



## Harold Alan Strobel

June 11, 1931 - August 3, 2024

Harold "Harry" A. Strobel, age 93, of Prior Lake, MN, passed away peacefully of natural causes on August 3, 2024. Born on June 11, 1931, Harry was a cherished husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and a dedicated educator and musician whose impact resonated throughout the Minneapolis/St. Paul community and beyond. Harry was preceded in death by his parents, Harold Sr. and Loretta M. (Troiden), and his beloved wife, Nancy (Allan). He is survived by his sons Randy (Joan Furlong), Todd (Nancy), and Mark (Sue); his daughter Loni Fisher (Jerry); and his very special friend, Maggie Olson. He leaves behind a legacy of seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

A distinguished figure in the world of music, Harry dedicated his career to inspiring young musicians. After graduating from the University of Minnesota with bachelor's and master's degrees in music education and serving as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, Harry became a teacher. From 1955 to 2002, he served as the band director at the Richfield, MN, junior high schools, nurturing countless students who went on to achieve success in life, symphonies, military bands, and other musical endeavors. His passion for music was evident not only in his teaching but also in his own performances.

Harry's musical journey began in his teenage years when he formed his first big band while attending Washburn High School in Minneapolis, where he

also played championship football and ice hockey. He continued to perform and lead musical groups throughout his life. His talent on the trumpet, clarinet, saxophone, and piano was a hallmark of his long-standing presence in the local music scene. At Canterbury Downs in Shakopee, Minnesota, Harry played the trumpet to start each race for more than ten years. In addition to his musical talents, Harry had a lifelong love of football, especially for the Minnesota Gophers and Vikings.

Harry's influence extended far beyond the classroom and stage. His dedication to his music, his students, and his family and friends made him a beloved figure whose legacy will be cherished by all who knew him.

A visitation will be held at Washburn McReavy Dawn Valley Chapel, 9940 Bush Lake Road, Bloomington, MN 55438, on Thursday, August 15, 2024, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, and again on Friday from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. A service of remembrance and burial will follow at 11:00 AM.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to The Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies (<https://gtcys.org>), ensuring that his legacy of inspiring young musicians continues for years to come. As an alternative, donations to the American Diabetes Association would also be greatly appreciated.

[www.Washburn-McReavy.com](http://www.Washburn-McReavy.com)

Dawn Valley Chapel 952-941-7686

# Cemetery Details

## Dawn Valley Memorial Park (Bloomington)

9940 Bush Lake Road  
Bloomington, MN 55438

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **15**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Dawn Valley Chapel  
9940 Bush Lake Road  
Bloomington, MN 55438

## Visitation

AUG **16**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Dawn Valley Chapel  
9940 Bush Lake Road  
Bloomington, MN 55438

## Funeral Service

AUG **16**. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (CT)

Dawn Valley Chapel  
9940 Bush Lake Road  
Bloomington, MN 55438

## Graveside Service

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AUG **16**. 12:00 PM - 12:15 PM (CT)

Dawn Valley Memorial Park (Bloomington)  
9940 Bush Lake Road  
Bloomington, MN 55438

# Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Funeral Service for Harold Alan Strobel in memory of Harold Alan Strobel



Washburn-McReavy - August 13, 2024 at 06:48 PM

BD

“ I had the privilege of serving as Superintendent of Schools during the last several years of Harry Stobel's long teaching tenure in the Richfield Schools.

*I have enjoyed reading the well-deserved tributes Harry received from former Richfield administrators, teaching colleagues and students.*

*As an administrator, I was continually impressed by Harry's determination to provide any student who was interested an opportunity to play a musical instrument. As an example, Harry approached me with the idea of seeking donations from outside organizations and individuals to support the purchase and repair of used instruments, which would be loaned to students for as long as they participated in the music program. Thus was born the "Musical Instrument Loan Program," which was supported by annual grants from the Richfield Rotary Club.*

*My deepest sympathies to Harry's family. There is a bit less music in our world today, but I am confident Harry is organizing a band in Heaven! Barbara Devlin*

Barbara Devlin - August 16, 2024 at 11:57 AM

PB

“ So deeply sad and sorry to hear about Harry, I was a server long ago at the retirement home he lived in and he was always above and beyond kind to me and my sister who now works there and got to know him as well. He always remembered me and had a smile on his face and will always be one of my favorite residents.

