Vielledent, Robert Bruce

Robert Bruce Vielledent, known to most as "Bob" and to generations as "Coach V," passed away on February 21, 2026, at the age of 78, in his hometown of Tucson, Arizona.

Born December 10, 1947, to Roger and Maryalice Vielledent, Bob was first and foremost a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and brother. For 54 years, he was the steadfast and deeply devoted partner of Gail Vielledent — the quiet strength beside him through every season of life. Together they raised four children: Michelle, Shannon (Michael), Marc (Becky), and Aimee (Graham) — and were blessed with six grandchildren: Ava, Bella, Robert, Madison, Vivienne, and Colette. He is also survived by his brother, Buddy and sister, Suzanne (Jeff), as well as Daisy, his loyal golden retriever. A lifelong lover of golden retrievers, Bob admired their loyalty and joyful spirit... qualities he embodied fully.

A proud member of Sigma Chi at Northern Arizona University, Bob formed brotherhoods that endured a lifetime. Relationships anchored his life. He had an enormous heart; coaching and teaching were natural extensions of it.

He began at Sahuaro High School in 1971 at just 23 and became a cornerstone of Southern Arizona athletics, investing in generations of young people. Over three decades, Bob didn't just build winning teams — he built belief. His programs contributed to three state basketball championships, a 223–41 junior varsity basketball record, and a 30-game football winning streak. From 1987 to 1995, as head football coach at Santa Rita High School, he led multiple playoff appearances and secured the most wins in school history. His leadership earned induction into the Pima County Sports Hall of Fame, recognition as Southern Arizona Basketball Coach of the Year, and distinction as a finalist for the NFL National Teacher of the Year award.

Yet statistics never defined his impact. Bob stood in the corner for young people who needed belief, helping them see their worth and their future more clearly. Whether at St. Augustine Catholic High School, Our Mother of Sorrows School, Project MORE, or as a recruited mentor at Tanque Verde High School, he inspired young people — building character, restoring hope, and reminding them that they mattered.

Though he developed Hall of Fame athletes, Bob was most proud of shaping Hall of Fame people. Former players stayed in touch for decades. Colleagues became lifelong friends. He believed in showing up, standing firm for what was right, and giving every young person a reason to believe in themselves. His example remains his enduring legacy. Services will be held on Friday, March 6, 2026, beginning with a Rosary at 11:00am, followed by the Funeral Mass at 11:30am at Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church. The burial will come directly after at East Lawn Cemetery, with a Celebration of Life at Forty Niner Country Club beginning at 2:30pm. Any memorial gifts may be made to the Sahuaro High School Cougar Foundation.