



## Ted L. Williams

January 17, 1926 - January 15, 2021

Ted L. Williams was born on January 17, 1926 to David and Irene (Brown) Williams in Knoxville, Iowa. Ted participated in many sports during his High School days at Knoxville with Track being his favorite. Upon graduation in 1944, Ted joined the Marine Corps and spent many months overseas at various locations during his Military Career. Upon completion of his Military Career, Ted enrolled at Simpson College to obtain a degree in Education. He graduated in 1951 and started his Teaching Career with stops at Elkhart and Pacific Junction before arriving at Harlan in 1955. Ted spent two Summers at Wyoming University to obtain his Masters Degree. He was the Basketball and Track Coach and assisted with Football during his early years at Harlan. Ted retired from teaching in 1987 with 32 years of service with Harlan High School.

Ted place second in the Discus throw at Drake Relays in his Senior year of High School. Certificates rather than medals were given the participates during the War years. Some of his close friends in Altoona made the Drake Relays Personnel aware of the award. Drake Relay Personnel made a Medal presentation to Ted on his 93rd Birthday, 75 years after he had won the award

Ted started youth baseball in Harlan during the Summer Months. His early team was better known as the Michel's Midgets. Later years, Ted started the Baseball program at the High School. Ted enjoyed Baseball and spent most of his Summer Months for many years as American Legion 7th District Chairman promoting Youth Baseball in the Area.

Ted was united in Marriage on August 25, 1952 to Donna Joens in Highland Park, Illinois. Donna passed away on January 12, 2000 after 37 plus years of Marriage. Ted reconnected with Gloria Nichols a former Classmate from Knoxville. They spent 14 years together living in West Moines and Altoona areas. Gloria passed away on December 23, 2017. Ted continued to spent time in Harlan and Altoona. Ted often remarked that he had three Special Ladies in his Life. His Mother, Donna, and Gloria.

Ted passed away in Des Moines on January 15, 2021 just short two days of his 95th Birthday. Survivors include Special Friends Harlan and Jocelyn Van Wyk and their extended Family of Runnells, Iowa, Randy and Deb Nowatzke of Harlan, Bernie Heller of Council Bluffs; nieces and nephews: Larry Stangl, Beth Stangl Clarke, Suzanne Stangl-Erkens, Jack Spitler, Dave Spitler, and Bill Johnson; and many friends and former

Students.

Interment with Military Rites will be held Friday, January 22, 2021 at 12:00 PM at Graceland Cemetery in Knoxville, Iowa.

# Cemetery Details

## Graceland Cemetery - Knoxville, Iowa

102 Willetts Drive  
Knoxville, IA 50138

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

JAN 21. 6:00 PM (CT)

Pauley Jones Funeral Home - Harlan  
1304 Ninth Street  
Harlan, IA 51537  
harlan@pauleyjones.com

# Tribute Wall

KD

“ Ted was a very special person in my life. He coached me in baseball from the time I was 5 years old until I graduated in 1968. We learned to play hard, work hard and have fun. He and my Grandpa Caporal spent a lot of time together talking baseball. One of the things I remember best was the candy bar sales in the summer to raise money for the cubs team. Ted was a great motivator and we sold a ton! I had Mr. Williams for a Civics teacher in high school and even though it was not my favorite subject, he made it interesting. About baseball, when Ted found out I could run fast and beat out bunts, he gave be that bunt signal a lot. I guess it was because he knew that if I didn't bunt I would probably strike out (which I did a lot also). We worked together in the summer park recreation program and he gave many opportunities to umpire the young kids' games while I was in high school. Many times in my life when the subject of baseball comes up I tell those to which I am talking how cool it was to have Ted Williams as my coach. Of course they are thinking Boston Red Sox Ted Williams. He set a great example for me and I was able to raise my son to love baseball and become a 3 time college All American. He was a great man and I will never forget him.