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**Payton Beasley** - August 15, 2024 at 09:31 PM

LB

“ Very sorry to hear about Mr Strobel. My dad, Neil von Busch, was choir teacher also at Richfield for many years and enjoyed working with him very much, and always spoke highly of him. Take care, the von Busch family

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**Laura von Busch** - August 14, 2024 at 06:30 PM

AE

“ Harry was an amazing teacher, mentor, and believer in people. I had the great honor to work beside him at Richfield Junior High/Middle School and Richfield High School for many years mid-80s and 90s. My phrase to describe Harry was always " If you did what he told you, you would learn to play the band instrument". It was a vision of pride to see him blow the post-calls at Canterbury Downs, to see him teach a class or lesson, and to listen to the stories of his own learning - going to where the musicians were in the metro area to listen and learn. The joy and drive of Harry Strobel is no doubt carried on in countless people - some of whom are superb musicians and some who learned to love music because of him. We will miss Harry's infectious smile and endless patience. Energy and love to his family and friends, and our gratitude to you for sharing Harry with the world.

*Amy Erickson, former Richfield Band Director*

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**Amy Erickson** - August 13, 2024 at 05:13 PM

JM

“ I attended East Junior High 1970-1973, and Mr. Strobel was a big influence in making me the musician I am, even today. He encouraged me to expand from clarinet to oboe and saxophone. He made it possible for me (and a few friends) to join an adult band he conducted one evening a week, so we could learn from playing along with more mature musicians. He taught me basic chord structures and how to arrange a simple piece for a small ensemble. He allowed me to help instruct beginners during the summers. He was an amazing and caring teacher, who encouraged involvement and musical creativity. I've thought of him often through the decades. He will be greatly missed. My deepest sympathies to the family. Julie (Warner) Murawski, RHS Class of 1976.

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**Julie (Warner) Murawski** - August 12, 2024 at 03:12 PM

DT

“ I'm a 1978 Richfield graduate and was a student of Mr. Strobel at East Jr. High. He was the best teacher I ever had. With his help I learned to play the trumpet, trombone and baritone. Wonderful man and teacher!

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**Dick Tomkinson** - August 12, 2024 at 01:50 PM

G1

“ Some of my best memories from Richfield East Jr. High, 1971-1974, are from playing in the band under Mr. Strobel, especially the performance group he put together, CL Directions. He made us feel like pros!

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**Gary Wood, RHS 1977** - August 12, 2024 at 11:22 AM

JD

“ Under Mr. Strobel, I learned how to play first the recorder, then the clarinet and later the bass, having spent many years with him from 4th through 6th grade at RIS - I refuse to call it the Stem school - he loved music as much as his students loved him and he was a wonderful person to learn music from.

J Delzer - August 10, 2024 at 06:08 PM

MH

“ I played dance jobs with Harry for over 30 years. Can't begin to say how much about music I learned from playing with him. He had a friendly professional charisma that made everyone feel great. I miss him very much.

Mark Henjum - August 10, 2024 at 10:29 AM

TS

“ Mr. Strobel was the first teacher I ever really liked a lot and one of the best teachers I ever had. On the first day of junior high school in 1976 I went to choir and very quickly discovered that wasn't the place for me. Immediately after class I walked down the hall to speak to Mr. Strobel about joining the band. He told me to bring some drumsticks the next day and I could play the drums and I've been playing ever since because he gave me an opportunity. He was a great guy! Rest Well Sir!

Tony Stroud - August 09, 2024 at 04:41 PM

MP

“ Mr. Strubel was my band director for 7th through 9th grade at Richfield Junior High School. He was a great guy and a terrific band director. So sorry to hear of his passing. RIP Harry.

MIKE PALMQUIST - August 09, 2024 at 12:05 PM

GO

“ Harry was great! Figured out a way any kid could play an instrument. Only band teacher I knew that let a kid play drums even if they didn't play piano. He understood music was for everyone. Bless you Harry. Gen Orr

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**Gen Orr** - August 09, 2024 at 09:56 AM

LO

*Am so sorry for the demise of your beloved father may God give you strength and comfort during this trying moment we are together in prayers Loice*

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**Loice** - August 09, 2024 at 08:30 PM

NS

“ So sad to hear. Was the best band director inspiring so many of us to appreciate and love music. Plus 43 years ago his band honored me by playing at my wedding. Nancy (Steen) Stull

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**nahncy stull** - August 09, 2024 at 09:33 AM

MH

*I played dance Jobs with Harry from 1986 until just the last few years. I can't even tell you how much I leaned about music during those years and I very much miss playing with him and his cheerful friendly professionalism.*

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**Mark Henjum** - August 09, 2024 at 11:55 PM