



Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley

August 9, 1932 - July 31, 2022

BENTLEY, Mr. Francis Harrison - Age 89, passed away Sunday, July 31, 2022, at St. Francis Home of Saginaw. Family hour 10:00 AM Wednesday, August 10, 2022, from the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd., with funeral service commencing at 11:00 AM Elder William T. Waters officiating. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the funeral home 10:00 AM Wednesday. Mr. Bentley will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home and may be viewed from 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM Tuesday, August 9, 2022. Francis Harrison Bentley was born August 9, 1932 in St. Louis, Missouri, the son of Francis Harrison Sr. and Mary Luella (Loesche) Bentley.

Francis Bentley, a caring father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, coach and friend, left this world peacefully at the age of 89 years old on July 31, 2022. He was born in St. Louis, Missouri on August 9, 1932 to the late Francis H. Sr. and Mary Luella Bentley. Francis graduated from Southeast Missouri State College with a bachelor's degree in Botany, Zoology, and Chemistry. He earned a Master's Degree from Indiana University in Botany.

Francis enjoyed collecting stamps, listening to classical music, identifying rare plants and jogging in Forest Park. In 1956 he applied for a teaching position in Flint, Michigan because it was one of the highest paying districts in the nation. Francis taught chemistry in the Flint Public Schools for 41 years and was athletic director at Flint Northern High School for 12 years. He had a legendary coaching career at Northern, leading the Vikings to the State

Wrestling Championship in 1963. Francis coached many state champions and place winners over his 30-year coaching career. He was inducted into several Hall of Fame's including the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Francis impacted hundreds of lives in the City of Flint during his career. One of the last things he did was accept Jesus Christ as Lord a few days before he passed. A life well lived!

Francis Harrison Bentley leaves to cherish his memory: son, William (Tracy) Waters Saginaw, MI; grandchildren, Herbert (Ashley) Waits and Alexanderia Waits; god-granddaughter, Latiffany Ervin, all of Saginaw, MI, six great-grandchildren; nephews, Don (Jymie) Lilley of Farmington, MO, and Steve (Tina) Lilley of Imperial, MO; niece, Susan Lilley Murray of Farmington, MO; a host of other relatives and friends including special friends, Waldo Bronson and Juanita Dickerson.

Francis was preceded in death by his parents, Francis H. Sr. and Mary Luella Bentley ; sister, June Marilyn Lilley; and nephew, David Lilley.

The family would like to express special thanks to Ascension St. Mary's Hospital, St. Francis Home of Saginaw, and Trina Elvi

Previous Events

Public Viewing

AUG 9. 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Chapel, Flint
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.
Flint, MI 48505
(810) 789-MOON (6666)
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com
<http://www.lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com>

Family hour

AUG 10. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Chapel, Flint
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.
Flint, MI 48505
(810) 789-MOON (6666)
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com
<http://www.lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com>

Service

AUG 10. 11:00 AM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Chapel, Flint
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.
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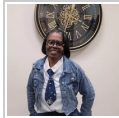
Tribute Wall



“ *Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley*



Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home - August 10, 2022 at 08:27 AM



Prayers for the family. May your precious memories bring you comfort and joy during this difficult time. God will carry you through.

Zipporah Shropshire - August 10, 2022 at 12:47 PM



RIH Uncle Fran. All our love, Susan, Lindsay, Ethan, Tanner and Conner, your Farmington, Missouri family.

Susan Murray - August 10, 2022 at 03:03 PM



AMEN Will! What a beautiful message!

Susan Murray - August 10, 2022 at 04:25 PM



“ *Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley*

October 09, 2023 at 07:02 AM

DB

“ *David & Dana Bush lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley*



David & Dana Bush - August 19, 2022 at 01:41 PM

VF

“ *Veal Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley*



Veal Family - August 14, 2022 at 01:32 AM

TF

“ *The Veal Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley*



The Veal Family - August 14, 2022 at 01:31 AM

TF

“ *The Veal Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley*



The Veal Family - August 14, 2022 at 01:31 AM

JB

“ Sending my deepest sympathy sympathy to the Bentley Family



Johnny Brown - August 12, 2022 at 09:44 PM

AF

“ Sending our deepest sympathy to the Bentley Family



Ashburn Family - August 12, 2022 at 09:39 PM

JP

“ What a kind a sweet soul always enjoyed talking to you. Even when I was loud in the hall way in that nice voice tone it down Jackie. Rest on



