

Hackensack Mourns Beloved HS Principal Harold Bloom, 89

The Hackensack community is mourning the loss of the high school's longtime and beloved principal Harold Bloom, who died Jan. 14 at Hackensack University Medical Center. He was 89 years old.

Affectionately known as "Uncle Hal," Bloom started in the district as a history teacher in 1954. He worked his way up to become principal in 1969 and retired in 1992.

Bloom went on to become a trustee for the Maywood library, playing a major role in stabilizing its finances.

His name lives on not only on Hackensack High School's First Street sky bridge, but in the hearts of hundreds of former colleagues and students.

"This week we lost a gentle giant who was much loved by students, colleagues, friends, and community members," fellow educator and city resident Sue Jackson said. "His humor, wisdom, and integrity were legendary. He will be sorely missed and impossible to replace."

"He was a very good man, a gentle soul who loved everyone's children," said Camille Hornes, "and made all children feel important."

"He was an amazing principal," Angela Posillico said. "It was an honor to be one of his students."

Bloom is survived by his wife Rita; daughters Linda and Heidi; and son Steven.

"Dad never forgot his HHS kids," his daughter Linda Bloom said. "He started teaching at age 24 so close in age to his seniors... they flanked his bedside at HUMC, telling [him] stories of what year they graduated, their classes, homerooms, grandchildren if he was their teacher, or ranking as athlete."

Arrangements will be handled by Gutterman and Musicant Jewish Funeral Directors. Check back for details.