduce me next time!"

Knowing Jack was a gift, one that we will always treasure.

Tony and Nancy Monfiletto, AKA, the Monfo's!

Nancy Monfiletto - January 06, 2014 at 04:06 PM

RS

“ Bettye and family,

Jack's service today was beautiful, as was Jack's life. We feel blessed to have had some small piece of both.

Jerry & Rhonda Seidenwurm

Rhonda Seidenwurm - January 06, 2014 at 03:52 PM

BS

“ *Bettye and family,*

In knowing Jack as both a colleague and friend for nearly a quarter century, he was an absolute treasure. Jack was a gifted educator and a wonderful human being. His humanity, thoughtfulness, integrity and humor will all be missed--and all will be remembered for a very long time.

He was as special as special gets.

Bill Slotnik and Jack and Bettye's CTAC family

Bill Slotnik - January 06, 2014 at 12:18 PM

KB

“ Please accept our sincere condolences to the entire Bobroff and extended family.

"Mr. Bobroff" as we would never call him Jack, created terrific memories and gave us a few life lessons.

He should be credited with putting together the basketball team which won the Albuquerque Jr. High Championship in 1974, going undefeated (12-0) and went on to become the Valley Viking team ranked #1 in the State in 1977 for 18 weeks as it was he who drove all over the north valley picking up seven of us and with Jay, took us to play basketball on Friday nights in 1972, 73 and 74.

After 3 hours of basketball, he would occasionally take us to eat pizza and I still don't know how he could afford the meals with the few dollars we could chip in on the income even an APS Principal made then.

His giving principals are still reflected in the record book. Jay Bobroff to this day is still #1 in the State High School Basketball record book for single game assists.

He pledged his life calling to an educational system in which entry demands a college degree, is constantly demanded to educate to a higher degree, in ever increasingly dangerous situations and yet, our elected officials can't budget a payment offering to reflect their contributions.

He may have worked towards changing that had he not simply been forever overwhelmed in the daily schedules he kept.

I learned a great life lesson from Mr. Bobroff. You should never buy a used car from a Principal with five children as it probably has 600,000 + miles and was probably never shut off long enough to have the oil changed. Not to mention, it has probably transported 20 or 30 thousand kids from FFA to basketball, swimming and who knows what else.

Mr. Bobroff, you will forever be remembered

*Kevin Bobb
Stanley Sherred
Leonard Roybal
Andrew Sanchez
Rip Lambert
and so many more.*

Kevin Bobb - January 06, 2014 at 09:05 AM

JM

“ *I will always remember Jack's smile and his laugh. His encouragement and wisdom were paramount in my life. I am a better person for knowing Jack and his angel of a wife, Bettye. I will see you again someday.*

Judy Martin-Tafoya

Judith Martin-Tafoya - January 06, 2014 at 09:04 AM

GG

“ *May the peace of God be with you at this time. Bettye our condolences to you and the family, you are in our thoughts and prayers. One of the highest compliments for a person is that he cared and that was certainly true of Jack. He cared about people and about situations and was always there to offer help when there was a problem. A friend since the mid 1950's, he will be missed. We are so sorry for your loss.*

Gene and Sandy Golden

Gene and Sondra Golden - January 05, 2014 at 09:26 PM



“ 56 files added to the album Memories Album



FRENCH Funerals & Cremations - January 05, 2014 at 06:18 PM

MW

“ *How wonderful to have known such an amazing leader and human being. I once visited Jack in his office (while I was teaching at Washington Junior High) and we shared laughter and stories about his days at "La Washa" as a student and my adventures there as a teacher.*

My heart goes out to you, Bettye, my former administrator at Ernie Pyle and a forever friend. May God be with you and your family and may you know that many hundreds of friends have a better life for knowing you and Jack. May you find peace in your heart.

Special love your way,

Martha West

Martha West - January 05, 2014 at 04:56 PM

PT

“ My condolences go out to the entire Bobroff family. God be with each of you as you grieve the loss of your beloved Jack. May you find peace in the knowledge that you will one day be together again for eternity.

I had the pleasure of working for Jack in Staff Development at APS for three years. What an incredible, passionate and compassionate man he was! If each of us could leave the extraordinary legacy that Jack has, what a lovely world it would be.

Rest in peace, Jack.

Pat (Ripple) Tode - January 05, 2014 at 04:03 PM

PA

“ We had a wonderful time with Jack, Betty and Leta last Summer while they were visiting Cleveland. These two dinner engagements will always be fondly remembered. Our prayers are with you Betty and family at this time.

Our Love

Pat and Stan Andrews

North Royalton, Ohio

Pat and Stan Andrews - January 05, 2014 at 03:56 PM

RR

“ Jack was a wonderful man, full of integrity, wisdom and compassion, a great man of God. He will be sorely missed by his family and friends. We have many fond memories of him and it was a honor to call him our friend.

Bettye, you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. May God bless and keep you, and may you find peace and comfort in knowing that he is at peace.

All our love and sympathy,
Ray & Pat Renteria



Ray & Pat Renteria - January 05, 2014 at 02:56 PM

KD

“ I will dearly miss Jack. He was a unique, caring person. Goodbye, but only for a while. Romans 12:10

Ken Delfeld

Ken Delfeld - January 05, 2014 at 02:54 PM

NB

“ Bettye, please accept my condolences regarding Jack. Whenever I saw him whether it was in a professional setting or a social situation, he always made time to chat and share a word or two with me. He was a wonderful man and an excellent APS leader. He will be missed and mourned by the community as well as the family who mourns him.

Nanci Beckes

Nanci Beckes - January 05, 2014 at 02:38 PM

TJ

“ On behalf of the French Family of Companies, we express our deepest condolences.

Tom Jordan - January 04, 2014 at 07:24 PM

CW

It was an honor to have worked with and served under Jack's leadership. He was one of life's treasures and a good friend. My heart goes out to Bettye and family. May God bless and grant them peace!
Carl Weingartner

Carl Weingartner - January 05, 2014 at 12:04 PM