



## Roger "Budd" Tompkins

April 12, 1934 - August 30, 2020

Roger Budd Tompkins, 86, passed away on August 30, 2020 at home, surrounded by loved ones. He was born on April 12, 1934 in Traverse City Michigan to the late Robert and Myrtle (Oman) Tompkins.

Budd had a successful high school football career that included all-state honors.

He joined the US Army during the Korean War where he played football. When he was discharged he attended Northern Michigan College where he continued to play ball as a guard for three seasons.

He was equally successful as a coach, teacher, and high school guidance counselor and spent the next four decades influencing many lives. He coached football at Skandia, Big Bay, Coldwater, Frankenmuth and Traverse City Schools.

Budd was named the Detroit News "All Class Coach of the Year" in 1969. He was on the Detroit Free Press football All State Board Committee and the United Press International All State Board. He received a special commendation for his coaching from the Michigan Legislature and was named regional Coach of the year in 1974. He was inducted into the NMU Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame in 1984.

Budd loved to fish, especially fly fishing and tying flies. He enjoyed cooking, and in his later years he became an accomplished water color artist and wood carver. For Budd, "Impossible" never was. When he was ailing in the last week of life he said, "I feel so... Lucky." He was a proud, but humble man who touched many.

Budd is lovingly remembered by his wife of 63 years, Gretchen Tompkins, children: Lisa Gorence, (Ken Johnson), Jennifer (Bertrand) Rigaldies, Paul (Meredith) Tompkins, grandchildren: Kyle Gorence, Kelsey (Jared) Powell, Emily (Jorge) Correa, great grandchildren: Carley and Robbie, siblings: Denise (Steve) Fasbinder, Joe (Judy) Tompkins, and siblings in law: Mary Fisher, Louise (Gene) Fry and Thomas Olmsted. Budd was preceded in death by his parents, in-laws Kenneth and Margaret Olmsted, siblings: Bobby, Nancy, Betty, Deke, Tommy, Phyllis, Barbara and Jerry.

A celebration of life will be held for Budd on Sunday, October 25, 2020 from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the Frankenmuth Football Field in Frankenmuth MI. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Budd's honor to the Salvation Army. Online:

<https://give.salvationarmyusa.org/give/164006/#!/donation/checkout>

Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation services.

# Events

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**OCT**   **Celebration of Life**   02:00PM - 03:00PM

**25**

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Frankenmuth Football Field

525 E Genesee St., Frankenmuth, MI, US, 48734

# Comments

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“ Lisa and family - my deepest condolences on the loss of your Dad. Coach was the true definition of the word to kids who did and didn't play sports. His quiet calm way provided support to many, including me during the toughest time of my life. You are in my prayers.

Sue Loesel Kuck

**Sue Kuck** - October 07, 2020 at 05:37 PM

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“ So sorry for your loss of a great man. He was my line coach on the '88 State Champs team, he was also my favorite. See you in the 4th quarter, RIP coach.

Jeff Heimforth

**jeff Heimforth** - September 20, 2020 at 05:12 PM

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“ Some of my best high school memories are of playing football under the leadership of Coach Tompkins. A good teacher and a great coach. My sympathy for the family,

Jake Herzog

**Jake Herzog** - September 09, 2020 at 05:36 PM

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“ Our family shares many memories of Bud from Frankenmuth and the. A usable cabin

Ruth Stenglein

**Ruth Stenglein** - September 08, 2020 at 08:15 PM

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“ Lisa, we are so sorry about the passing of your dad. You will be in our thoughts and prayers. Dave and Janine Hubinger

**Janine Hubinger** - September 08, 2020 at 05:46 PM

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“ Garden Bench - Gone yet not forgotten... was purchased for the family of Roger "Budd" Tompkins.



September 08, 2020 at 05:05 PM

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“ Lisa, So sorry to hear of your father's passing. Wishing you and your family strength and peace.

Laurie Vesterfelt Chall

Laurie Chall - September 07, 2020 at 02:57 PM

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“ Mrs. Coach and Jenny, I am so sorry for your loss! He was a great man and the Tucker's will be forever grateful for all you did for us. Rest in peace, Coach! Sweet dreams!

Patti Tucker  
FHS Class of 1980

Patti - September 07, 2020 at 11:40 AM

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“ In January of 1976, I was deciding what to do after high school. Most of the memories will be of coaching, mine is of caring and a life lesson. Coach "saw me" and said, come on. "So Ron, what are you going to do. You just won a scholarship, but probably won't be enough, right?" He went on, "There are no easy choices, but you've got two choices, you can either go to Columbia, and be poor, or you can do what 'I' think you want to, which is do that Navy thing." I simply asked, "Coach if you were me what you do?" For the only time I remember, he thought before he answered. "I'm not you, so I can't say. Sometimes you have to make the best choices you can at the time." As the years went by, I know that he did the exact same thing during his "day job" as the school counselor. He did more for me, in the brief time I knew him, than my own parents. I suspect that is true for thousands of people. I remember the last time I saw him, he walked over and slapped me on the back. "You're a Toth right? Ron Toth right?" He is a class act, period. Across the board. The world cannot afford to lose such men.

**Ron Toth** - September 05, 2020 at 04:13 PM

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“ Lisa and family, it makes me sad to see this. I always liked your dad when I was in high school. Such a nice man. My prayers and condolences to all of you.

Lori Oberholtzer Cramer

**Lori Cramer** - September 04, 2020 at 09:07 PM

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“ Dear Lisa, your dear family friend Sandy B in Bridgeport gave me the news of Budd's passing. MLive had a nice article this week about Budd's career, including some comments by Ralph Munger. Wishing you peace and comfort at this time of loss.  
-- Dan H, FHS Class of 1976

**Dan H** - September 04, 2020 at 09:04 PM

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“ Budd was one of the original good guys. When Erik and I first came to Frankenmuth to teach, Budd took time and care to befriend and help us. As we worked alongside Budd for years, we admired his easy manner with students and fellow teachers. We are better for having known him. Erik and Connie Swanson

**Constance Swanson** - September 03, 2020 at 02:01 PM

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“ Lisa and Kyle I am so sorry about the sad news of Bud. He was a GREAT man, father, husband and coach. He touched the life of thousands of young men. He will truly be missed.

**Kirk Silvers** - September 02, 2020 at 01:18 PM

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“ Budd will be missed by all who knew him. He was very helpful and a pleasure to be around. My heart goes out to the family. I am sincerely sorry for your loss, all of our loss.

**Donna Lawson** - September 02, 2020 at 01:00 PM

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“ Our deepest sympathy and prayers for your family from the Weiss family, Coach always held a special place in the hearts of the Weiss family !

**Roland Weiss** - September 02, 2020 at 08:52 AM

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“ I am so sorry to hear that Bud has passed away! He was a very nice person, and very talented! Prayers for his family.

**Sue Vowels** - September 02, 2020 at 07:57 AM