



## Robert J. Provencher

February 3, 1929 - July 4, 2010

LEWISTON - Robert J. Provencher, 81, of Lewiston died Sunday, July 4th following a courageous battle with cancer. He was born in Lewiston, February 2, 1929, the son of Aime and Carmen (Breton) Provencher. He graduated from Lewiston High School in 1948, and attended Riverside College in California. He served his country in the United States Army overseas in Europe. Upon his return, he graduated from the University of Maine in Orono where he met and married his college sweetheart Mary Jane Glidden of Bangor. Bob taught history and government at Lewiston High School after which he earned his Master's degree at the University of Southern Maine in Elementary Education. He then worked for the Lewiston School System for many years and retired as an Elementary Principal for Lewiston schools. Upon his retirement, he worked at Bates College as an equipment manager and driver. He had a lifelong love of athletics, played high school football on the 1947 Maine State Championship football team, and on the University of Maine at Orono Black Bears All Maine team in 1957. He coached in youth and high school athletic programs in Lewiston, proudly and positively influencing local youth. Bob was very proud of his marriage and family. He was an avid reader and history buff with an exceptional memory. He loved camp, skiing, and most of all people, and always enjoyed stopping wherever he was to chat. Survivors include his wife of 53 years Mary of Lewiston; his children, Robert M. Provencher and his wife Anne E. Archambault of Freeport; William E. Provencher and his wife Linda of Overland Park, KS; Lynne M. D'Eramo and her husband Andrew J. of Lewiston; Christina M. Gamache and her husband, Daniel R. of Sabattus; 9 grandchildren, Thomas and Christopher Provencher of Freeport; April and Ashley Provencher of Overland Park, KS; Alexandra, Samantha, and Kristen D'Eramo of Lewiston; Benjamin and Sophia Gamache of Sabattus; his sister, Doris and her husband, Bertrand Gagnon of Lewiston and Sun City, AZ; and many nieces and nephews. Online condolences and sharing of memories may be expressed at [www.lynchbrothers.com](http://www.lynchbrothers.com) PROVENCHER died in Lewiston, July 4, 2010, Mr. Robert J. Provencher age 81 years a resident of Lewiston. A Celebration of Life service honoring Bob will be held FRIDAY 9:00AM with Chaplain Kathleen O'Wril presiding. Graveside committal prayers with military honors will be held privately at Pine Grove Cemetery in Bangor. Memorial donations in Bob's memory may be made to the American Cancer

Society Centralized Memorial Processing Center 30 Speen St., Framingham, MA  
01701. Family and friends are invited to visit Thursday 2-4 and 7-9PM at the PINETTE &  
LYNCH FUNERAL HOME 305 Alfred Plourde Parkway, Lewiston, 784-4023.

# Comments

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“ Coach Bob was my football coach at Lewiston High in the early 70's. He taught me real well how to play the game of football, always with a smile and with a great attitude. His football skills were superb, but more importantly his mentorship on being a good citizen and patriot are still remembered to this day. What a nice man! My sympathy to his family

**Ray Lavoie** - July 05, 2010 at 05:21 PM

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“ Our Deepest Sympathy to Mary and Family.

**Charles & Nancy Bellegarde** - July 05, 2010 at 05:21 PM

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“ I met Bob and Mary one of the first years after we bought our camp on Beech Hill Pond in 1992. They were always very friendly and enjoyed being at their camp. We have truly missed them the last few years as Bob fought his disease valiantly. He will be missed by all here on Turtle Cove Rd. Our sincere condolences to Mary and all the Provencher family. Art & Eleanor Archer

**Art & Eleanor Archer** - July 05, 2010 at 05:21 PM

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“ OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO MARY AND THE FAMILY. SORRY WE COULD NOT BE THERE. PAT IS HAVING A MOST DIFFICUT TIME WALKING. NEWVERTHELESS, OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU.

**ANDREW & PAT DERAMO** - July 05, 2010 at 05:21 PM

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“ It is with a heavy heart that I learned of Bob's passing. He made a huge impact to a number of young people in Lewiston, especially me. My sincere condolences to Mary, Rob, Bill, Lynne and Christina. He made growing up FUN!

**David Cloutier** - July 05, 2010 at 05:21 PM

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“ I will always remember rides to the beach in the corvair. Saturday cartoons until noon at the Provencher's. Movies in the back yard all the kids invited. Bob though I was only 10 at the time. I carried many of your family values with me through out my life. Thank you Wayne Mitchell from Rachel Blvd

Wayne Mitchell - July 05, 2010 at 05:21 PM

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“ Like many young adults of high school age, I had some problems and it led to conflict with the AD and Basketball Coach. The only one who ever treated me with respect was Bob. After I left high school for the Navy in early '71, I would return home and bump into him down by Dingley and he always had a nice smile and a kind word. I'm so glad I called and thanked him for that a couple of years ago. He will be missed by many, and for me, I will never forget him. Thanks Coach.

