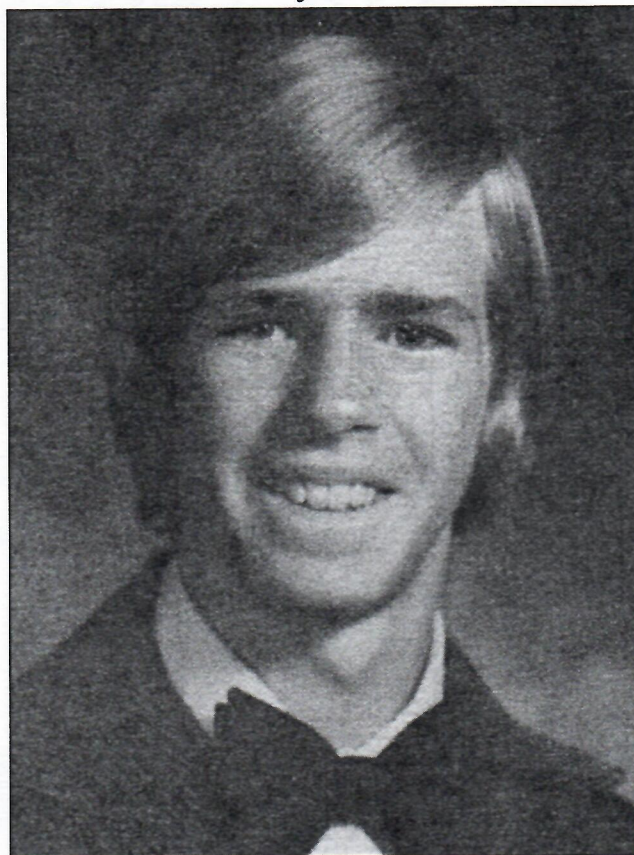


# *Watchung Hills Regional High School Hall of Fame*



**Robert (Bob) Beckert**  
**State Champion Cross Country Runner,**  
**Active Community Volunteer**  
*Class of 1976*

Bob Beckert was a highly decorated runner and member of the 1974 Sectional Champion and State Champion Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Cross-Country Team. He was also an active member with the wrestling team during the track and cross-country off season.

He, his wife, Nancy, and their four children, all graduated from WHRHS. Bob and his family remained active members in the WHRHS community, and he enjoyed the camaraderie and social connection when attending many WHRHS sports and extracurricular activities. Bob made it a priority to attend local WHRHS events in the company of his family. All of his children competed on the Watchung Hills cross-country team.

Even with his successful AT&T professional activities, which he routinely conducted out of offices in Seattle and Washington as well as in New Jersey, Bob made every attempt to attend football games, wrestling matches and basketball games. He was reported to have kept on his AT&T work desktop a printout of WHRHS athletic schedules, with home games highlighted.

Bob was an Eagle Scout himself, a Cub Scout Leader for his son's Kindergarten class, and a father of an Eagle Scout. For many years, he was an active member of the Optimist Club of Watchung, including as its President in 1997. He was an active member at St. Mary's-Stony Hill Church, Watchung, served on the Parish Council, and taught Sunday school for 10 years. Following on his success as a Warrior track and cross-country standout, Bob remained an avid recreational runner into his adulthood.

Bob died in a tragic accident in 2004, and his family organizes the annual Bob Beckert Memorial 5K Run/Walk every June. The race starts and finishes at his beloved WHRHS. The fun event, which by now is a staple on the local road running calendar and attracts elite runners and family walkers alike, raises funds for scholarships. To date, the Bob Beckert 5K has raised more than \$70,000 to fund scholarships available to all WHRHS graduating seniors.