Jacqueline Porter - August 11, 2022 at 03:45 PM

TJ

“ Tonya Jackson-Battle lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley



Tonya Jackson-Battle - August 11, 2022 at 01:46 AM

IH

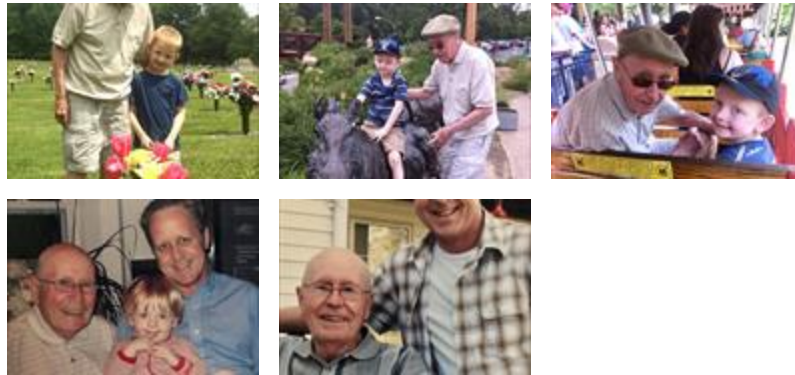
“ Ivy Herron lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley



Ivy Herron - August 10, 2022 at 09:57 PM

SL

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Steve Lilley - August 10, 2022 at 01:01 PM

OF

“ O'Neal Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley



O'Neal Family - August 10, 2022 at 10:29 AM

ML

“ Maurice Lever lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley



Maurice Lever - August 10, 2022 at 08:29 AM

RC

“ RIP your guidance and instructions of life has never left the scenarios of working hard to Succeed 📖

Ray Collins - August 10, 2022 at 12:24 AM

SE

“ Sending condolences and prayers to the Family and Friends of Mr. Bentley.

Another great Flint Northern Vikings teacher has gained his wings



Rest well 🦋

Shirley Edwards-Jackson - August 09, 2022 at 05:11 PM

RD

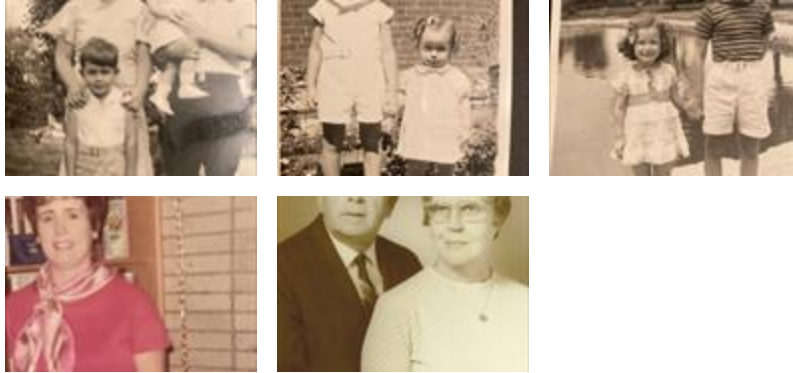
“ Lit candle for Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley My condolences to the family.



Rudolph D. Wheaton, DDS,MPA - August 09, 2022 at 03:26 PM

SM

“ *What a glorious reunion! Uncle Fran, his sister June Bentley Lilley, parents Francis and Mary Bentley all together.* ❤️



Susan Lilley Murray - August 09, 2022 at 01:15 PM

PD

“ *Paul Dykewicz lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley*



Paul Dykewicz - August 09, 2022 at 01:13 PM

JM

“ *RIH Mr. Bentley! You were a kind soul who treated everyone the same!*



Jacquelyn Mallett Murry - August 09, 2022 at 09:17 AM

SP

“ 1 file added to the album *Flint Northern*



Shawn Pillsbury - August 09, 2022 at 07:48 AM

SM



Susan Lilley Murray - August 09, 2022 at 12:59 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Flint Northern*



Shawn Pillsbury - August 08, 2022 at 08:08 PM

SM



Susan Lilley Murray - August 09, 2022 at 12:52 PM



“ 2 files added to the album *Flint Northern*



Shawn Pillsbury - August 08, 2022 at 07:16 PM

GR

“ *Glynis Rice lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley*



Glynis Rice - August 08, 2022 at 06:47 PM

PB

“ *Patricia D Barker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley*



patricia d barker - August 08, 2022 at 03:40 PM

TF

“ *The Lilley's.....your Missouri Family. purchased the Delightful Dieffenbachia for the family of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley.*



The Lilley's.....your Missouri Family. - August 08, 2022 at 10:05 AM

VS

“ *Valerie Southall lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley*



Valerie Southall - August 08, 2022 at 09:01 AM

VH

“ Valerie Humphries sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley



Valerie Humphries - August 07, 2022 at 10:45 PM

MV

“ They don't come any better than Francis Bentley. He was one of a kind. Great coach, great teacher. an even finer human being. Mike Vance, Central HS

mike vance - August 07, 2022 at 06:28 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Flint Northern Wrestlers 1960



Latecia Jones - August 07, 2022 at 05:10 PM

KJ

“ 1 file added to the album 1960's Flint Northern Wrestlers



Keith Jones - August 07, 2022 at 03:34 PM

CW

Mr. Bentley was a great man I don't know where I would be today without Him taking the time out with me Thank you and appreciate it Rest in heaven

Clarence Wilson - August 08, 2022 at 09:41 PM

SM

Beautiful tribute.

