



Robert Stanley "Bob" Russler

September 14, 1939 - June 26, 2023

Robert Stanley "Bob" Russler, 83, of rural Evansville, passed away peacefully at his home after a long illness on Monday, June 26, 2023.

Bob was born September 14, 1939 in Evansville, the fourth of eight children to the late Roman V. and Marie G. (Hansert) Russler. He attended Sacred Heart Grade School and was an altar server at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. In 1958, Bob graduated from Mater Dei High School, where he was a member of the football team.

Bob worked as a railroad fireman and locomotive engineer with the L & N Railroad, later known as the Seaboard System Railroad, then later CSX Transportation. He retired in 1999 after 39 years of service.

From 1963 to 1965, Bob served on active duty in the United States Army, 24th Engineer Battalion, Fourth Armored Division during the Berlin Crisis. Earning the rank of Sergeant E-5, he was stationed in Nuremberg, Germany, where he supervised the construction of temporary bridges over the Rhine River with the Combat Engineers Group. Bob was honorably discharged in 1965.

Bob was a long-time resident of Evansville's west side and experienced many happy years of hunting and fishing with family and friends. He had a passion for the outdoors and took pride in his yard and garden. Bob loved watching

wildlife in his backyard and maintained bird houses and feeders. He had a few dogs and cats over the years, which brought him great joy.

Bob also enjoyed watching old western television shows and a cold glass of beer. He looked forward to many vacations to Destin, Florida where he loved swimming in the ocean and deep-sea fishing.

He belonged to Holy Trinity Catholic Church for 30 years and was currently a member of St. Boniface Catholic Parish. Bob was a member of American Legion Funkhouser Post 8, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, National Association of Retired and Veteran Railway Employees, and the Mater Dei Friends and Alumni Association.

Surviving Bob are his wife of 57 years, Mary Lue Neale Russler; brothers, Charles (Dolores) Russler, William Russler and James (Mary Lynn) Russler; sisters, Carol Russler and Mae Russler, all of Evansville; sisters-in-law, Betty Plump, Rosie Neale and Nancy Neale; brothers-in-law, Ron Neale, Jim Neale and Larry Neale, all of Evansville and Bob (Kay) Neale of Fenton, Missouri; nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, friends and neighbors.

In addition to his parents, Bob was preceded in death by sisters, Marylou Russler Ulrich and Frances Russler Lively; nephews, David Ulrich and Adam Neale; sisters-in-law, Merrie Jane Russler and Mary Ingram Neale; brothers-in-law, James Ulrich, Clovis "Toby" Lively, Daniel D. Neale and Richard Plump.

There will be a Mass of Christian Burial held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 30, 2023 at St. Boniface Catholic Church, 418 N. Wabash Avenue, Rev. Lowell Will officiating. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, where the Vanderburgh County Retired Veterans Memorial Club will conduct military rites.

Friends may visit with the family from 3:00 until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday at Pierre Funeral Home, 2601 W. Franklin Street, where there will be a memorial service held at 6:00 p.m.

Special thanks go to DaVita Eagles Dialysis, Deaconess Midtown Hospital, Deaconess Home Care and Heritage Hospice, for all of their kind and compassionate care.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Boniface Catholic Parish, 1626 Glendale Avenue, Evansville, IN 47712; Mater Dei High School, Bob and Mary Lue Russler Tuition Assistance Endowment Fund, 1300 Harmony Way, Evansville, IN 47720; University of Southern Indiana Foundation, Bob and Mary Lue Russler Scholarship Fund, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, IN 47712; or to the Sisters of St. Benedict, 802 E. 10th Street, Ferdinand, IN 47532.

Condolences may be made online at www.pierrefuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery

2500 Mesker Park Drive
Evansville, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **29**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Pierre Funeral Home
2601 West Franklin Street
Evansville, IN 47712
(812) 423-6471
info@pierrefuneralhome.com
<https://www.pierrefuneralhome.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

JUN **30**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Boniface Catholic Church
418 N, Wabash Avenue
Evansville, IN

Tribute Wall



“ *Pierre Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Robert Stanley "Bob" Russler*



Pierre Funeral Home - June 27, 2023 at 05:06 PM



“ *It was my pleasure to be a part of Mr. Russler's nursing team. My condolences to Mary Lue.*
Crystal C., RN, Deaconess One Care

Crystal C - July 14, 2023 at 03:33 PM

MR

“ My Bob

Some called him “Black Cat,” but Bob liked to be called “Chief.” He even put a sign with letters “CHIEF” on the front of his big red truck.

And he was my “Chief!”

“Chief” Bob was my classmate, sergeant soldier, Army veteran, security guard, tough guy, grocery boy, errand boy, super shopper, driver, yard-man, weed-eater pro, vegetable gardener, painter, apple grower, tree trimmer, carpenter, recycling guru, maintenance man, railroader, and a very caring, faithful and protective husband.

He could seem gruff at times, but deep down he had a heart of gold.

Bob was my buddy! He was a man of faith. He was a great hunter, animal lover, fisherman, and swimmer. He was a wonderful son, brother and uncle. He was a faithful friend and neighbor.

