



Robert "Bob" Arthur Lenden

March 18, 1923 - March 24, 2016

Robert "Bob" Arthur Lenden, 93, of Traverse City, passed away Thursday, March 24, 2016 surrounded by his loving family.

Bob was born on March 18, 1923 in Detroit, MI to the late Frank and Elizabeth (Tucker) Lenden. He married the late Mary Ann Gilbert on June 5, 1943 in California. Together they lovingly raised four children.

Honorably dad served our country in the United States Army Airforce during WWII, serving in 9 campaigns. He was a devoted member to St. Francis Catholic Church and was a lifelong Detroit Tigers fan (even when they were losing!). He also loved to watch the Detroit Red Wings. Dad loved nothing better than baking pizzas and playing cards with his family - that was a perfect day for him. Most importantly our dad was a devoted husband, father and grandpa loving his family immensely. His sense of humor, never ending advice and peaceful smile will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Surviving Bob are his children, Bob (Lupita) Lenden Jr., Betsy (Bill) Gratiot, Mike (JoAnn) Lenden; granddaughters Kristi (John) Meier, Suzy (Billy) Shrum, Elizabeth (Frank) Bravo, Sarah (Mike) Smith, Megan Gratiot, grandson David (Brittany) Gratiot, great grandchildren, Alexis, Mikayla, Chad, Isabel, Madilynn, and Grace and many other loving family members and friends.

Bob is preceded in death by his daughter Karen in January, 2012 and his wife Mary in June, 2012.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place on Thursday, March 31, 2016 at St. Francis Catholic Church at 11am with a visitation held one hour prior. Entombment will take place at Oakwood Catholic Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be directed to the Father Fred Foundation.

Cemetery

Oakwood Catholic Diocesan Cemetery

1720 Hannah Street
Traverse City, MI, 49686

Events

MAR **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

31

St. Francis Catholic Church
1025 S. Union, Traverse City, MI, US,
49684

MAR **Funeral Mass** 11:00AM

31

St. Francis Catholic Church
1025 S. Union, Traverse City, MI, US,
49684

Comments



“ He was a great father-in-law and called me son right away. I have a lot of great memories from family get-togethers to playing hours of pool to playing hours of cards. He made an awesome pizza and Hungarian hors d'oeuvres.

From,

Tom Demers

Thomas Demers - March 30, 2016 at 12:46 PM



“ Mike & Family,

I am so sorry that you are experiencing this loss. I hope the love of family and friends will bring you great comfort.

Lisa Perrotta

Lisa Perrotta - March 30, 2016 at 09:01 AM



“ My Grandpa was a good man. He loved his family immensely and I know we'll all miss him. I have good memories of him being so happy that he'd cry when we'd fly back for a visit. He'd just sit and bask in all the family chaos swirling in his house. When he had the strength, he'd make his famous pizza for us! He was always so kind on the phone when I'd call, always asking about Mike and I. I'll miss his raspy voice and hearing him laugh. I'll miss seeing him wave while drove down the street when it was time to go. He'd have given us kids anything if we would have just asked. I'm thankful though, in this time of loss, knowing that he's not in pain anymore, waiting to go. He's met his Maker, his Lord. And even though he was ready, the glory and splendor that met him when he arrived far surpassed what he was ready for. We love you, Grandpa

Sarah Demers-Smith - March 28, 2016 at 10:24 PM



“ Oh Sarah, so beautiful. You captured grandpa so well. Next to God he loved his children/grandchildren the BEST

Betsy Gratiot - March 29, 2016 at 01:38 AM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Sarah Demers-Smith - March 28, 2016 at 10:14 PM



“ Though I lived most of my adult life away from Grandpa, I have vivid memories of him and the fun times he helped to provide for me and Suzy as we were growing up. I remember the way he greeted me with a warm hug and smile whenever we came over to visit. He was always happy to see us. I remember him downstairs in the basement after dinner, playing pool with Uncle Bob, Uncle Mike and my Dad. And I remember him sitting at the head of the dinner table downstairs in the basement for our big family Christmas dinners, delicious food spread across the whole table and all the "big people" talking and laughing. But my favorite memory happened one very special Christmas when I was about 7 or 8 years old. He had arranged for "Santa" to pay a very special visit to Suzy and I during a stay at their house one cold Christmas. I can still remember Santa standing there at the front door asking for Suzy and Kristi, saying he'd been looking all over Iowa for us. He pulled up in a van with yellow flashing lights, saying there wasn't enough snow to use the reindeer. I believed him...what's not to believe. In fact, that strong belief got me into some embarrassing trouble as a 5th grader! And there were the presents...so many presents under the tree mysteriously set out while eating our Christmas eve dinner. Another memory I have is of the tire disc swing he installed for us on his big backyard tree. Then there was sitting with him watching him make his famous greasy bread over an open fire. And his pizza...nothing compares still! I remember how kind he was to me and my husband, John, as we were dating ... always accepting and encouraging to both of us. Perhaps my favorite recent memory is the day I spoke with him while on a break at work. He said the thing he prayed every day was "Lord, help me to know and do your will." And he meant it. He knew his life still had purpose from God. He was a praying man, believed in Jesus, and said he spent most of his days as a 90+ year old just talking to Jesus and praying for all of his family members. Someday I believe we'll find out how many troubles his prayers saved us from. And now he's with my Mom and my Grandma, strong and happy again. He was loved and will be missed.

Kristi

Kristin Demers-Meier - March 28, 2016 at 08:47 PM



“ the silk screening sign shop in Delray is my oldest memory of Uncle Bob, I remember him going there to work when Grandpa was busy " Signs by Lenden " was Grandpas shop. memories of going there with uncle bob and my mom his sister betty will never go away, Greasy Bread will live on forever with ONLY Hungarian Rye from Delray Bakery onions green peppers and the most special part SZALONNA, and only over a wood fire! God's speed to you my uncle, I will live and do God's will as long as I can.
Tim and David

tim callery - March 28, 2016 at 05:40 PM



“ I will miss our summer visits and the conversations we had. We solved many of the worlds problems over a Burger King spicy chicken. He was a great example of how a person should live, loved his family and prayed for all. We will miss him but are happy he is finally with his family in heaven. Good Bye Uncle Bob.

Jim & Kathy - March 26, 2016 at 10:44 AM