



Robert D. "Bob" Gunkel

August 23, 1935 - August 1, 2012

Robert D. "Bob" Gunkel, 76, of Benton Harbor went to be in the presence of our Lord in the early morning hours of August 1, 2012, holding tight to his earthly presence until he reached his 58th wedding anniversary to his lifelong love, Carole. Bob had been fighting Sarcoma cancer since January.

Funeral arrangements celebrating his life will be held at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 8, at the Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service, 1053 E. Napier, in Benton Harbor, with Ken Clark officiating. Burial will follow at Crystal Springs Cemetery with Military Rites. Visitation will be held Tuesday evening from 5:00 until 8:00 P.M. at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to either the Sarcoma Foundation of America or to Hospice at Home. Message of condolence may be sent to www.florin.net.

Bob was born on August 23rd, 1935 in Benton Harbor to George Gunkel, Sr. and Mary Ethel Gunkel. He married Carole Clark on August 1st, 1954 and they had three daughters. Bob proudly served his country in the U.S. Army, Military Police. He worked for Whirlpool and studied business management at LMC. He worked for Producers Creamery for 20 plus years and then became a district manager of several Cass Dairy Stores before purchasing and B&C Cass Dairy Store, which he ran successfully for 23 years before his retirement. Bob and Carole began wintering in Florida in their motor home away from home before purchasing a permanent winter haven in North Fort Myers, Florida, where they enjoyed being "snowbirds" and the many great friendships with people from all over the U.S. and Canada. Bob was a

member of the Benton Harbor Moose Lodge and enjoyed time spent at the Moose Lodges in Florida. Bob will be remembered for his absolute dedication to his family, his hard work and compassion. He was always helping others in need and put others needs above his own. Bob cherished the time he spent with his family, and enjoyed spending time with his dogs Oscar, Kupsie and Destiny.

Bob is survived by his wife, Carole; daughters, Tammy (Al) Lopez of Eau Claire, Carrie (Donnie) Weller of St. Joseph, and Darcy Gunkel of Stevensville; grandchildren, Jaime (Ricky) Crum and Monica (Erik) Hogue; great-grandchildren, Matteus Isbrecht and Ricky Crum, II; sisters, Julia Odiorne and Alta Layman; brother-in-law, Gene Tio; and by numerous nieces and nephews and friends.

Bob was preceded in death by his brothers, George Gunkel, Jr. and Marlin Gunkel; and by his sister, Mary Tio.

Cemetery Details

Crystal Springs Cemetery

1655 E Napier Ave
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 7. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service
1053 East Napier Avenue
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(269) 926-7222
staff@florin.net

Service

AUG 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

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1053 East Napier Avenue
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Tribute Wall

BB

“ *Beth Town & Dale Binsz lit a candle in memory of Robert D. "Bob" Gunkel*



Beth Town & Dale Binsz - August 07, 2012 at 07:44 AM

CW

Thank you so much for the candle, your presence and your support for our family!!

Carrie Weller - August 10, 2012 at 10:49 AM

AM

“ *Alyssa Rosewall McAtee lit a candle in memory of Robert D. "Bob" Gunkel*



Alyssa Rosewall McAtee - August 07, 2012 at 12:29 AM

CW

Thank you for the candle. I know Dad would appreciate that you remembered him even though you are so far away and it has been so many years. The family is glad to hear from you as well. Especially now, we long to go back in time to old friends and old memories. You have opened a door to more memories. Thank you !!

Carrie Weller - August 10, 2012 at 11:00 AM

CP

“ Christine Parish lit a candle in memory of Robert D. "Bob" Gunkel



Christine Parish - August 06, 2012 at 03:42 PM

CW

Thank you Christine and Scott for the candle and for your presence and show of support for the family. As newer friends of the family, the fact that you were present during such a difficult time holds a special meaning. Thank you!!

Carrie Weller - August 10, 2012 at 11:07 AM

VC

“ Vivien Cardelli lit a candle in memory of Robert D. "Bob" Gunkel



Vivien Cardelli - August 05, 2012 at 07:03 PM

VC

I remember Bob helping Carol and everyone else for so many years at Sorter School getting ready for the new year: hanging decorations, moving furniture, and preparing rooms for the arrival of new students. He was a treasure to all.

Vivien Cardelli - August 05, 2012 at 08:16 PM

CW

Thank you Vivien. The family remembers those days as well. We are so proud of who Dad was, that he was the kind of person always ready to lend a helping hand. It means alot to us to know that there are other people out there that feel the way we do and are willing to give him the credit that we feel he so deserved. So often in life we take things for granted, words go unsaid. He was a treasure to all. Your confirmation means the world to us. Thank you!!

Carrie Weller - August 10, 2012 at 11:22 AM

JN

“ Judy Novak lit a candle in memory of Robert D. "Bob" Gunkel



Judy Novak - August 05, 2012 at 04:16 PM

CW

Thank you for the candle Judy. Our family appreciates your support so much!!!

Carrie Weller - August 10, 2012 at 11:26 AM

SC

“ My condolences to the family. I knew Bob when he worked with my first husband at Producers Creamery. He was a kind and gentle man and was well liked by all.

Susan (Krepp) Crow

Susan M. Crow - August 05, 2012 at 04:01 PM

CW

Thank you Susan. So glad to hear from someone from his days at Producers Creamery. Glad to hear that he was fondly remembered by his co-workers and families. We have many fond memories as children going to the plant when Dad had to catch up on paperwork. Thank you for the acknowledgement and for opening another flood of great memories!!

Carrie Weller - August 10, 2012 at 11:39 AM

LC

“ So sorry to hear about ur loss.... Your dad was a wonderful man to work for... Me, darrin Clark and Helen Schroeck just loved working for him.... Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.... Our deepest symphony are with your whole family

Linda Clark - August 04, 2012 at 10:47 AM

CW

Thank you Linda. Dad always had a special place in his heart for your family and so appreciated having people working for him that he knew were reliable and responsible. Hope all is well with you, Darrin and Helen. We miss seeing you and think of you often. Thank you so much for your prayers and support !!

Carrie Weller - August 10, 2012 at 11:47 AM