Padraic "Pat" Soule - July 05, 2010 at 05:21 PM

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“ Dear Mrs. Provencher (Rob, Billy, Lynn and Chrissy) - my deepest sympathies to all of you. I always recall with a smile, Mr. Provencher's cannon balls into the Gagnon's pool, pushing all of us kids into the pool so we'd learn how to swim and his endearing nickname for me (Bubbles - no doubt from my almost not surfacing in the pool during one of his lessons~). You are all in my thoughts and prayers. He was a wonderful man. Love, Carol

Carol Gee-Marcoux - July 05, 2010 at 05:21 PM

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“ I always enjoyed my chats with Bob... I shall always remember his sense of humor.

Leighton Spiller - July 05, 2010 at 05:21 PM

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“ Our thoughts are with you during these hard times. No matter what the circumstance is, it is hard to loose someone you love. May you all find strength in your family to help one another. May you new angel shine peace to your hearts. Our prayers are with you, Sincerely The Landry Family

Landry Family - July 05, 2010 at 05:21 PM

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“ I will always remember Bob's influence on my attitudes and determination as he coached me through LHS's football program. He then crossed my path again as principal to some of my children not that many years later. His even temper and positive attitude served him and the children he worked with well. He was a gentleman and added a lot to Lewiston's school system over the years. May the memory of good times bring you a measure of comfort and strength in this difficult time.

**John Orestis** - July 05, 2010 at 05:21 PM

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“ My heartfelt sympathy goes out to the Provencher family on the loss of such a wonderful human being. Mr Provencher was a fine gentleman and I will always remember him as one of my best teachers. His love of History was evident in his teaching. May he rest in the arms of an angel.

**Ann Nadeau** - July 05, 2010 at 05:21 PM

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“ The image of my Dad that I will always hold close is that as a football coach at LHS. This was the role he was born to fill. The two words that best described him were "guts" and "integrity", and these two traits served him well in the pursuit of his life's achievements. Through three decades, from the late fifties to the early seventies, he was a role model for hundreds of young men who sought to find out what they were made of. Bob could be as compassionate as he was tough, and was a man's man!

**Bob Provencher** - July 05, 2010 at 05:21 PM

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“ To Mary, Bob, Bill, Lynne & Chrissy & Doris: My deepest sympathy to you all at this most difficult time. The road ahead will be a tough one, but know you will make it. It isn't easy going that road, believe me. My thoughts go back to Rachel Blvd. when Bob worked at Job Corps one summer & took Dick out to see the puppies that had been born, told Dick not to bring one home & he did. Those two laughed, thought they had done something great. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. My deepest sympathy to all of you. Your former neighbor. Donna Applegarth

**Donna Applegarth** - July 05, 2010 at 05:21 PM

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“ You and Mary have been such a void in our lives here on Beech Hill Pond. Our prayers and love go out to all the family. You will be so missed.



“ Mary and family, Earl and I are both thinking of you and the family as you go through this very emotional time. As with life, we must all accept death, but that does not help the grieving. Mary, you and Bob and your family welcomed myself, Earl, Rhonda and Jim into this wonderful neighborhood in the early 1970's, and one of the reasons we are still here - neighbors and caring people. One of my favorite memories is of the July 4th event planned and carried out by everyone on Rachel Blvd. and Rachel Circle, and the part Bob played in that event, and many more. Friends and family were such a wonderful part of Bob's life. He will be missed by many. Please know that, as your neighbor, we will be here if you have the need for any neighborly help. Our condolences to you and the family. Marina & Earl

Marina & Earl Fossett - July 05, 2010 at 05:21 PM

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“ Bob was the principal of Wallace School during my time teaching there. I was at the early part of my teaching career and at times Bob's guidance helped steer me in the right direction when I needed it. He was always very supportive of what I did in the classroom as well as what myself and Pete Therrien did on the schoolyard in our afterschool sports program we ran for the kids. I later went on to teach at other schools but always had fond memories of the time I spent at Wallace school and Bob had a lot to do with that. I wish you my heartfelt sympathy for your loss of such a wonderful man.

David Bernier - July 05, 2010 at 05:21 PM

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“ I thought he was a wonderful man and he made me feel welcome.

Jak Knizeski - July 05, 2010 at 05:21 PM

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“ Bob was put on earth to lead & set the example for others to follow. His legacy is the countless individuals he mentored who carry on with the lessons he taught them. I remember the conversations we had when the Haley gang was coaching his boys in football. The wisdom he shared became part of my coaching philosophy. Forever a Blue Devil Forever a Black Bear Thank You Bob

Regis Beaulieu - July 05, 2010 at 05:21 PM

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“ Mr. Provencher was a teacher and football coach and also a wonderful mentor. He always greeted you with a smile and a kind comment. I will certainly miss him as he left many fond memories. My sincerest condolences to the family. Jimmy Simones

**Jim Simones** - July 05, 2010 at 05:21 PM

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“ My deepest sympathy to Mary and the family. I appreciate the effort Bob made to keep in touch over the years since graduation. He continued to come to our annual Kappa Sigma golf event, even when he could no longer play. Bob did not complain about his cancer. He reached out to us with sincere concern for our well being. I would say Bob was a real gentleman in every good sense of the word. He will be missed. May he rest in peace, and may God grant Bob's family the assurance that he is with God.

**David F Petherbridge** - July 05, 2010 at 05:21 PM