



Joseph Robert "Bob" Burke

November 9, 2013

Joseph Robert "Bob" Burke, age 80 of Smyrna, passed away November 9, 2013. Bob was a cherished and tireless member of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Marie; was the loving father of Chris, Mike, Pat, Kelly, Tracy, Sean, Tim, Kim, and Marti; beloved grandfather of twenty-nine; and great-grandfather of seven.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Friday from 4 until 8 PM. The memorial mass will be held at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church on Saturday, November 16, 2013 at 9:30 AM.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Bob's name, to benefit the Feed the Hungry program and the Atlanta Central Presbyterian Night Shelter, may be made to "St. Thomas the Apostle (Just Faith,)" 4300 King Springs Rd. SE, Smyrna, GA 30082-4214.

Arrangements are entrusted to Davis-Struempf Funeral Home & Crematory, Austell. Memories and condolences may be shared at <http://www.davisstruempf.com>

Events

NOV **Visitation** 04:00PM - 08:00PM

15

Davis-Struempf Funeral Home

1975 East-West Connector, Austell, GA, US, 30106

NOV **Service** 09:30AM

16

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

4300 King Springs Rd., Smyrna, GA, US, 30082

Comments



“ My sincere condolence goes to the family and friends. May God continue to strengthen the family in their time of need.- John 5:28, 29.

I. Jeffries - December 02, 2013 at 08:17 AM



“ Life without Bob Burke in the world??? Impossible to consider. People often say they want to make a difference in the world. Bob did. He didn't talk about his faith, he simply lived it. While those of us who remain here on earth feel a great loss, there is great rejoicing in Heaven as Bob reunites with his beloved Marie, my husband Phil, Fr. Paul Reynolds, and a multitude of family and friends gathered over the years. My family met the Burkes in 1974 and always considered them the truest and best examples of Christ-like action--always giving, not to "buy their way into Heaven" but out of a deep love and concern for others. Bob always had a smile and kind words for and about everyone he met. Rest in peace, my friend. You deserve it. And say "hi" to the gang! Love and prayers to the wonderful family he left. I know they will carry on his legacy of charitable living.

Dean Bas

Dean Bas - November 20, 2013 at 11:28 AM



“ Sincere condolences for your loss. May God comfort you and bring you peace through the loving promise of the resurrection.

K.C. - Isa. 25:8 - November 19, 2013 at 07:54 AM



“ Oh my. I just heard about this or I would have seen a lot of you this morning. What a great man. He made you WANT to be charitable. My condolences to three of his kids who I knew and admired: Kelly, Mike, and Pat. Your parents were the foundation at St. Thomas.

Jon Jimenez - November 16, 2013 at 03:19 PM



“ All I know is that EVERY time I saw Bob, he had a smile on his face, was warm and welcoming and you always felt better after just a few minutes in his gracious company!

He was a very good man, and the world does not have enough Bob's!

Cathy Kelly - November 15, 2013 at 11:41 PM



“ I had the privilege of working with Bob for 30 years at the Night Shelters. Then Bob had the idea that we should do more., so we started washing the feet of the homeless men on Wednesday nights. To Bob, these men weren't just strangers; he knew their names and their stories. I think only God could have chosen a man to do this work of charity. I'm going to miss him.

Another quick story: Several years, I had the honor of running the Peachtree Road Race alongside Bob. Our first year running together, at the first water stop, Bob started picking up all the paper cups other runners had discarded on the street. I told him he had to stop, there are 50,000 runners, and 50,000 cups, and they have a street sweeper coming behind us! He replied that he didn't want anyone to have to do any extra work. That's Bob!

On another note, we truly believe Bob is a saint. When our daughter became ill 20 years ago, we confided to Bob and Marie that her diagnosis was grim: we had been told that she was suffering from Schizophrenia. Without hesitation, they began to pray for her nightly, had several novenas said for her, and offered Masses for her healing. Today, she has become a miracle. She has gone back to school, receiving a Master's degree in counseling and is working full-time as a counselor at the University of West Georgia. We attribute her healing to the devout prayers of Bob and Marie and two other families, in addition to our own. We, like all of you, will miss Bob terribly, but rejoice knowing he is right where he belongs, in the arms of our Lord. Jim and Susan Walsh

Jim and Susan Walsh - November 15, 2013 at 05:01 PM



“ 7 files added to the album Bob Burke



Tracy Dahl - November 14, 2013 at 06:23 PM



“ I have few memories of Bob that I want to share. Several of the men of St. Thomas walk on the silver comet trail at different times. One day we all see a shopping cart that belongs to Walmart. We all just pass by it and leave it. The next day here comes Bob pushing the shopping cart. He is going to put it in the trunk of his car and take it back to Walmart. On another occasion I see Bob on the trail carrying a kroger plastic bag. I say Bob what have you got there. He said I just carry this bag and pick up any trash I see while I am walking. I wouldn't even have to mention his name, just tell the story, and everyone would say "OH that must be Bob"

LeRoy & Dorothy Madson - November 14, 2013 at 02:48 PM



“ My daughter and her family live next door to Bob. They are heartbroken, as am I. He was truly a very caring person and a wonderful neighbor.