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**Kirk DeWees** - January 28, 2021 at 07:50 PM

FD

“ Ah the stories from Caporals I could tell..... Ted was one of my absolute favorite visitors to Grandpa Caporal's store. He and Donna were such wonderful people (even though Ted wouldn't let me onto the Midget team before I reached the right age which I often brought up to tease him even after I turned 17). He was also a genuinely great teacher. He was never condescending, always made Civics class interesting, didn't play favorites, and as I recall, I never heard him utter a bad word about anyone. We saw him often at Cap's and he coached my brother's in baseball. He was a pretty darned good coach. Grandpa Cap one told me I'd be lucky to get to play on a team coached by Ted. Wish I had. Grandpa and dad had great respect for Ted and he was always welcome at the store. So happy tp know he made it to 94. Sad to know he is no longer here. Rest in Peace Coach and friend Ted. Please tell Donna I send my best.

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**Frank DeWees** - January 25, 2021 at 11:38 PM

KH

“ We could not of had a better neighbor and friend. The first time we met, he said "Hi, I am Ted Williams, my husband, Jim, said Hi, I am Pete Rose." From that time on they were the best friends and buddies. We so enjoyed his stories about his war years, teaching, and coaching. I can only imagine how great it would have been to have Ted as my teacher and coach. He always gave his all to whatever he was involved in. We will miss our dear neighbor and friend greatly. So glad we had the opportunity to know him and all his accomplishments. Thanks Ted for your good works. Blessings.

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**Kay & Jim Hamilton** - January 22, 2021 at 10:50 AM

PJ

“ 1 file added to the album *Ted Williams Funeral Service*



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**Pauley Jones** - January 21, 2021 at 08:44 PM

LC

“ You won't find a nicer man. I had Ted as a teacher in high school and he actually made learning about government fun. But I really got to know Ted as a person during 4th of July BBQs at Deb and Randy Nowatzke's. He was so funny and so intelligent. We had very long conversations about my dad's military service in WWII and Ted's military service. We also shared our latest jokes. Cheers, my friend, you will be missed.

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**Lori Christensen** - January 20, 2021 at 04:32 PM

JK

*Ted was one of my favorite teachers! He was the best! Made learning fun!*

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**Jan Kloewer** - January 20, 2021 at 08:24 PM

JM

“ I was a neighbor to Ted and Gloria in Altoona. We started a Wednesday afternoon coffee group at Hy Vee. That's when we got to know Ted the best. Ted's sound memory, quick wit, and fun stories always gave me great pleasure. We learned about his getting 2nd place in the discus at the Drake Relays, and how he didn't receive a medal. So on his birthday we arranged a special surprise birthday party for Ted. The party included some special gifts, 108 cards from people in Harlan, a discus and a lot of fun. The highlight was a presentation of his long over due medal, from the Relays Director and other Drake people. This included 3 TV station's video cameras and reporters. Plus the Des Moines Register and a reporter from Knoxville. Ted became a media sensation for a couple days.

*If I could sum up the 5 years I knew Ted, I would say he was the sharpest, nicest, and coolest 94 year old I have ever met. I will really miss Ted. I know my neighbors will too.*

*Rest in peace, John Morse*

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**John Morse** - January 20, 2021 at 03:32 PM

HV

“ Ted became a special family member to us after he re-united with Gloria, my mother in-law, in 2006. We had 11+years with Ted and Gloria and 3+ additional years with Ted only, as Gloria passed in late 2017. Ted was a remarkable man with many interests and stories ranging from his childhood, the war years, and of course his days as a teacher and coach. The students in Harlan certainly had a great teacher and role model and I was fortunate to have had the privilege of learning and interacting with him these last 15 years. It was a special honor to be his guardian to Washington D.C. on a World War II Honor Flight a few years back. He had a bedroom at our lake house which we named Ted's Room. T

*ed, we miss you and love you and will always remember the special place you had in our family. Jo & Harlan Van Wyk*

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**Harlan VanWyk** - January 20, 2021 at 02:41 PM

HV

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Harlan VanWyk** - January 20, 2021 at 01:04 PM

HV

“ 15 files added to the tribute wall



Harlan VanWyk - January 20, 2021 at 01:00 PM

HP

“ It was April 25, 2018 at our Wednesday afternoon coffee group, when the guys were talking about their high school athletic activities, that Ted mentioned he had done track and received a certificate for throwing the discus at Drake Stadium. A few days later he invited me across the street to his home to see that certificate. I took pictures of it and him. Several months later I asked our group if we could do something to recognize him.