Susan Lilley Murray - August 09, 2022 at 12:51 PM



George Sykes

“ *Francis Bentley, Mr. Bentley, Coach:*

What a man!

He dedicated his life to not only wrestling but to those who wrestled for him.

To my knowledge, Mr. Bentley never wrestled competitively, he was a student of the sport. He taught us how to wrestle and how to grow into productive men.

Mister Bentley is and will be missed by all of us who crossed paths with him.

Rest in Peace Coach!

*George Sykes
Co-Captain 1967
Northern Class of 1967*

George Sykes - August 07, 2022 at 03:09 PM

KJ

George so glad you Represented our class as you and Charles Walsh had 3 years on Varsity (he was injured Senior year).. My Daughter Latecia put that Pic in of Coach Bentley and Wrestlers of 1960's. Keith Jones

Keith Jones - August 08, 2022 at 08:31 PM

TA

“ Mr. Bentley..praying for your family. I enjoyed being one of your most, challenging students. I loved my hour in your class..R.P.I.H..



Teresa L. Anthony-Johnson - August 07, 2022 at 11:43 AM

TW

“ Tangyla Woodson-Demby lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley



Tangyla Woodson-Demby - August 07, 2022 at 09:58 AM

D6

“ Dr Irvin Williams, Northern Class of 63 purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley.



Dr Irvin Williams, Northern Class of 63 - August 06, 2022 at 12:50 PM

SS

“ Sandra Smith-Blount sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley



Sandra Smith-Blount - August 06, 2022 at 11:07 AM

CS

“ One of the greatest "Flint Northern" coaches ever!!!



Cliffton sykes - August 06, 2022 at 10:08 AM

NW

“ Norma Wells lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley



Norma Wells - August 05, 2022 at 11:40 PM

KB

“ I always said you'd get a better grade if you wrestled for Mr. Bentley. Great man!

Kathy Sandersfield Bailey - August 05, 2022 at 11:20 PM

CW

“ *Cassandra Watts lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley*



Cassandra Watts - August 05, 2022 at 11:01 PM

DR

“ *Duke Rawls sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley*



Duke Rawls - August 05, 2022 at 09:26 PM

JP

“ *Remembering & Thanking you coach Bentley for all you did for me at Emerson & Northern. I will never forget. May you rest in heavenly peace.*



James Poindexter - August 05, 2022 at 08:11 PM

BB

“ *Barbara McFarland Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley*



Barbara McFarland Brown - August 05, 2022 at 03:39 PM

RD

“ *Lit a candle for Mr. Francis H. Bentley. A great coach and a terrific person. RIH*



Rudolph D. Wheaton, DDS,MPA - August 05, 2022 at 01:40 PM

SW

“ *Sherry L Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley*



Sherry L Williams - August 05, 2022 at 01:06 PM

EW

“ *Mr. Bentley was a staple at Flint Northern High School. He was there for many generations and touched multitude on Vikings. Rest in Paradise.*



Elder Charles Woods - August 05, 2022 at 11:57 AM

PD

“ I am saddened to learn about the passing of a terrific wrestling coach and person, Francis Bentley. I learned much about leading people from listening to Coach Bentley that I have put into practice in my life. He emphasized continual improvement, preparation, toughness, dedication and loyalty. Coach Bentley also noticed how each member of his team responded to his instruction and adjusted his approach to try to help each wrestler reach his potential. Just this week, I was thinking about how he handled some people challenges that required toughness and compassion at the same time. He also was a good mentor for younger coaches. For example, Coach George Dedrick followed him from Northwestern to Northern to lead the Vikings at a time the Wildcats had become a power. The biology teacher had left coaching at Northern to serve as athletic director there, then chose to return to Northern when asked to do so. RIP, Coach Bentley. I always will be grateful for what you taught me and try to pass along what I learned to those I am able to help in my remaining days on Earth. 🙏

Paul Dykewicz

Author, “Holy Smokes! Golden Guidance from Notre Dame’s Championship Chaplain”

[Www. Holysmokesbook.com](http://www.Holysmokesbook.com)

Paul Dykewicz - August 04, 2022 at 10:51 PM

WV

“ Wiley Viverette lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley



Wiley viverette - August 04, 2022 at 09:04 PM

J(

“ James & Sharon Owensby (Arizona) lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley



James & Sharon Owensby (Arizona) - August 04, 2022 at 06:11 PM

JJ

“ Joanne Jones lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley



Joanne Jones - August 04, 2022 at 05:53 PM

 Larry Simpson

“ I was a manager on the wrestling team. My parents were going through a divorce. We had nothing. He threw me a lifeline. Rest in Heaven my friend.

