



Robert "Robby" Tracey Flannery

February 5, 1984 - February 19, 2026

ROBERT "ROBBY" TRACEY FLANNERY

2/5/1984 2:53 AM-2/19/2026 2:53 PM

Robb Flannery's purpose in life was to have a positive impact on others. At 15 months old, Robb was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy ("SMA"; a neuro-muscular disease), which, at the time, was untreatable and one of the leading causes of infant deaths. His prognosis was that he was expected to live only a couple of months to a couple of years. His father's prayer was, "Lord, I know that you can miraculously heal him if it's your will. If not, let him be a witness to your grace and let me keep him for a little while." That prayer was answered with 40 more years!

During his time on this earth, Robb touched so many lives. He appeared on The March of Dimes Telethon with Jimmy Crum in Columbus; served as the Ohio Goodwill Ambassador for The Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) of Central Ohio; appeared on local MDA Telethon for many years; inspired the Olentangy High School DECA class to focus on fundraising for MDA as a civic project when he was in early elementary; became the President of his DECA class as a high school senior; the class won the National DECA competition and Robb was able to present the check to Jerry Lewis in LA during the 2002 Labor Day Telethon.

With his wit, humor and outgoing personality. Robb never had trouble making friends. He could make anyone laugh. Having attended Olentangy Elementary, Middle School and High School, Robb developed a special relationship with many of his classmates, teachers and staff which continued throughout his life. Robb had a bit of an ornery streak, which sometimes got him in trouble. Both Coach T and Coach Hale commented recently about how they would have to get on him as he would fly down the hallway with one of his buddies riding on the back of his wheelchair. Both coaches, along with Coaches Gerhardt and Maloney, were instrumental in allowing him to develop his knowledge and love of football. They allowed him to be a part of the team. In his senior year, his teammates and coaches named him as Honorary Captain of the football team, a distinction that he was so proud to wear. He will forever be a Brave, a Buckeye and a Bengals fan!

After graduation, Robb attended Wright State University where he received his Masters of Science in Education. While there, he met Nichole or Nikki, to whom he pledged his eternal love on March 26, 2011. Robb also got to enjoy the joys and pain of fatherhood when Nikki's nephew, Brandon, came to live with them. They raised him as their own providing a life for him that he might otherwise not have been able to enjoy. Brandon, upon achieving the age of consent, legally changed his last name to Flannery. A year later, Brandon met Haley (Doan) Flannery who honored them with a granddaughter, Ava Nichole Flannery. Who would have thought little Robby Flannery would ever be called a grandpa, or in his case, "Paps"

Robb utilized his degree through online teaching opportunities, first through ECOT and then Ohio Virtual Academy. His love of history made teaching social studies to middle and high schoolers a joy. Robb's ability to do public speaking also allowed him to be a spokesperson for a drug call Spinraza. Spinraza is a prescription medicine therapy which Robb had been on to treat SMA. Spinraza was developed, in part, through research funded by the MDA!

Robb leaves behind his mother and father, Rod and Lisa Flannery; love of his life, Nichole “Nikki” Flannery; son Brandon (Haley) Flannery; granddaughter Ava Nichole Flannery; sister Tiffany (Matt) Hunter; nephew Landon Hunter; grandfather Jacob Flannery. Robb was preceded in death by grandmothers Roxie Flannery and Donna Meeks; and grandfather Denver Meeks. He also leaves behind many aunt, uncles and cousins. In addition, he leaves his best friends Chad Sorentino, life-long friend Chase Evans, college roommate Mark Hollo and special friends Danny Stacy. Really, there are way too many friends and family to mention, all of whom loved him deeply.