They all agreed (Ted wasn't present). With great help from many sources a Birthday Party and Medal Presentation Event happened Jan. 17, 2019. It was a total Surprise and I'm told if he had known about it, he wouldn't have shown up. That's the kind of guy he was, unassuming, humble, yet very intelligent and caring, always a teacher and coach.

Herb Phillips

HERBERT E. PHILLIPS - January 20, 2021 at 11:25 AM

HV

Thank you Herb for organizing the birthday event for Ted and all of the work that went into this event. For anyone interested you can still find the media videos at:

<https://who13.com/news/iowa-marine-receives-drake-relays-honor-75-years-later/>

or

<https://www.kcci.com/article/altoona-man-receives-drake-relays-medal-75-years-later/25941929#>

Harlan VanWyk - January 20, 2021 at 07:06 PM

JW

“ Ted and Donna were longtime family friends in Harlan. We became friends when our Mother, Martha Mayr, worked at Pauley Furniture and Donna worked in the Courthouse.

Remembering the many good times we shared, still brings laughter. Ted and Donna were both special to us

Deepest sympathy to the Stangls and Van Wycks. Thank you for all you did for Ted.

Rest in Peace, Ted, as you join your three ladies.

Patsy Mayr Hoogensen and Ken  
Jeanie Mayr Woods

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Jeanie Woods - January 20, 2021 at 01:41 AM



“ 30 files added to the album Memories of Ted



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Anna McCullough Hoegh - January 19, 2021 at 06:17 PM

GH

Hi Anna my name is Glennice Williams Hutton Ted is my 2nd cousin His Dad David and mr grandpa Thomas were brothers. I just found this on google I have been trying to find Ted for awhile. I would love to get copys of all his awards and other family informatio n. My phone is 515-988-9021.

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Glennice Williams Hutton - July 11 at 04:32 PM

DB

“ *Doug Baker lit a candle in memory of Ted L. Williams*



**Doug Baker** - January 19, 2021 at 03:02 PM

DB

*Mr. Williams was my teacher (History), and my coach (football) and believe me when I say he was one of the best. He always had a smile on his face and time to talk to you. Rest in peace Coach and please say hi to Donna for me. You will be missed by all of us, until we meet again. Doug Baker*

**Doug Baker** - January 19, 2021 at 03:20 PM

BH

*When my wife & I went to get our marriage license, we needed a witness. Ted happened to be there, so he & Donna volunteered. He was a great coach and teacher. Our class of 64 liked him so well we invited him to our 50 th. class reunion. Rest in peace. we will miss you. Bob & Judy Hoogensen.*

**Bob and Judy Hoogensen** - January 20, 2021 at 06:21 PM



“ *Ted was one of the smartest 95 year old people I ever had the chance to meet. Always had fun with him at our weekly coffee bunch. Ted, you will be missed!*  
*Mark & Kathy Holiday*  
*Altoona, Iowa*

**Mark Holiday** - January 19, 2021 at 01:24 PM

RS

“ *Ted Williams was not only a great teacher in the classroom but on the basketball court as well. I was lucky enough to experience both. He always tried to instill the 'basics' as well as the 'finer points' in all of us. I was fortunate to reconnect with him at a recent class reunion.*

*Thanks, Coach, for all the lessons in the classroom, on the court, and in life.*

