



Robert Francis Jude Kauffman

January 11, 1929 - July 29, 2018

Robert Francis Jude Kauffman, 89, of Traverse City passed away July 29, 2018 at his home with his family by his side.

Bob was born on January 11, 1929 in Detroit to the late James Delmer and Evelyn (Everson) Kauffman.

Bob served our country honorably as a member of the United States Naval Reserve during the Korean Conflict.

On November 21, 1953, Bob married Ruth Ann Hancock at Christ the King in Detroit. As a young man, Bob moved in across the street from Ruth, and after some time and getting to know each other, the two dated and started their love story.

Bob earned his Masters in Fine Art from Wayne State University. He was an art teacher for many years and taught at Franklin High school in Livonia. Even when he wasn't teaching, he loved art and was very talented. He could do anything from beautiful sketches to wood carving to even the design and construction of their home on Bass Lake. His family will cherish his gifts of art that he left behind.

Following retirement in 1986, Bob and Ruth enjoyed spending the winters in North Hutchinson Island. Bob was a member at St. Francis and later St. Patrick's Catholic Church. Bob also had a passion for music and loved listening to big band music. He taught himself how to play piano, harmonica and the banjo. He would often play renditions of Boogie Woogie on the piano He passed his love of music on to all of his family members.

Bob is survived by his beloved wife of 64 years, Ruth; their children Nancy (Dan) Brenneman of Traverse City, Sally Kauffman of Traverse City, Robert (Danielle) Kauffman of Crown Point, IN and Kathleen (Michael) Olson of Geneva, IL; grandchildren Mark,

Jonathon, Colleen, Jenifer, Christopher, Alex, Nicholas, Michael, Kristina, Kate and Ethan and great granddaughters Haley, Eden Rose and Adalynn Grace.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, sisters Rose Marie and Marianne and brother James Delmer

The memorial mass celebrating Bob's life will be held on Saturday, September 1, 2018 at 11:00 am at St. Patrick Catholic Church with visitation beginning one hour prior.

Memorial contributions in memory of Bob may be directed to The Center For Independence through Conductive Education. They are a nonprofit organization that helps people with physical disabilities maximize their independence. www.cfimove.org. 100 W. Plainfield, Countryside, IL 60525.

The family is being cared for by Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Events

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

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St. Patrick's Catholic Church

630 S West Silver Lake Rd, Traverse City, MI, US, 49685-8526

SEP **Celebration of Life** 11:00AM

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St. Patrick's Catholic Church

630 S West Silver Lake Rd, Traverse City, MI, US, 49685-8526

Comments



“ Mr. Kauffman was my art teacher back in BC (Before Computers). I remember a lot of students took art because they thought it would be an easy credit. Not so with Bob. He took creativity very serious and every student better take it serious, as well. He guided with a firm but gentle hand. The phrase "think outside the box" had not been invented yet; but that is exactly what he tried to get you to do. He would criticize if he knew you could do better and praise you when you did.

I eventually combined my love of automobiles with a design degree from CCS. My career was spent at Chrysler Corporation drawing cars, just like I did in the back row of history class, for three years. His guidance and many words of encouragement, gave me the ability to believe in myself and succeed in my career and life in general.

Thanks Buddy,
Sorry that so many of my assignments were "late". Just tried to get them right.

Ed Pinaridi
Franklin High School
Class of 68

Ed Pinaridi - December 18, 2018 at 10:31 PM



“ There's too many wonderful memories to share. This really sticks out in my mind. Uncle Bob coming over to our house and even if we weren't in the room we could hear him at the piano playing Boogie Woogie fever. We were like Uncle Bob's over! We would run down to see him! I adored my uncle. I especially enjoyed him in the company of his brother my dad. I could sit there and listen to their childhood stories all day!

Julie Phillips - September 02, 2018 at 04:52 PM



“ I had the pleasure of having Bob Kauffman as an art teacher at Franklin High school in 1969. My most vivid memory (I have it to this day) of him was his guidance and the joy I saw on his face while we worked on a jewelry/sculpture project of mine that he cast (on his own) in sterling silver. The piece ended up winning an award but more importantly was the power of creation that he seeded in me. That passion to speak through the language of art only grew stronger throughout my life, I have and continue to make my living as a sculptor and jeweler.

Mark Beltchenko

Mark Beltchenko - August 31, 2018 at 03:41 PM



“ Dear Ruth: Mick and I are sorry for the loss of your beloved husband, and send our sympathy to you and your family. Even though I didn't know Bob, I enjoyed seeing his lovely sketches and wood carvings in your home during our bridge times. Peace be with all of you. Brenda and Mick Kelly

Brenda Kelly - August 10, 2018 at 08:41 AM



“ My favorite childhood memories are on Bass Lake thanks to Bob's dream of building that beautiful "cottage" and he was such a fun host while there! Whether we arrived by snowmobiles because of the all the snow or in an old station wagon dodging deer - a good time was always a given!! I loved listening to his informative talks about birds, nature and art. He could be so serious with his "teachings" yet be so funny with his mischief making. He will be very missed by all those that knew and loved him! Thank you Bob for adding so much joy to all the Dowdall family - you are a gem!
Love,
Kathy Dowdall-Forrester and Family

P.S. I know you're in good company.



Kathy Forrester - August 07, 2018 at 01:47 PM



“ I will ALWAYS think of Mr. Kauffman when I hear a boogie-woogie. Rest in Peace, Mr. Kauffman - you will be sorely missed. Love, Mary Sue (Leslie) Davinich

Mary Davinich - August 06, 2018 at 12:08 PM



“ I enjoyed spending time with bob when he would play his hammonica sitting on his dock with him on bass lake.I also enjoyed his sense of humor.Love and prayers to the kauffman family bob will be missed.

Shari Olson - August 06, 2018 at 09:39 AM