Larry Simpson - August 04, 2022 at 05:44 PM

RW

“ Rudy And Geneva Ward lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley



Rudy and Geneva Ward - August 04, 2022 at 04:33 PM

KJ

“ *The Legendary Coach of Wrestling that put Flint on The Map for this Sport. Having the Field House packed watching International Teams in The Summer is an exposure I never forgot.*

Keith Jones - August 04, 2022 at 04:18 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley.*



August 04, 2022 at 02:20 PM

SJ

“ *I am proud to say that I was one of many Francis Bentleys wrestlers. When we were younger Francis would pick us up in his red Thunderbird and take us to Lansing and Ann Arbor to wrestle college men and get our butts kicked so that we would come back to school in the fall and we would be ready to kick somebody's butt he was a great coach with great insight and prepared us for the future. Great coach one the best at Flint Northern High School, A True Viking.*

Steven R. Jones - August 04, 2022 at 12:47 PM

SM



Susan Lilley Murray - August 09, 2022 at 01:04 PM

JT

“ *JaVon Thomas lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley*



JaVon Thomas - August 04, 2022 at 10:13 AM

JB

“ *JOHN R BUTLER lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley*



JOHN R BUTLER - August 04, 2022 at 08:48 AM

KC

“ *Kim E. Carpenter lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley*



Kim E. Carpenter - August 04, 2022 at 08:05 AM

CR

“ *Mr. Bentley was family and will always be family, he was a fierce leader and he led by example. Rarely, do you find a person who lives their values he valued people it did no matter ethnicity! It was because of him I did not experience as a young person "racism" I did not think ill of a person because of the complexion of their skin. He showed me that it did not matter, he lived modestly in a predominantly Black community. He stayed the course and helped my brother Jeffery " Jeff" Ruffin, William Waters who is his adopted son but really a son and other young Black males realize that they could become anything that they wanted to and their skin complexion has little to do with it. He was a loving man, and a fierce competitor and he introduced wrestling to the community of Flint when others would have laughed and said it could not be done. All of these young men and fathers like my, Earl Ruffin Jr. who worked along with the team were gifted with his presence. He will be missed but I will see him again. I love you Mr. Bentley and I will always treasure the deposit you have made in our lives. Truly he was a silent John Brown a true revolutionary a rare fine indeed.*

Rest in power and peace,

Ms. Cynthia (Drumgole) Ruffin

Cynthia Ruffin - August 04, 2022 at 07:25 AM

SM



Susan Lilley Murray - August 09, 2022 at 01:04 PM

MD

“ *Monica Durrett-Byrd lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley*



Monica Durrett-Byrd - August 03, 2022 at 11:33 PM

DC

“ *Debora Cabine lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley*



Debora Cabine - August 03, 2022 at 07:03 PM

GW

“ *Rest In Peace 🙏💔😞 Mr. Bentley 🙏 May the Lord Bless You in Heaven Showering You With His Lovingly Grace Forever 🙏💔😞*

Gordon Weeks - August 03, 2022 at 03:57 PM

SM

“ *RIH uncle Fran with your little sister, my mother. Together again. ❤️*



Susan Lilley Murray - August 03, 2022 at 12:53 PM

RJ

“ *One of the best wrestling coaches ever rip coach Bentley*



Robert Jackson - August 03, 2022 at 11:54 AM

BK

“ *Rest in Heavenly Peace Coach. You were an inspiration to many young people. You will be missed...🙏*



Brenda Kimble - August 03, 2022 at 08:13 AM

AJ

“ *Thank you Mr. Bentley for providing guidance for myself as well as countless others. Rest Peacefully. Love you, Flint Northern Wrestling for Life*

Arnold Brown Jr. - August 02, 2022 at 07:47 PM

KJ

Dear Mr. Brown: 1963, You, Frank Gause, Walter " June Bug"Richmon, Garrett Greason etc. GREAT TEAM. Marniece.McKell . I had a Crush on her at Parkland. Glad she has a Strong Man. Keith Jones Viking67

Keith Jones - August 09, 2022 at 02:44 PM

RK

“ *Russell Kirksey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis Harrison Bentley*



Russell Kirksey - August 02, 2022 at 06:29 PM