*Rest well, Coach. You will be missed.*

*Bob Stofferson*  
*Class of 1957*

**Robert Stofferson** - January 18, 2021 at 09:17 PM

“ *Mr. Williams was my teacher twice. He taught me and my wife Claudia history and civics in high school. Then in the 1970's we had a group of folks from the Harlan Police Dept. and others interested in taking a government class through Iowa Western Community College. Iowa Western told us that if we could generate enough interest and recruit a sufficient number of students for that class, they would have it presented locally. Well it worked and we attended that class at the local Harlan Community High School. I was surprised when I walked in to find Mr. Williams was the teacher of our class. We all enjoyed that class so much and told Mr. Williams as much. He said, he too, enjoyed teaching that class because, unlike high school students, these students wanted to be there to learn. He said those students brought a lot of life experience and knowledge to that class and he too, learned from them. What a humble guy he was.*

*Some years later I saw Ted at the funeral of my father-in-law, Jack Carmichael. Ted used to go out to see Jack and Helen at the farm so he could burn things that he couldn't in town. Ted and Jack had become good friends over those years. Ted told me again how much he enjoyed that government class he taught.*

*we have very fond memories of Mr. Williams. He ran the good race and he will be missed.*

*Rusty and Claudia James*

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**Claudia and Karol (Rusty) James** - January 18, 2021 at 06:28 PM

DS

“ Uncle Ted was married to Donnie, my mother's sister ---

*I have lots of memories of visiting Uncle Ted and Aunt Donnie in Harlan with my parents and my brother Jack while growing up. One year we went to spend Thanksgiving with them in Harlan. Jack and I were out playing outside and Mom came out to tell us dinner would be late and not to come in the house. Aunt Donnie had cut her finger bad while slicing the turkey. Uncle Ted would play catch with Jack and I. When I was in grade school I would ask my friends if they knew Ted Williams. They would be excited and say yes and I would say he was my uncle. My friends thought I was pulling their legs but he was into baseball and loved being a coach. Several years ago we went to visit Ted in Harlan, We stopped to visit him in Altoona also. Always loved our visits with Uncle Ted. We were so happy to be able to share in his 93rd birthday when he received his Drake Relay Medal 75 years after winning the award. I had mailed his 95th birthday card last week and planned to call him on the 17th, sorry we missed that conversation. He is free of any pain and reunited with his three special ladies and lots of loved family and friends. Rest in peace Uncle Ted.*



*Love you Dave and Joyce Spittler*

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**Dave Spittler** - January 18, 2021 at 04:28 PM

BC

“ Ted was my uncle who was married to Donna, my mom's sister.

*When we were living in Knoxville and my little sister was born, I had to give up my dog Floppy. He was mean, but I loved him. I was heartbroken when we had to give him away. Uncle Ted volunteered to take him home to Harlan, and it meant so much to me that he wouldn't be given to strangers who might mistreat him. Also, it meant I could visit him.*

*I spent several weeks of the summer at their house in Harlan when I was 13 and 14. They didn't have any children, so they treated me like their daughter rather than a niece. Aunt Donnie would take me to work with her at the court house where she'd give me little jobs to do. Uncle Ted would take me to the baseball field, where I'd hang out with him while he was taking care of his coaching responsibilities. We'd go to the drive-in, out to eat and miniature golfing. He and Aunt Donnie hooked me up with the kids of their friends, and we'd spend time at the swimming pool and their houses.*

*Over the past several years, my husband and I would go and visit him and take him out to lunch on his birthday. I sent him a card on Thursday for his Sunday birthday. My calendar says, "Call Uncle Ted" on that day. I'm sad I missed the chance to talk to him one more time.*

*Uncle Ted was such a loving presence in my life, and I am so thankful to have been a recipient of that love.*

*Beth Stangl Clarke*

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**Beth Clarke** - January 18, 2021 at 03:07 PM

LC

“ Ted and Donna hold fond memories for me as Ted was a teacher of mine, and Donna was a good friend. They were good people and Harlan sports excelled both for children and students! God bless you Ted. Rest in peace.



