



Robert J. Sutton

December 23, 1926 - May 9, 2018

Robert John Sutton, 91, of Lake Ann, passed away peacefully Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at his home. At the time of his death he was attended by his son and daughter-in-law.

Robert was born December 23, 1926 to Hubert and Velva Sutton in Kennard, IN at his aunt's home. He grew up in the New Castle, IN area with his four brothers and four sisters. A lifelong involvement with music began at age 7 when he learned to play guitar. He played music all through the 40's and 50's with his family, known as The Sutton Family Band. They performed weekly at various venues throughout central Indiana. He graduated from New Castle High School in 1945. Immediately after graduation, on June 7, 1945, he enlisted in the U. S. Army. Robert served in the Military Police in both Denmark and Berlin, Germany from 1945 until October of 1946. He was part of the Post War Occupation Force as an MP desk sergeant in the American Sector of Berlin. He was honorably discharged in October 1946 upon the death of his father.

He and Annetta Hudson were married December 1, 1948. Following WW II, he attended Ivy Tech, Ball State University and Lincoln Institute of Technology. He worked for a time at Shapiro's Cafeteria and at Horney's Music Store as a salesman and guitar instructor. On June 9, 1950 he went to work for Chrysler Corporation as an hourly employee. In 1951 he was promoted to line foreman over shock absorbers. In 1952 he was elevated to the Personnel Department as the Labor Relations Supervisor. Robert retired from that position December 31, 1981.

He was very active in the New Castle community and as a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. He was involved in and chairman of the local United Fund. In 1959 he began his tenure as Scout Leader by forming Cub Scout/Boy Scout Troop 454 at Hernly Grade School. In 1964 he was awarded the Silver Beaver Award for Distinguished Service. He also helped found the New Castle Barbershop Chorus.

Upon retirement, he and his wife Ann moved to Lake Ann in December 1981. An avid outdoorsman, he loved to fish, camp, snowmobile, mushroom hunt and hike. A member of

All Saints Lutheran Church and eventually attended Advent Lutheran Church in Lake Ann where he was active in the choir, Bible studies and church council. Always the avid musician, he play guitar, bass, banjo, mandolin and ukulele. He was also, for several years, a member of the Cherry Capital Barbershop Chorus and S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. He enjoyed entertaining in the Northern Michigan area with both the chorus and several quartets. He was known after his retirement as an accomplished woodworker. His creations included wooden toys, tables, Adirondack chairs, library boxes and pulpits.

Robert was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandpa. He served as sole caregiver for his wife Ann for several years. They had been married for 57 years at the time of her death December 28, 2005. He was best known for his quick wit and always having a story to tell. A friendly, trusting and truly nice person who was devoted to God and his church to the end.

Robert is survived by his son Larry and daughter-in-law LuAnn of New Castle, IN; grandsons Lee (Anmarie) Sutton of Parker, CO and Dan Sutton of Kansas City, MO; great grandchildren Lana and Carter Sutton of Parker, CO. Also surviving are two sisters, Treva Cross of Indianapolis, IN and June (Ray) Croxford of Caldwell, ID. In addition, Robert leaves behind several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Annetta; brothers Jack, Paul, Walter and Doyle as well as sisters Margaret Kuhn and Joan Neal.

The family would like to give a special thanks to Chelsey, Shelly and Tim.

A visitation will take place from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 16 at Advent Lutheran Church, 8481 Lake Ann Rd., Lake Ann, MI 49650. The service celebrating Robert's life will begin at 1 p.m., also at the church, the Rev. Tim Jahn will officiate. Burial will take place in Lake Ann Cemetery following the service.

Memorial donations may be made in Robert's name to Advent Lutheran Church, P. O. Box 249, Lake Ann, MI 49650 or to the American Cancer Society, 129 S. Jefferson, SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

Cemetery

Lake Ann Cemetery

6564 Co Hwy 667
Lake Ann, MI, 49650

Events

MAY 16 Visitation for friends and family 11:00AM - 01:00PM

Advent Lutheran Church

8481 Lake Ann Rd., Lake Ann, MI, US, 49650

MAY 16 Celebration of Life 01:00PM

Advent Lutheran Church

8481 Lake Ann Rd., Lake Ann, MI, US, 49650

Comments



“ Bob was an amazing man and friend. We shared many laughs, tears, hugs. He always had a smile on his face, story to tell and a joke to share. I will miss seeing him at the store. He was always so kind, asking how my family was doing. He was cherished by many as you well know. I truly consider him as a very special friend. He always spoke highly of his family, especially his grandsons. He was a proud family man.

So blessed to have known both Ann and Bob.

I hope the tributes people share help give you all peace and strength.

Deb - May 17, 2018 at 08:18 AM



“ So sorry to hear about your dad Larry. He always treated me like family when i was with him. It was fun going mushroom hunting with you and him. Hope your wonderful memorys help you through this difficult time. LOVE you guys Frank&JILL

JILL RYAN - May 15, 2018 at 08:26 PM



“ Larry & LuAnn

We are so sorry to hear about the passing of your father, thinking and praying for you in your time of sorrow.