He will be missed.

Nancy Ford

nancy ford - November 14, 2013 at 02:31 PM



“ When Bob goes to Heaven

On November 9th, 2013, God told St. Peter to discharge the angels to bring Bob Burke to Heaven right after Bob enjoyed a great day and finished a wonderful dinner with family and friends. However, St. Peter sent the angels for Bob just a moment before God requested. This bothered God a little since he knew that Bob's slightly premature entrance into Heaven would mean that he missed out on the last time he'd have one of his favorites things on Earth. Upon Bob's arrival at The Pearly Gates, St. Peter asks Mr. Burke for a favor in an effort to correct his slight error in timing: "Bob, can you get me off the hook with God?" Bob responds, "sure, St. Peter-whatever I can do to help." St. Peter then asks, "can you eat this half gallon of ice cream-the dessert you missed tonight-before you go through The Pearly Gates?" Bob responds "St. Peter, I think you are talking to the right guy." In two seconds, the ice cream is gone and Bob is reunited forever with the love of his life, Marie.

Paul Susko - November 14, 2013 at 12:49 PM



“ We extend our sympathy to you. Glad that we had the privilege of knowing Sean's father; a very nice and sincere fellow. May you find comfort through your faith, family and friends and may the happy memories that you have, help ease the sorrow. A memorial in Bob's memory will be sent to St. Thomas the Apostle.
Roy & Ann Chase (Sean's in-laws)

Roy & Ann Chase - November 13, 2013 at 10:00 PM



“ Bob Burke was the epitome of unselfishness. He truly never met a person he did not like. His laughter was infectious, and he always had a caring word to share with everyone. No one was a stranger to Bob. He was a Christian in word and deed. His life was a gift to all who knew him. He will be missed.
"Dear Lord: we thank you for the gift of Bob. He was a very special child of God. What a wonderful world we would have, if more of us could be like Bob. Thank you for allowing him to touch so many through his faith. Welcome him into your eternal kingdom. Amen."

Susan and Bob Schuman - November 13, 2013 at 09:54 PM



“ I'm so glad I got to meet grandpa, he was a great man who lived a great life. I still remember the first time I met him like it was yesterday, he was soooooo nice, kind and caring. I also loved the fact that he cared about my education. I know he isn't here physically but he is here spiritually watching over his children, grand children and great grand children. It was a great pleasure meeting you grandpa but we will all meet again someday in heaven. You will always be in our hearts. May God continue to always bless you.
My condolences to the entire Burke family.

Sadiq

Sadiq - November 13, 2013 at 06:41 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joseph Robert "Bob" Burke.



November 13, 2013 at 03:37 PM



“ We can only echo all that has been written about our dear brother in Christ, Bob. We are blessed to have known Bob through many of the ministries at St Thomas the Apostle. He truly was filled with compassion. He treated everyone with dignity. He lived our Lord's words in Matthew 25:33-45, when did I feed you, give you drink, clothe you, etc. That was Bob. The gracious smile, big hug and 'how are you' from Bob will be missed. God added another saint to His kingdom.
Brian and Maureen Durham

Co - November 13, 2013 at 09:28 AM



“ Bob was the most unselfish caring person I have ever known. Unlike many of us who talk the talk, Bob walked the walk God called him to walk. I feel blessed to have had Bob and Marie as close friends for over 25 years.

I'll miss you on our 5:30 Saturday morning walks and runs. Marie and Janice always said we were crazy getting up at that time, but it was worth it. As it says in Tim 2:7: You have fought the good fight, you finished the race, and you have kept the faith. Your life has set a powerful example for how the Lord wants us all to live.

We'll miss you at the New Years Eve at Steve and Melinda's home and the Christmas Eve at Don and Susan's home. It's nice to have another saint in heaven.

Don Sabbarese



Don Sabbarese - November 12, 2013 at 10:17 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Bob Burke



Cindy Rucco - November 12, 2013 at 10:15 PM



“ 5 files added to the album Grandpa Burke



Christie Burke - November 12, 2013 at 10:11 PM



“ I could never put all of the good things about Grandpa into words because no matter how hard I try, there are no amount of words that could ever do justice in describing just how wonderful of a person he was. Throughout our lifetime we will always meet one person that will be unlike any other and Grandpa is that one person for me. Grandpa was hands down one of the greatest men that i will ever know in my entire life. He was one of the most kind, genuine, compassionate, and unselfish people who always put others before himself and gave from his heart without expecting anything in return. He always encouraged us to be the best that we could be and give something we were working towards everything we had. He is an example not only of how we should live our lives day to day but also the way that we should treat others around us. I am honored to say that i knew him and even more honored to say that he was my Grandpa. He meant so much to each of us and touched each of our lives in a very special way that will continue to stay in our hearts forever. I know that God only takes the best because he took one of the best people that i have ever known. We may have lost an amazing person but we gained an amazing guardian angel that will always be looking down on us and guiding us in the right direction.

