



## Robert Dean Matney

March 19, 1940 - September 29, 2023

Robert Dean Matney, 83, of Southington, beloved husband of Diane (Hawkins) Matney, passed away Friday (September 29, 2023) at Midstate Medical Center. Born in Albia, IA to Kenneth and Evelyn (Billings) Matney in 1940, Bob grew up in Knoxville, Iowa. In 1966, Bob married Diane, the love of his life, and in 1979, they moved to Connecticut with their family. Bob was a resident of New Britain and Bristol before moving to Southington in 2020. Bob began his career as a firefighter in Des Moines, Iowa, before receiving his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Northeast Missouri State University as well as a Specialist's Degree in Educational Administration from Drake University. He was a school psychologist before becoming a Superintendent of Public Schools in Iowa. He then made a major life decision to become a Christian school administrator, which he considered a wonderful privilege and ministry. After a number of years as an administrator of Christian schools in Iowa and Connecticut, Bob then became an administrator of other schools before finishing his career as a State Principal for the Connecticut Department of Corrections. Bob was a long-time faithful member of Central Baptist Church in Southington where he held positions as a Deacon as well as a Sunday School Teacher. Bob was also an avid athlete and runner who ran the Boston Marathon twice.

Bob was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. His impact on his family is immeasurable. One of his favorite Bible verses was III John 1:4. "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." He influenced

countless young people as a dedicated and caring educator. Well-known for his encouraging nature, Bob was a constant source of encouragement to all with whom he came in contact. The foundation of his life was his steadfast faith. He continually would tell people of his friend, Jesus Christ, and how they could have a personal relationship with Him by placing their faith in Him. His family finds great joy and comfort in knowing his home is now with his Savior in heaven, and they are extremely grateful for his legacy.

Besides his wife Diane, Bob is survived by two sons, Scott Matney and his wife Sarah of Southington, and Benjamin Matney and his wife Caroline of Daphne, AL; two daughters, Sarah Foster and her husband Don of Bristol, and Kathleen Mickus and her husband Brian of Carlsbad, CA; and his fourteen grandchildren, Jackson Matney, Mackenzie Matney, Abigail Matney, Kali Matney, Noah Foster, Tyler Foster, Lilah Foster, Sloane Mickus, Colton Foster, Brie Mickus, Luke Foster, Brock Mickus, Jude Mickus and Grant Mickus; and two sisters, Phyllis Woods of Emporia, Kansas and Sharon Eby of Denver, Colorado.

A funeral service will be held at 2:00 pm on Friday, October 6th at Central Baptist Church, 1505 West Street in Southington, and will also be livestreamed at <https://centralbaptistchurch.net/live-streaming/> and <https://www.youtube.com/@centralbaptistchurchct4664>. Calling hours will be immediately before the service at 1:00 pm at Central Baptist. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family in Peacedale Cemetery in Bristol. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Central Christian Academy, 1505 West Street, Southington, CT 06489 or <https://centralbaptistchurch.net/>. Carlson Funeral Home, New Britain, is assisting the family with arrangements. Please share a memory or note of sympathy at [carlsonfuneralhome.com](http://carlsonfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Peacedale Cemetery

115-199 James P. Casey Rd.  
Bristol, CT 06010

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

OCT 6. 1:00 PM (ET)

Central Baptist Church  
1505 West Street  
Southington, CT 06489

## Funeral Service

OCT 6. 2:00 PM (ET)

Central Baptist Church  
1505 West Street  
Southington, CT 06489

# Tribute Wall

AB

“My prayers go out to the Matney family during this difficult time. I have such fond memories of the Matneys during my youth at ECA. I remember Mr Matney having unmatched character and discipline, and he was admired by all of his students. I can vividly remember him limping into class one day, unable to sit or move without pain, telling us how he ran the Boston marathon the day prior. He sat on his desk as he taught the class and told us he couldn't move but he was very proud that he finished the race!  
Andra Brysgel

---

**Andra Brysgel** - October 06, 2023 at 03:44 PM

PB

“ Good morning Bob, this is Paul and Karen Bosnyak. I know you are not here but in heaven with our Lord Jesus Christ, I have many memories but the one I think of is you being an encourager to the students at Emmanuel Christian Academy, including my two younger sons, Christopher and Eric Karen has special memories as well and here she is, hello Diane, being a wife myself my heart especially goes out to you and of course to your wonderful family. I just want you to know that one of my most wonderful memories to carry in my heart and live out and experience is some thing your husband did and that is if there was a special need for a special prayer request, he would say let's stop what we're doing and pray. I never forgot that and I have exercise that in my life with my family , may the spirit of the Lord be very rich and supportive in your life today we will be praying for you and your family loving you loving you in Jesus Karen and once again, Paul Bosnyak

---

**Paul and Karen Bosnyak** - October 06, 2023 at 08:30 AM

CF

“ Mr Matney was a wonderful person. He always encouraged others. I have fond memories of he and my husband cheering the teams at Central. He will be missed by many. My heart goes out to the family. Love and prayers to you all.

