



Gregg Wright Bonelli

February 5, 1948 - March 17, 2025

Gregg Wright Bonelli,

77, of Robinson, Illinois, passed away March 17, 2025. He was born February 5, 1948 in Evansville, Indiana to “Judy” Richard F. and Bill (Wright) Bonelli. Gregg was a graduate of Robinson High School, Robinson, Illinois. He received his undergraduate degree from Southern Illinois University and his Juris Doctor from John Marshall Law School, Chicago. Gregg was a Social Studies teacher, a Criminal Justice Professor and had his own private law practice.

Gregg is survived by his wife, Vicky Lee Bonelli; children, Courtney Kisat, Michael Bell (Mary Black), and Jessica Bell (Corey Myers); and four grandchildren, Noah Kisat, Nathan Kisat, Collin Kisat and Trent Stocum. Thoughtful, generous, and truly kind, Gregg was an amazing, unique man. Possessed of an incredible memory, he would randomly quote poetry he had learned in high school. He was very creative, a talented painter, author, inventor and carpenter. His passion was racing motorcycles. With a sketch book nearby for ideas, he had at least 10 different projects underway at all times.

He was deeply loved and will be dearly missed.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to the Public Broadcasting Service <https://www.pbs.org> and/or National Public Radio <https://www.npr.org> and/or the Sierra Club <https://www.sierraclub.org>

Arrangements are private and entrusted to Shirley Brothers Washington

Memorial Chapel.

Tribute Wall

CP

“ *Charlotte Perdue lit a candle in memory of Gregg Wright Bonelli*



Charlotte Perdue - April 08, 2025 at 08:32 PM

DB

“ *R. U. P. Mr Bonelli*

Bonelli was one the best teachers Cumberland ever had. I quit school at the beginning of my JR yr. N 86. I had got married Aug 12th, 86 and a cpl wks later school started but I chose not to go back to school. A cpl wks after school started I went to visit a cpl teachers and show them my weddings pictures. He picked out his favorite he liked most. By the end of our visit I ended up giving him the picture he liked. A few yrs ago he was liking my post and or would comment so I reached out to him so we chatted from time to time. He wasn't only the best teacher but was a good artist too. He painted a picture of my 4 older sisters mom and it was perfect. Yur gonna be missed. Hugs and prayers to Cumberland students, yur family and your friends.

Doris Lawhorn Brown - March 30, 2025 at 10:39 PM

SD

“*Bonelli taught life, he taught us to think, to challenge, and he treated us with respect as individuals and not "kids." One of the best teachers I've had in my life to date. I learned to juggle like many others, to memorize quickly and can still recall many of the poems he assigned. I learned to balance my checkbook, do my taxes, and even how to buy a used car... because he brought one to school and taught us how! Was sad to hear of his passing and my condolences to his family and friends. Please know that in his time here, he touched the lives of many in positive ways and helped mold many successful adults in his time teaching at Cumberland.*

Stephanie Dobbs - March 28, 2025 at 11:53 PM

LS

“*Gregg was my favorite cousin growing up, I was the youngest for a while (6 years younger) and he protected me from all the big kids. I am so thankful that we connected in the later years. He had some great stories about our grandmother—things I would never have known if he hadn't shared them with me. He was always fun. He had quite a life! I think of the stories he told me about the sixties. I could go on and on. I'll miss knowing he was there. So glad he had you Vicky. I am sorry for your loss.—Lee (Ziegler) Snyder*

Lee Snyder - March 27, 2025 at 11:29 PM

LC

“*Thanks Mr Bonelli for making Cumberland High a part of your career and touching our lives in the most interesting ways. One of the best! My Condolences to the Family,
Lisa Green Clouse*

Lisa Green Clouse, Class of 78 Cumberland - March 27, 2025 at 05:09 PM

LL

“ *Mr. Bonelli was my World History teacher at Cumberland High School. He was an unorthodox teacher, but we learned the material well! He was energetic and truly cared for his students. We all were sad when he left our school. He was a great teacher.* ❤️

Laura Light - March 27, 2025 at 07:51 AM

TN

“ *So very sorry for your loss!! Bonelli was one of my favorite teacher. He did teach us very good lesson. I was one of the lucky ones to get to go to Europe with him along with Mr. Riesner. It was a great trip!! Again so sorry for your loss.* 🙏

Terri Nickles - March 26, 2025 at 08:59 PM

RH

“ *Bonelli as we called him at Cumberland was my teacher for 3.5 years. As I read this on Facebook I actually had tears. Not only was his class one of my favorites because it made me think outside the box. But because he taught and treated us like young adults not children. Touring Europe with him was like an enchanted wonderland. He taught us about life and growing up and becoming adults. He taught us more than he knew. Thank you for sharing him with us. Blessings to all of you*

Rhonda Humphres - March 26, 2025 at 08:35 PM

PM

“ Gregg or “Bonell” as we called him, was my HS Sociology teacher. He taught in a manner unlike any other at Cumberland High School. One of the first days in class he told us he would teach us to think with both sides of our brains. He, and the class, learned to juggle, an exercise to stretch our minds to realize we could do things we didn't think possible. I learned more about myself and about life from him than any other teacher. He was also just a wonderful person to be around, a quick wit and a smile. He touched thousands of lives and leaves a huge number of former students better for having known him.

Paul Marti - March 26, 2025 at 05:41 PM



“ I knew Gregg for close to 30 years through AHRMA, I raced one of his "projects" for a year or two. and I have a resonator guitar he gave me in my collection. He was such a generous guy and a great writer. I'm going to miss his musings and the comfort that he always a short message away.

Harrison Withers - March 26, 2025 at 03:29 PM



<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/18fCuqyhFY/>

Harrison Withers - March 26, 2025 at 03:40 PM

DH

“ I truly believe that Gregg was the reason the Hollingsworth family got back into racing vintage bikes at all. Creating a spark with a thorough interview and article about Don's 1968 Daytona win on Supersprint sparked a flame under a long forgotten love. Such a great mind and thinker. Freely giving of his vast knowledge on all aspects of motorcycle road racing to anyone that was willing to learn. Coupled with the stories and his insight, Zen and the art of motorcycles will just never be the same without him. He loved his AHRMA family and gave so many of his weekends volunteering in between and after he paused his own racing career. Thank you to his wife for tolerating his second love, the time we got to spend with him because of you and your families sacrifice is not forgotten. Race in peace Gregg.

David Hollingsworth - March 25, 2025 at 08:36 PM

TH

“ I always enjoyed talking with Greg at the various Ahrma that we were both attending, Kansas, Blackhawk, Barber and Gingerman. Also really like his law posts on Facebook, Greg really knew his law. He will be missed.

Tom Hillard - March 25, 2025 at 02:50 PM