-Christie Burke

Christie Burke - November 12, 2013 at 09:26 PM



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Dear Heavenly Father,

When he entered the building you could hear his laughter echo down the hallway. He brought the sunshine with him wherever he went. Thank you, Dear God, for the energizing grace you showered upon us in the life of Bob Burke. His gentle spirit and unceasing kindness gave us a "present" of your presence and knowledge of what it means to be LOVED BY YOU.

Bob found the goodness hidden in everyone elevating them to a "best friend" and always marveled at their accomplishments. He appreciated even the little things done for him and never let the opportunity pass to lavish praise even for the average deed. If there was ever a need, he had the "need for speed" to fill it. He reached out tirelessly heeding your personal invitation to try to make a difference. His compassion for the poor in pocket or in spirit was relentless. Through the Saturday Morning Work Group , St. Vincent de Paul, Just Faith Bridge Brigade and several homeless shelters, he worked the city pouring out his unconditional "Father Teresa" love to the less fortunate who tore at his heartstrings because he saw YOU among them and he loved You.

Although devastated by the loss of his beloved Marie, he trusted in your divine providence and breathed in all the glory of your creative majesty in nature, music and human ingenuity to keep the joy in his heart and perseverated in sharing it with others.

The resonance of his laughter, the memories of his comical stories, and the many ways he touched our lives will always remain in our hearts.

Please embrace your faithful, humble servant on our behalf and reward him generously. Be with his family and all who grieve. Help us to bide this grave loss.

Thank you, Heavenly Father for the 80 years you shared Bob Burke who personified your gracious goodness to us. Amen.

Memorial Prayer offered at Monday Counting November 11,2013

Cindy Rucco - November 12, 2013 at 09:22 PM



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12 files added to the album Grandpa



Alex Burke - November 12, 2013 at 08:58 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Bob Burke



Davis-Struempf Funeral Home & Crematory - November 12, 2013 at 03:56 PM



“ Uncle Bob was caring, curious, and compassionate... and always, always smiling. We'll miss him.

Jim & Theresa Berger

Jim Berger - November 12, 2013 at 10:06 AM



“ Bob was an example of how we all should live. We referred to it as the "Tao of Bob" and often asked ourselves "what would Bob do in this situation?" We will truly miss his infectious laugh rolling down the hill from next door. He's now with Marie and doing fine. It's his wonderful family and the rest of us that will miss out on his amazing presence!

Tom and Joanna Alexander - November 12, 2013 at 09:08 AM



“ 20 files added to the album Bob Burke



Sean Burke - November 12, 2013 at 12:18 AM



“ Bob was a great man. Walking into church one Sunday I ask Bob how he was doing and he said " doing great, lost my job yesterday but doing great". He was just happy to be alive and help his fellow man.

He was also a person you could not say no to. He would call and ask, "what are you doing on Saturday morning", other then sleeping in. Bob would say we need help moving someone or painting for someone. He always wanted to help other people.

If we all could be haft the person that Bod was this would be a better world to live in. Bob, you were an example of how we all should live. Tom

Tom, Judi and Stephanie O'Connor

Tom O'Connor - November 11, 2013 at 08:36 PM



“ Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Joseph Robert "Bob" Burke.



November 11, 2013 at 03:59 PM



“ Debbie Sigrist lit a candle in memory of Joseph Robert "Bob" Burke



debbie sigrist - November 11, 2013 at 03:33 PM



“ Uncle Bob was truly one of the kindest, personable and compassionate men we have ever met. He had a remarkable measure of optimism, good will and spirit that he generously shared with family, friends, acquaintances and strangers. We will miss him and are so grateful for his presence in our lives.

Debbie & Tim Sigerist

debbie sigrist - November 11, 2013 at 03:38 PM



“ Bob was an inspiration to myself and my family. Bob taught me so much through his actions and the love for mankind. How do you say thank you for such a teacher.

Tom and JoAnn Berger and family

Tom Berger - November 11, 2013 at 09:13 AM



“ Uncle Bob was like a father to all of his nieces and nephews. He regularly called each of us to hear how we were doing and to send his love. Uncle Bob traveled to our children's weddings and family celebrations. He was our special uncle who will be deeply missed.

Patti Berger Rosenkranz - St. Louis

Patti Rosenkranz - November 11, 2013 at 08:25 AM



“ One of the genuinely kindest and most caring men I have ever known. If you wanted to know "What Would Jesus Do", you need only meet Bob.

Bill & Lee Ann Herbert - November 10, 2013 at 10:09 PM



“ Bob is the only person I have ever know who never said no to anyone. He will be greatly missed by all. No that is not thunder you hear, but his big laugh all over heaven.

LeRoy & Dorothy Madson - November 10, 2013 at 04:05 PM



“ We have such wonderful memories of Bob and his wife Marie the most caring thoughtful people on the planet we will miss our lunch dates but knowing they are together in heaven gives us comfort They will surely be missed Marie and Ron Barrie

marie barrie - November 12, 2013 at 01:22 PM