



Ray Stauffer Oberholtzer

January 3, 1942 - September 26, 2025

Ray Stauffer Oberholtzer, 83, went to be with Jesus on Friday evening, September 26, 2025, after navigating a slow decline from heart failure. Ray was born on January 3, 1942, in Lancaster County, to Harold and Anna Mary (Stauffer) Oberholtzer, who preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife of almost 55 years, Dorothy Jane (Miller), as well as his children Heidi (and Mike) Lee (Phoenixville) and Chad (and Kate) Oberholtzer (State College), his five grandchildren (Lydia, Clarissa, Julia, Eliza, and Caleb), and his sister, Mary Ann Oberholtzer (Elizabethtown), as well as many cousins and extended family members.

Obie, as he was known by friends and family, was a 1959 graduate of Hempfield High School, where he played four sports and performed the lead in the musical. He was a 1964 graduate of Franklin & Marshall College, where he readily admitted that he was a modest student and an even more modest athlete. He later served in the medical unit of the PA National Guard.

Obie returned to his old stomping grounds at Hempfield, where he found his calling as an educator and coach. After completing a graduate degree at Temple University and teaching social studies for 25 years and coaching football, wrestling, and golf, he finished his career as a highly regarded athletic director at Hempfield for his remaining 10 years at the school. He treated everyone with dignity and respect, was generous with his time, and

was loved by students and admired by colleagues. The same humble man who picked up trash after everyone had left the stadium also served in various leadership roles for the Lancaster-Lebanon League, using his warmth and congeniality to build consensus and cooperation. After retirement, Obie was honored to be inducted into the Hempfield Athletic Hall of Fame.

As an extension of his work as an educator, Obie worked in his retirement years as a tour guide for visitors to Amish Country. He also faithfully served in various leadership roles at Community Bible Church (Marietta), ranging from Sunday school teacher, camp counselor, choir member, and shepherd leader to chair of both the elder board and the building committee. His hobbies included travel and playing golf and cribbage, though he ended up playing much more Sorry and Dutch Blitz after his grandchildren entered his world.

Obie was a kind, helpful, honest, and loyal man, an epic storyteller with a booming voice, who could tell you where to find a good dessert on just about any road in Lancaster County. He had an excellent sense of humor, and he liked to make others laugh. He loved life. He loved being with people. He loved to learn and sing and serve and share and eat and work and play. He listened well. He loved his family and friends well. Most importantly, he loved Jesus.

Obie was a good and decent man, a truly rare man of character. His passing leaves all who knew him a little poorer, but we are all so much richer for having known him.

A memorial service will take place at Community Bible Church (331 Anderson Ferry Road, Marietta) at 4pm on Sunday, October 12, preceded by a time of visitation at 3pm. Obie would be honored by any contributions made, in lieu of flowers, to the Community Bible Church (for the Next 75 Fund), mailed to 331 Anderson Ferry Road, PO Box 180, Marietta, PA, 17547 or to Tandem Living

(for the Benevolent Care Fund), mailed to Tandem Living at Woodcrest Villa,
% Kim Peters, 2001 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster, PA, 17601.

The recording of the livestream of the service is available to view here:
<https://www.youtube.com/live/QugGpHFUHHg>

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **12.** 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Community Bible Church
331 Anderson Ferry Road
Marietta, PA 17547

Memorial Service

OCT **12.** 4:00 PM (ET)

Community Bible Church
331 Anderson Ferry Road
Marietta, PA 17547

Tribute Wall

WC

“ Obie was one of my closest friends since 1970 when we taught in classrooms across from each other. We connected quickly and easily and went on to play all kind of games together. No question, we laughed together too often to mention as he called me Cach and he was just Obie to me, but I will now miss my friend for a lot of reasons and hope to see him when we get together with the big man in heaven. Rest in peace, my friend.

WILLIAM CACI - October 05, 2025 at 08:11 AM

CR

Obie was our Key Club Advisor at Hempfield and always was so kind and helpful in also being our Athletic Director. I can remember working with him at planning our Football Program at his parent's house in Salunga in late August when I was the Key Club President. I really liked Obie because he always had time to talk to his students and help them in anyway he could. When I worked at Hempfield as an Accountant, he and Steve Mummaw would always give me a pass to go to all the high school games in our local Counties. Obie also ran our high school track meets and I can remember sitting in his Austin Healey to stay warm between events. I will miss his wonderful smile and being a friend with him. I am sure God is smiling with him in Heaven.

God Bless You Obie
Charlie Roehm
Class of 1967

Charles Roehm - October 05, 2025 at 10:11 AM

DK

What a privilege is was to have known and worked with Obie. As a new athletic director at Lancaster Mennonite High School, Obie helped me "learn the ropes" of high school sports and the Lancaster Lebanon league. Obie was always ready to answer my questions and give me sound advice. He was truly a man of honesty and integrity and a servant leader. He was fully dedicated to the student athlete experience. I was a better AD and am a better person for Obie having befriended me. Blessings to the family for this journey. Dave King

David King - October 05, 2025 at 08:37 PM

D&

I always heard his peers calling him Obie, but to those of us whom he coached, we simply called him Coach "O". He taught us how to block and tackle, yes. But he taught us much more. He taught us how to respect others and how to have fun. Coach O was a fun-loving coach, and his players followed his lead. I can still hear Coach O to this day, 48 years later, in my mind's ear, yelling at me in his fun-loving but attention-getting way, "Dave, get your head out of your giggy and block that guy"! I think I now know what that means, but back then I had no idea. A lot of who I am today, is thanks to Coach O and how he coached us for only four short years of our lives, and four absolutely wonderful years they were! Rest In His Peace, Coach O. And to your family, colleagues and friends, may the many fond memories of your times with Obie provide you comfort and laughs, as there were many to be had over the years, I am certain.

David Christian - Class of '77 - October 05, 2025 at 10:02 PM

JH

We were deeply sadden to hear of Ray's passing. I met Ray through his son Chad, a very dear friend of my son Jim.

Ray was instrumental in launching the Hempfield Youth Association (HYA) Volleyball and High School Basketball programs in the early 90's.

When ever I needed help or advice regarding either program Ray cheerfully provided it. He would always provide gym space for either program. Without Ray's help I never would have found quality Referees for the HYA basketball program.

I was always greeted by Ray's million Dollar smile, and a kind word. Not mentioned in Ray's obituary ... Shortly after Ray retired he drove a Hempfield School bus after school (I think for student athletes) and I would often see Ray driving down my street... we would both smile and wave.

Ray was a wonderful husband and father and above all a great person

Jim Hughes

Jim Hughes - October 06, 2025 at 03:09 PM

JF

We roomed together for a couple of years at our fraternity house. Great guy and solid friend. He was the best.

jon frere - October 25, 2025 at 04:56 PM