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**Lynne Carroll** - January 18, 2021 at 02:45 PM

LS

“ Ted was my uncle by marriage, married to my mom’s sister, Donna. Growing up in Knoxville, Iowa, I have such fond memories of Uncle Ted and Aunt Donnie spending Christmases with us over the years. I remember him tutoring me in English Composition when I was struggling in high school. He was so patient with me and I told him years later how much it helped me in my adult career. He and my dad were the best of friends, having a common experience of combat duty in the South Pacific during WWII. Several decades ago, I was playing blackjack in a casino outside Reno, when a dealer came on duty wearing a nametag with Harlan, Iowa as his hometown. I do not remember his name but when I asked him if he knew Ted Williams, he gushed with enthusiasm about “Coach Williams”. Ted will be buried with his sweet Donna, just a few graves away from my mom and dad. Rest in Peace, Uncle Ted.

Larry Stangl

Larry Stangl - January 18, 2021 at 02:35 PM

JF

“ Jim & Kay Hamilton & Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Ted L. Williams.



Jim & Kay Hamilton & Family - January 18, 2021 at 12:05 PM

PB

“ He was my role model. As my government and history teacher he inspired me to be a political science and history teacher and later to be a school superintendent for 35 years. His smile and true feelings for each student could find the best in all. Thank God for all teachers like Ted Williams!

phil burmeister - January 18, 2021 at 07:15 AM

DH

“ Ted was one of my favorite people and a dear friend. He was a good and genuine man. I will miss our conversations, his sweet smile and a heart of gold. Heaven gained an angel.



Deborah Hastert - January 17, 2021 at 09:19 PM

HP

“ *Heather Ploen lit a candle in memory of Ted L. Williams*



Heather Ploen - January 17, 2021 at 08:59 PM

HP

*Ted was a kind and generous man. For several years, Ted and I attended the Christmas Cookie walk with Dr. Allen. He was always very friendly and easy to talk to.*

Heather Ploen - January 17, 2021 at 09:03 PM

DN

“ *Above and beyond being an educator Ted became a forever friend of most all his students and just darn near anyone he met and if you by chance ran into him after graduation he could usually remember a story or two about you and even what year you graduated. Along with loving his family he loved his country that he so proudly served and was so eager to teach his students about. All of us that knew Ted knew his love of the game of baseball and I can't begin to even guess the number of young people he guided into being a baseball player and teaching them the love of the game. What a gift he had and was so willing to share. Anyone that knew Ted knew he loved and appreciated life as you could most always tell this when you saw his God given smile and the way he lived his life. What an honor and privilege to have been your student but more an honor to have been your friend. Rest in Peace dear Mr. Williams. May God bless your soul. You are loved and will be dearly missed. Until we meet again. Randy and Deb Tierno Nowatzke*

Deb Nowatzke - January 17, 2021 at 08:49 PM

LG

“ Prior to COVID we old codgers from Venbury met on Wednesday afternoon for coffee at the Hy-Vee in Altoona. The conversations amongst the eight or so gathered probably would seem a little strange and amusing to those sitting within ear shot. I found Ted to be the most interesting of us gathered there. No matter what the conversation was he was always smiling and jestful. His knowledge of the Constitution and its application along with the history of our country was nothing short of amazing.....his stories when he was still playing ball and later on coaching along with his military history was as if we had followed parallel lives and then suddenly crossed paths. My point being, Ted could have been anyone's big brother, helping, guiding, being just a good friend and neighbor. Yea, Ted was a member of the "Greatness Generation". We are better people for having known him...until we meet again.

lynn gibson - January 17, 2021 at 07:50 PM

MT

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. Mr. Williams was a great teacher at Harlan Community High School. He was always kind and fair to everyone! Mike & Mary (Gubbels) Tremel Earling, Iowa

Mary Tremel - January 17, 2021 at 03:48 PM

NL

“ Ted was my favorite teacher. He always had time to visit and his smile was so great. I will miss him.



Nancy Lytle - January 17, 2021 at 01:30 PM

PK

“ Ted, you were my all time favorite teacher, and I considered you a friend. Prudy Schell Konley.



Prudy Schell Konley - January 17, 2021 at 01:00 PM

CK

“ Craig Kroger lit a candle in memory of Ted L. Williams



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**Craig Kroger** - January 17, 2021 at 08:18 AM