



Robert "Bob" Watson Freligh

May 22, 1921 - August 24, 2023

Longtime Adrian resident Robert Watson (Bob) Freligh died August 24, 2023, in Rochester, NY, where he moved in 2018 to be closer to family. Bob was 102.

Bob was an alumnus of Adrian High School (Class of 1939), Albion College (BA), and the University of Toledo (MBA).

He enlisted in the United States Naval Air Service in 1942, trained as a torpedo bomber pilot, and served in the Pacific theater of World War II. Bob was honored with the Navy Cross for valor in combat following the successful landing of his plane when it was hit during the Battle of Leyte Gulf.

In 1945, Bob married the former Jean Marie Lok, who joined him as a student at Albion College. Upon graduation, the Frelighs returned to Adrian to make their home and raise five children.

Bob began his career in public accounting with the firm of Root & Nikolai. He went on to work as a financial officer for Brazeway Inc. and Kewaunee Scientific.

In midlife, Bob and Jean took up running for exercise. They competed in many races in Michigan and elsewhere, making friends of all ages. Bob qualified for

the Boston Marathon at age 60, and ran that race in 1982.

After Bob's retirement in 1984, he and Jean began to travel the world, widening their circle of friends nationally and internationally. The couple celebrated 50 years of marriage in 1995. After Jean's death in 1999, Bob continued to see the world in her honor, completing trips to all seven continents.

Bob was an active community volunteer during his years in Adrian, serving on the boards of the Adrian Public Schools, Bank of Lenawee, the Croswell, and the Adrian Symphony, among other groups. He was instrumental in the creation of the Lenawee Lifelong Learning program.

Bob was predeceased by his wife, Jean, his brother, Bill; and his son, John. He is survived by his daughters Sarah, Penelope Pankow (Eric) and Libby, all of Rochester, NY; and Becky, of Cleveland Heights, OH.

Funeral services took place at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Rochester, NY on August 31, 2023 at 3 p.m. A celebration of Bob's life will be held on Friday, November 3, 2023 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Wagley Funeral Home, Adrian in the Heritage Room.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Adrian Schools Educational Foundation at <https://adriansef.org/>.

Online condolences and memories may be shared at www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

AUG 31. 3:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
25 Westminster Road
Rochester, NY 14607

Reception

AUG 31 (ET)

Valley Manor
1570 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14610

Following the funeral service

Celebration of Life

NOV 3. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

The Heritage Room at Wagley Funeral Home
1501 West Maumee Street
Adrian, MI 49221

Tribute Wall

KS

“ Bob and Jean were the highlight of every Ann Arbor Brewer's Guild meeting that they attended. I can still remember the blueberry pie they brought to one meeting. It was so delicious, I had to learn to make one that good myself. Such wonderful people. Great brewers. So humble. So kind-spirited. Bob was truly a joy. My condolences for your loss. It is a big one.

Ken Schramm - November 01, 2023 at 10:13 PM

LC

“ Bob was the first person I met at the Presbyterian Church when I moved back to Adrian. I shall always remember him with love and affection!

Lois N. Curtis - October 31, 2023 at 11:22 AM

LL

“ My deepest sympathy to the family. I have so many wonderful memories of your dad and the whole family from our neighbor days on Orchard Drive! I occasionally ran in to him at the grocery store and we had nice conversations! Lauri Warner LaTour

Lauren LaTour - September 06, 2023 at 10:09 AM

TW

“ Thomas W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert "Bob" Watson Freligh.

Thomas W. - September 05, 2023 at 12:07 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Watson Freligh.*



August 30, 2023 at 01:32 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert "Bob" Watson Freligh.

August 30, 2023 at 01:32 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Watson Freligh.*



August 30, 2023 at 01:09 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Sarah Freligh - August 30, 2023 at 12:47 PM

JF

“ Dear Freligh family; Our deepest sympathies on the passing of your dad. We have been blessed with being Bob's neighbor for many years and have many great memories. One was, while in his 80's, on a few occasions on a mild Winter day, we saw him walk by on the sidewalk wearing his WW2 bomber jacket. What a thrill that was for us! Definitely something you don't see every day! Many more memories too numerous to write, with him, and of course, Jean. Gary, Lori and I are all the richer for having known them. Sending peace and love to you all. Jan and Gary Fox

Jan Fox - August 29, 2023 at 01:04 PM



Thank you, Jan and Gary.

Sarah Freligh - August 29, 2023 at 05:46 PM

MC

I have many good memories of Bob and Jean. I send my condolences on the death of Bob recently.
Marjorie Castle

Marjorie Castle - October 28, 2023 at 02:19 PM