Visitation will be Saturday, February 28 from 11:00 AM-4:00 PM at New Hope Church 4739 W Powell Rd, Powell OH 43065. A “Celebration for Life” will be held immediately following the visitation at 4:00 PM at the Church with time of food and fellowship following the service. For those who will, please be ready to share any “Robb Stories” during the service. In honor of Robb’s love for Ohio State Football, we ask that you wear something scarlet and grey.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution towards SMA research by making a donation to: Spinal Muscular Atrophy Foundation at <https://smafoundation.org> or the Muscular Dystrophy Association at <https://www.mda.org/ways-to-give>

Rutherford Funeral Home at Powell is honored to be assisting the Flannery Family with arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **28**. 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM (ET)

New Hope Church
4739 West Powell Road
Powell, OH 43065
<http://newhopeworship.org/>

Celebration of Life

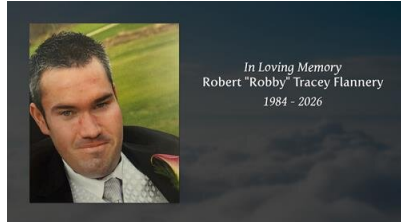
FEB **28**. 4:00 PM (ET)

New Hope Church
4739 West Powell Road
Powell, OH 43065
<http://newhopeworship.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Rutherford Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Robert "Robby" Tracey Flannery*



Rutherford Funeral Homes - February 25 at 11:53 AM

TC

Rob was the most courageous young man that I have had a chance to know. He did more in his life time than people with no disabilities. He took everything in stride and never held himself back. Sorry i didn't make it to the celebration of life, I came down with a bad cold. My condolences to all of your family and friends who loved and respected this beautiful young hero .

Teresa cooperider - February 28 at 12:42 PM

TS

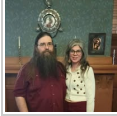
Dear family! Our OHVA family will miss Robb tremendously. I am sending prayers and hugs to you from our Family Engagement Team. 40 more years; what a gift to you all. Condolences to all. Teri Lynn Stackhouse

Teri Lynn Stackhouse - March 12 at 01:34 PM

AA

My daughter had him at Ecot. He was a fantastic teacher and was used by the Lord to play a pivotal that helped her towards her future. He was an awesome teacher.

Anna Aquino - March 15 at 07:20 PM



I remember so many times my son was struggling with schoolwork at ECOT, he would call Mr. Flannery for help. Mr. Flannery would stay on the phone with him and they would work a little every day until my son understood it. His dedication to helping his students was obvious, and will be missed. My son and I are glad that we had known him. Our deepest sympathies to his family and friends.

Sarina Cochran - March 16 at 07:19 PM

RF

“*I was a young youth pastor over the summers away from college and away from basketball. Those short summers changed my life. Everyone at Sawmill Baptist Church was so welcoming, but one of my fondest memories was when Robby insisted we play “one on one”. I was afraid of how we would play at first, but I relented. He said, “you make a shot, point for you, you miss a shot, point for him.” Simple enough, and then while Tiffany was playing softball, they 10 year old boy chased me around the basketball court in his wheelchair and rammed into me every chance he could...He laughed, I winced, and he won every game. He taught me to not take myself so seriously. I said his name every shot those next few years at college, and loved every summer with the family. I wanted to be more like him, and still do. Prayers for his family, you too, hold a special place in my heart. 🙏*

Ryan Follis - March 01 at 09:37 PM

DI

“*Robby was a teacher long before he received a certificate. His lesson was love life. He inspired all of us to be our best and live life to the fullest. You are in our thoughts and prayers. With all our love, Dave and Julie*

Dave and Julie Ison - February 28 at 09:36 AM

CA

“ Chad and Andrea purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Robert "Robby" Tracey Flannery.



Chad and Andrea - February 28 at 05:56 AM

CA

“ Chad and Andrea planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert "Robby" Tracey Flannery.

Chad and Andrea - February 28 at 05:56 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert "Robby" Tracey Flannery.



February 27 at 08:08 PM

LC

“ Love, Mom and Dad Coleman purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Robert "Robby" Tracey Flannery.



Love, Mom and Dad Coleman - February 27 at 07:55 PM

S&

“ Stephen Wallace & Family purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Robert "Robby" Tracey Flannery.



