



## Richard J. Close

February 21, 1936 - November 27, 2023

Richard J. Close passed away peacefully on November 27th at the OhioHealth Kobacker House surrounded by family. Born in Miami, Florida to Jewell Chester Close and Gladys Patton, Richard (Dick) grew up in Westerville, Ohio where he was an outstanding athlete lettering in basketball, baseball and football. He graduated Otterbein College after also studying at Ohio State University and went on to pursue his passion for teaching high school biology. Outside of the classroom, he was a revered boy's baseball and basketball coach at Dublin and Olentangy high schools and led his Dublin squad to a runner-up finish in the 1963 Ohio state baseball championship. Following his many years of teaching, he worked in the insurance industry. After meeting Carol S. Barghausen at Westerville high school, they married in September 1958. They had two children, Michael and Casey. While he adored the New York Yankees and Ohio State Buckeyes, nothing surpassed the love for his two sons as Dick spent countless hours dedicating time at the ballpark and providing the love and support necessary to help them thrive. Since Carol's passing in May of 2021, after 62 years of marriage, Dick was comforted by his extended family, especially Carol's brother and sister-in-law Wade and Gail Barghausen. Dick leaves behind a family that loved him immensely including two children; Michael Close and Casey Close (wife, Gretchen); four grandchildren, Jonathan Close (wife, Tanya), Connor Close (wife, Lexi), Kaia Close and Christian Close; and one great-grandchild Maeve Close. Plans for a private celebration of life are being completed. Please visit

Foundation.OhioHealth.com/Hospice (<http://foundation.ohiohealth.com/Hospice>) to offer your condolences. Please visit [www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com) to offer your condolences. Rutherford Corbin Funeral Home Worthington, Ohio is honored to care for the Close family.

# Tribute Wall

JF

“ I worked with Dick for several years and remained a life long friend. He will be missed by many, but blessedly is now reunited with his bride Carol and the Lord.  
Jack Francisco.

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**Jack Francisco** - December 23, 2023 at 06:48 AM

DB

“ Coach Close was my assistant football coach, head basketball and baseball coach at Olentangy HS in 1967-68. He led us to a district championship in baseball and winning records in basketball. I still have memories of two little boys (Michael and Casey) running around the gym during Christmas vacation practices and trying to stay out of trouble with dad yelling (lovingly) at them to get back. As a major influence in my life, he was a big reason I became a teacher and coach. I know the class of 68 will never forget him. My sincere condolences to his entire family. If there's a baseball team in heaven, I'm sure he will be coaching it.  
Dale Brown



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**Dale Brown** - December 19, 2023 at 04:44 PM

MR

“ Dick meant a lot to us he was a great coach to us several of us would stop at the nursing home sit and talk and tell some stories of the old days he had a great memory for his Age you will be missed 😭 Rest. In peace Coach!

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**Mike Ryan** - December 15, 2023 at 06:02 PM

MC

“ *Dublin baseball became a powerhouse under his leadership. RIP Coach Close.*

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**Mike Coriell** - December 13, 2023 at 06:02 PM

CD

“ *Our beloved baseball coach. Just a great guy.*



**Craig Duffey** - December 11, 2023 at 07:24 PM