Bob was a brave and strong patient. He faced health challenges with courage.

I loved my “Chief,” and I will miss him so much. I am okay, because he is with Jesus now.

May the Divine Physician grant Bob eternal rest.

*Mary Lue Neale Russler
July, 2023*

Mary Lue Neal Russler - July 11, 2023 at 04:16 PM

DJ

“ 2 files added to the album Lifetributes



Dolores Jankowski - June 29, 2023 at 07:08 PM

SS

“ Dear Mary Lue and Family, you have my deepest sympathy. Bob was such a good friend, and I have missed running into him at the grocery and at USI events. Always cheerful with a good wish for everyone. May his memory be a blessing.
Sherrienne Standley

Sherrienne Standley - June 29, 2023 at 09:14 AM

RD

Dearest Mary Lue.... I was out of town and Susie let me know of your Bob... graduating to Heaven !
You are such a sweet , caring person and always so kind to me... please know you are in my daily prayers... not for a short time but especially the coming year as you go through those “ firsts” without Bob. Call me anytime... let me know of anything I can do for you!
Love in Christ... Rita

RITA DUTTON, DUNLAP - July 02, 2023 at 02:47 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Robert Stanley "Bob" Russler.



June 28, 2023 at 08:11 PM

LN

“ *Laura Neale purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Robert Stanley "Bob" Russler.*



Laura Neale - June 28, 2023 at 03:10 PM

JC

“ *Mary Lue I was so sorry to hear about Bob's passing. He was such a great guy in his own silly ways. I looked forward to his visits to the bank he was never lost for words. I remember as if it was yesterday while you both were sitting at my desk he would say Mary Lue we have to go we have things to do of course he would have to say this several times before we would stop talking he would also says in his own words you only knew Mary Lue what they were LETS GO. I hope Bob knew how much I cared for him. I know he is in a great place. We will miss you, Bob*



jackie craig - June 28, 2023 at 01:12 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert Stanley "Bob" Russler.*



June 28, 2023 at 12:19 PM

DB

“ *Mary Lue...I am so sorry to hear of Bob's passing. He was a wonderful man. Both you and Bob have been so very loving to me and our family over the years and we have greatly appreciated your continued love, support and friendship over the years. Bob always made us laugh and had something funny to share. The last time I spoke with him, I introduced him to Bink and he went on and on about how much younger Bink looked than me. (Bink is 7 years older than me.). We laughed and laughed. I am sorry we are in upstate Wisconsin to attend an event with our grandson on Friday and will not be able to attend Bob's funeral, but we will be with you all in spirit and will certainly come visit you when we return. We will also honor Bob at the Saint Mother Teresa Museum at Ave Maria University in Florida as we discussed. Your video tribute to Bob is precious! Thank you for sharing all of this history! What a wonderful life story! Our deepest sympathy and love to you and all of Bob's family.*



Debi Binkley - June 28, 2023 at 08:11 AM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Robert Stanley "Bob" Russler.*



June 27, 2023 at 06:34 PM

“*In loving memory of my Uncle Bob, who I affectionately called "Uncle Bumb," I would like to pay tribute to a man who played a significant role in my life. Uncle Bob's presence filled my days with laughter, curiosity and cherished memories that will forever hold a special place in my heart.*

One of the fondest memories I have of Uncle Bob are the countless nights I spent and days I spent with him and Aunt Mary Lue. Their home was my second home.

Uncle Bob had a deep appreciation for nature. I remember his love for his hunting dogs, especially Big Red, who would bark non stop every time I was there. He would go down to their cage with me and let me feed them. His passion for birds was evident in the remarkable birdhouses he had, which attracted a multitude of colorful birds. Those moments of observing nature's beauty together created lasting memories that I will always hold dear.

The garage also was a special place for me. Uncle Bob would enjoy a cold beer and engage in his tinkering endeavors. I can still picture the beautiful stained glass tavern light, hanging above his work station and begging to take it home! Sterling or Blue Moon, I can't really remember which beer name was on it and it really doesn't matter; what remains etched in my mind are the memories of that magical light and just hanging out with my uncle.

Uncle Bob possessed a unique sense of humor, always ready with a joke or a funny remark. His laughter brought a smile to my face. But beneath his funny and joking exterior, Uncle Bob had a stern side. He was a man of principles, someone who believed in the importance of responsibility and discipline.

Uncle Bumb, you have left an indelible mark on my life. There are so many other things I would love to add to this, but I've probably lost your attention by now! I love you so much! I thank you for all that you have done for me and I will miss you dearly. If I could

chase you around on my bicycle while you mowed the yard one more time, I would do it in a heartbeat.

I will miss you greatly.

*Love,
Karen*

Karen McDermott - June 27, 2023 at 05:54 PM



“ *Divine Light* was purchased for the family of Robert Stanley "Bob" Russler.



June 27, 2023 at 05:19 PM



“ 100 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Pierre Funeral Home - June 27, 2023 at 05:02 PM