



John Sever Bianchi

December 9, 1940 - December 20, 2024

John Bianchi (84) passed away on December 20, 2024. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Janice, their four children, Steve, Michelle, Tony (Lynn) and Joe (Jodi), eight grandchildren (Mario, Isabel, Lucienne, Marco, Mia, Sophia, Alexa and Jack), his sister, Jaselta Lorenz, and former daughters-in-law, Susan and Jodi.

John was born in Virginia, MN on December 9, 1940. He grew up on the Iron Range and graduated from Mountain Iron High School. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree from Bemidji State University, where he played baseball. Upon graduating, he married Jan and they moved to Bloomington. John began his career in education with the Bloomington School District in 1962. He later earned his Master's degree from Minnesota State Mankato, in addition to other certifications throughout his career.

John was a Teacher, Coach, Dean of Students, and Principal at several schools in Bloomington, Stillwater, St Paul, and Minnetonka High Schools. He created many friendships with his fellow colleagues, and his impact was strongly felt by those around him. John took pride in knowing everyone in the school community; students, faculty, and staff alike. He had incredible recall of his students' names, their activities, and usually their parents.

Of his many roles within the schools, he notably became one of the first chemical dependency counselors in Minnesota Public Schools in 1979. John took pride in helping students with life challenges by always coaching, supporting, developing, and caring. He had a rare ability to make everyone

around him feel seen and respected. Most will remember him as a high school coach of sophomore football, girl's golf, fastpitch softball, and of course, boy's hockey, where he coached all three of his sons.

As a father, Dad insisted we work hard, never quit, and take pride in our schoolwork, activities, and relationships with our friends. "Pride & Hustle" was his mantra at home and later on with Jefferson teams. He was so much fun to be around. He and Jan took the same approach with their grandchildren who absolutely adored him. He helped reinforce life lessons, attended their activities and most games (and coached before, during, and after from the stands). He even introduced the grandkids to Caddyshack, Dumb and Dumber, and other classics to keep it fun.

John adored his wife, Jan, and it shows in the 62 years they were married. They enjoyed many summers at the lake, traveling to Italy with friends, and just spending time laughing together. While John was able to pursue his passion of helping people through his teaching and coaching, he always credited his wife Jan as the head coach at home.

John will miss his Iron Range vs. South Central golf matches at New Prague Golf Course where many friendships continued outside of work. You could always count on hearing a funny golf story from his many rounds with Mike Thomas, Stan Skjei, and Cal Lindman. Even at the nursing home, he was the greeter and leader, always positive, and caring for other residents and the staff!

We appreciate the outreach from friends and others who knew John. Thank you for sharing your condolences and memories of him. He will be remembered as a great Father, Grandfather, Friend, Coach, and Colleague. He will be missed by us all.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 9. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Bloomington Chapel
2300 W. Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, MN 55431
(952) 884-8145
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

Visitation

JAN 10. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Richard's Catholic Church
7540 Penn Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423

Memorial Service

JAN 10. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Richard's Catholic Church
7540 Penn Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423

Tribute Wall

SA

“ My favorite year of football was our sophomore year with coach Bianchi and Lynch. Everyone of those players (I believe we only had 22!) would run through a wall for those two coaches. They treated us with respect but also held us accountable to perform at our best. They made the game fun and in return we performed. More importantly, the life’s lessons we learned: work hard, be disciplined, laugh a lot, and regardless of winning or losing, take pride in your effort. Both of these coaches treated us like men and I will be forever grateful! Scott Anderson

Scott Anderson - January 10, 2025 at 08:35 AM

MK

“ Memories I have of and with John over the past 70-some years could fill a book! He was a true friend who could brighten even the darkest of days, always there with a story or a memory that we shared over the years. Having someone like John in my life was a gift. Words can’t adequately reflect the sorrow I feel over his loss. To Jan and his family I extend my most sincere condolences and thanks for sharing this wonderful man with the rest of us.

Marvin Koski - January 09, 2025 at 09:33 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Sever Bianchi.

January 08, 2025 at 03:31 PM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of John Sever Bianchi.



January 08, 2025 at 03:31 PM



“ John is a "Bloomington Hero" who made a difference in the community and with each person he touched. His legacy wil live on with stories that will make you smile! God Bless you John and your family.

Rod Axtell

Rod Axtell - January 08, 2025 at 12:29 PM



“ John was a wonderful man, wicked sense of humor and a real positive influence on my life. John, you will be missed.

Tom Kendall - January 08, 2025 at 11:17 AM



“ John was an absolute treasure as he welcomed me to Mountain Iron in 1956. He was a proud Ranger, who didn't mind greeting Packsackers warmly. Our friendship spans 70 years. We reunited in 1965 in the Bloomington Public Schools. There were memories, too numerous to share, but, his and Jan's friendship has been life-long. We love you, and, will never forget you, Johnny B!

Russell Peterson - January 07, 2025 at 07:08 PM

RB

“ Johnny was a great guy who always had a smile. I first met him in about kindergarten in the little town we lived in called Mt. Iron, Minn. and we would play neighborhood baseball games and we were all Yankee fans. Johnny and his family had a Chesapeake Bay Retriever called Brownie but it was actually a "community" dog and everyone knew Brownie. (0-:) I had not seen Johnny in a long time and bumped into him one time while he was shopping in Bloomington and he hardly recognized me and I said " Aren't you the one time former owner of a dog named "Brownie" and he got a huge smile across his face. My sister Shirlee was good friends with his sister Jay. God Bless Johnny Bianchi. A great guy and sports enthusiast and a personable gentleman. Rodney Beystrom, Mound, Minn.

Rodney Beystrom - January 05, 2025 at 08:19 PM

MW

“ We have many wonderful memories watching the Bianchi Family skate, especially at the Bloomington Ice Garden. Many loving and joyful conversations with John.
Ken and Marlene Wright family (Paul, deceased, Molly and Jane).

Marlene Wright - January 02, 2025 at 06:26 PM