Mike & Lin Romine

Mike Romine - May 15, 2018 at 08:09 AM



“ I am sending light, love and harmony to all the family. Bob was a much admired and appreciated "go getter" for the CherryCapital Chorus. He always gave "above and beyond" what was expected. He loved the chorus, and we loved him. He will be greatly missed, but always remembered by us all. I'm sorry I will not be able to attend the service because of long-term previous commitment . In sympathy, Marty Chirgwin

marty chirgwin - May 14, 2018 at 08:37 PM



“ Larry& LuAnn,
Was so sorry to hear of your father's passing. You have my deepest sympathy.
Karen Buggle

Karen Buggle - May 14, 2018 at 02:24 PM



“ My sisters and I spent many hours with Uncle Bob and Aunt Ann, they were a wonderful, loving, presence in our childhood. We loved drawing on their huge chalkboard and going for ice cream at the Dairy Queen. He was never afraid to take 3 little girls off for an adventure. Lake Ann was a place where we got to take boat rides, go fishing and hunt for Petosky stones. We once threw the anchor over board without it being attached. God was watching and made sure we snagged the anchor rope with our fishing hook. My sister caught the only anchor fish at Lake Ann. Uncle Bob got quite a kick out of that story, he loved to tell stories, usually taller than he was. He was a wonderful uncle and I am happy to know that I will see him again one day. I expect he will meet me at the Pearly Gates, ready to tell me some far fetched tale about Heaven. My love and prayers go out to Larry, Luann and the family.

Debbie Norris - May 13, 2018 at 09:35 PM



“ It has been a privalege to be a friend of Bob's for the last 4 decades. He allowed us to use his Lake Ann home which immediately allowed us to understand and share his love for the lake and the region. Shortly after, he helped us locate a nice property to purchase and for several years served as our caretaker. He shared his love for fishing with my son, Matt. It was always a joy to visit with Bob as he always was loaded with great stories to share, which he did in great detail. Anything Bob had he willingly shared. He actively put his faith into practice. While it is hard to imagine Lake Ann without watching for Bob's fishing boat, our memories will see him on the point in the early morning hours.

aaron hazzard - May 13, 2018 at 09:09 PM



“ I remember spending a week at Uncle Bob and Aunt Ann's cabin at Lake Ann several summers in my childhood. We hunted for Petoskey stones on Lake Michigan, he regaled is with stories of “one-eyed wooligans” and other goblins, and he playfully called me Lee Snorris. I also remember hanging out at his house—drawing on his chalkboard while my mom and Aunt Ann gossipped and shared a pot of coffee. If he was home, he'd take my sisters and me to the ice cream shop. I loved him so much! Wish I could have seen him before he passed.

Lisa Fishburn - May 13, 2018 at 07:58 PM



“ Bob was a delightful and valuable contributor to the Leelanau County 4-H program, which is where I met him. He was generous with his time, talents, and resources and a tireless volunteer who gave freely of himself and was an asset to the program for years. Bob was a welcome visitor to our office with his smile, wit, and pleasant personality and the memories and effects of his many contributions will be long remembered and appreciated. It's been ten years and I still have the dollar bill he handed to me with a Cheshire-cat smile after folding it into the shape of a button down shirt. I don't remember the story that accompanied that little gift, but I'll never forget his visit that day or his smile.
Heartfelt condolences to his family. What a special soul.

Vanessa Fox Gruenwald

Vanessa - May 11, 2018 at 05:03 PM



“ We will miss you dear brother. Your laughter, your stories and always upbeat personality. You and Ann were a tremendous part of my life and I'm so thankful I had you both. There is rejoicing in heaven with Ann and loved ones. I thank God for you being my "big brother." June and Ray



June and Ray Croxford - May 11, 2018 at 01:27 PM



“ I love you, Aunt Junie!

Nancy - May 12, 2018 at 11:19 PM



“ Thinking of you Larry and LuAnn and saying a prayer for your peace. What a wonderful father!

Beverly and Duane Matthews

beverly Matthews - May 11, 2018 at 06:43 AM



“ Bob brightened my life from the first time we met - when Larry and I were 6. A loving man with incredible energy, an infectious joy about all his actions, always ready with a good word to offer. Thank you Bob! Memory of you is deeply etched into my heart.

Larry, LuAnn, Lee and Dan - Be of good cheer, many loved your father, grandfather and his memory will always be yours.

Michael Kirby - May 10, 2018 at 10:57 PM



“ Uncle Bob was always hilarious. He'd have the three of us girls laughing all the time. I never got tired of his "B" is half a heart joke. I have such fond memories of spending time with him at Lake Ann- even when he'd make me help clean the fish we had caught! (I still think that's why I'm not a fan of fish today!) SO happy I got to speak with him on the phone a month or so ago. Same ole Unca Bob. Wish I was there when you met up with the family for a good old fashioned sing along. God is surely smiling right now. <3

Christy Norris Morales - May 10, 2018 at 07:28 PM