Crystal Foster - October 06, 2023 at 07:04 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert Dean Matney.

October 05, 2023 at 04:28 PM



“ "On Angel's Wings" Sympathy Gift Wind Chime to Send for Funeral Or Memorial was purchased for the family of Robert Dean Matney.



October 05, 2023 at 04:28 PM

KB

“ Diane, this is Danny and Marlene Billings daughter Kim. So sorry to hear of Bob's passing. My thoughts are with you and your family!

Kim Billings - October 04, 2023 at 09:36 PM

DM

Thank you, Kim....Bob loved your parents and their family.



D Mat - October 05, 2023 at 11:29 PM

JK

“ Dear Aunt Diane, Scott, Ben, Sarah, and Kathleen, Thinking of you and your family during this difficult time. I have thought about all of you often over the years and have fond memories of your family before you made the move to Connecticut. Wishing you peace and thinking of the reunion there must be in Heaven right about now. Much love!  
Jolene Craig Koranda

---

**Jolene Craig Koranda** - October 04, 2023 at 08:43 PM

DM

Jolene, Thank you. To hear from you is a wonderful blessing and comfort! Bob will no doubt be rejoicing in the reunion with his siblings and family members in Heaven! Love, Aunt Diane

---

**D Mat** - October 05, 2023 at 10:05 PM

BM

“ We wanted to take a moment to reach out to you and share prayers of comfort peace and gratitude with you at this difficult time. Bob was truly an extraordinary example not only to Scott Ben and Sarah but the whole family including children and grandchildren and to others around including my family and many others along his path of his life. God truly had used him in a mighty way as he pointed others to God through his life. We are with all of you at this time. Love Bryant Becky and Stephanie

---

**Bryant Madore** - October 04, 2023 at 10:48 AM

DW

“ My cousin, Merrill, saw that Bob had passed away and notified me. I am so sorry for your loss. I did not have the privilege to know Bob but he sounds like a wonderful man. That means that the two of you were meant for each other, Diane. Praying that God gives you comfort and peace. With my love, prayers and sympathy. Diana (Runnells) Widga

---

**Diana Widga** - October 03, 2023 at 02:35 PM

DM

*Diana....Thank you....It is a blessing and comfort to hear from you. It brings back wonderful childhood memories. I would love to stay in contact with you. God bless.*

---

**D Mat** - October 03, 2023 at 09:57 PM

AS

“ Mr. Matney always had a smile and a word of encouragement when I saw him. He was a blessing to both me and my husband during our college years.

---

**Amanda Stuart** - October 03, 2023 at 06:33 AM

JS

“ There was never a time when Bob didn't have time to have a conversation that encouraged me. His faith would always surface in the midst of what otherwise seem hopeless. He helped so many understand God's love.

---

**Jacqueline Smith** - October 03, 2023 at 01:05 AM

AE

“ Mr. Matney always encouraged me every time I saw him. He always had a smile on his faith. I remember most what he always said to me “stay in the fight.” To this day I hear him saying that when things get hard. Such a man of God and I am a better Christian because of his testimony.

---

**Andrea Chapman Euraque** - October 02, 2023 at 07:58 PM

JM

Mr Bob has impacted our family and was a great example as a son of God. Thankful that the Lord brought us to Connecticut and got to meet the whole Matney family and will be forever grateful for him and his family's testimony to all who met him. Prayers for your family during this time of loss but Heaven gained!! Until we meet again.

---

**julie martino** - October 02, 2023 at 09:35 PM

BB

Mr. Mattney will always hold a special place in my life. Always with a radiant smile on his face & words of comfort & God's love on his lips. His love for the Lord, beaming down through his entire family & many friends. He was truly a good example of God's child. No doubt he is now resting in the comfort of his Savior 's arms.

---

**Bobbi Banker** - October 03, 2023 at 07:06 AM

PS

Bob and I were such good pals in high school in Knoxville, Iowa. He was the best dancer and we'd dance our feet off. There was no romance between us, we were just pals. Oh we were so innocent then. We lost touch after graduation but I wish I had known him as an adult. He sounds like he was a good man.

*Pat Bullis Stouffer*

---

**PAT STOUFFER** - October 03, 2023 at 09:54 AM