



# **100 years old - Robert Wadlow's legacy lives on in Alton, Illinois**

by Dan Brannan, Content Director  
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“He went to Alton High School and everything in his life was affected by his size,” Langley said.

Langley said Robert’s last shoe size was 44.5 when he died. “Once, when his shoe size was 37, they had a contest to where someone could guess how many dimes were in Robert’s Shoe. There were 6,250 dimes in his size 37. His casket so long had to remove the rear door of the hearse. There 18 pallbearers and normally there are six.”

“We have a film here at the museum where you see Robert walking and talking. He seemed like he was a very positive person. We are thankful that we have a lot of artifacts from Harold Wadlow, Jr., here at the museum. Robert is most known as the tallest person to walk the face of the earth.”

William Brandt attended the event Thursday and said his mother was in Robert’s class.

“I even have a funeral home invitation for Robert’s funeral from my mother,” she said.

“He sat next to my mother in a class at school. They were good friends, so I wanted to be here today.”

Alton Museum Director Brian Combs said there were some new artifacts that had been added to the Wadlow display, including a new pair of shoes, a People Magazine article about Robert and some other statue replicas of Robert.

“I don’t think there is any other person as a noticeable form of a physical or personality standpoint in this town (Alton) as Robert,” he said. “We have a lot of interesting personalities, but he stands out taller than anyone else as far as Alton is concerned.

“This is a destination for many different folks. An extraordinary amount of people come here. Last week we had people here from Brazil interested in hog farming but they had to come here to see information about the world’s tallest man. This was a wonderful event today with a single purpose of enjoying this man’s legacy.”