Stephen Wallace & Family - February 27 at 07:01 PM

MC

“ Marge, Brent, Bryce, & Kelsey Culver purchased the *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet* for the family of Robert "Robby" Tracey Flannery.



Marge, Brent, Bryce, & Kelsey Culver - February 26 at 08:16 PM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Robert "Robby" Tracey Flannery.



February 25 at 08:13 PM

SW

“ *So sorry to hear about the loss of Robby. You are all in my prayers. This is Star. Dr. Joe's nurse always enjoyed when he came in because he always had a smile for me.*

Star Walker - February 25 at 04:29 PM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Robert "Robby" Tracey Flannery.*



February 25 at 03:23 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert "Robby" Tracey Flannery.

February 25 at 03:23 PM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert "Robby" Tracey Flannery.*



February 25 at 11:13 AM



“ *From Survivor Electric purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Robert "Robby" Tracey Flannery.*



From Survivor Electric - February 25 at 10:32 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert "Robby" Tracey Flannery.*



February 25 at 08:11 AM



“ *Robb was an inspiration from his early childhood. A miracle in every sense of the word. Bill and I were members of Sawmill Baptist Church when he was a little guy. We recall our son, Todd, riding around on the back of his wheelchair. Our son, Brent, graduated with him from Olentangy High School and we recall the enthusiasm he displayed as the team manager for the football team. He will be sorely missed, but what a legacy of love and life he leaves us!*

Terry Henderly - February 24 at 09:01 PM



“ *Rod, Lisa, Tiffany: I haven't seen you in many years but my heart was broken to hear the news of Robby's passing. I remember Aaron being one of those kids at a very young age on the back of Robby's chair. How lovely to hear of the life he was gifted! ❤️. I extend my condolences, of course, to his wife, his child & his grandbaby as well as his extended family. Sending you much love, comfort, & strength during this very difficult loss. 🙏*

Donna Taylor - February 24 at 10:24 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert "Robby" Tracey Flannery.*

February 24 at 10:02 AM

FA

“ We were heartbroken to hear of Robs passing. He'll forever be "Bert" to me and will be sadly missed. What a great guy!!! Our prayers for comfort during these hard times are being said for the Flannery / Meeks families.

Franco Alexander - February 23 at 11:00 PM

TT

“ I am very sorry to hear of Robby's passing. I know this is a very difficult time for all of your family. He will be missed by so many. Over the years I have talked about you, Lisa and Rod, and how you never let Robby's disabilities define him. I remember your telling about giving permission for Robby to be disciplined when he was going too fast in his wheelchair in the halls at the elementary school. I also remember Lisa being so worried about sending him for the first time to Recreation Unlimited.... But you both knew he would enjoy it so much. I remember him at Little League baseball games fitting right in with all the other boys. If there was something athletic going on at Olentangy, Rod and Robbie would be there. Because of your wonderful example, everyone else treated Robbie like all the other kids. Everyone saw him for who he was and not just a boy in a wheelchair because of you two.... he developed confidence to grow into the young man with a full life. Also, he had an influence on Tiffany's life and the woman she has become. God had a purpose for Robby and you encouraged it. It's just beautiful that he became a husband, a father, and, I just read, a grandfather! I pray for comfort and peace for all of you. Tamara Truitt

Tamara Truitt - February 23 at 10:27 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert "Robby" Tracey Flannery.*



February 23 at 04:29 PM



“ *Robby was only 11 when Don and I moved away from Ohio. Many times since then, we have thought about him and wondered how he was doing. My goodness, he certainly went on to do some amazing things over the years. God is so good. I remember Robb zooming around the church, Sawmill, always with a big smile on his face. He was a joy. You have our deepest sympathy. We will be praying for you. Love, Don and Brenda Gille*

B Gille - February 23 at 03:23 PM



“ *He made a huge impact in his teaching career on all his students and myself included, he made me love history more than ever he was my favorite teacher and a great one too!*

Troy Taggart - February 23 at 02:05 PM