



Robert J. Butz

February 23, 1931 - November 11, 2023

Robert J. Butz, 92, of Kankakee, IL passed away on November 11, 2023 in his home surrounded by his loved ones. Robert was born on February 23, 1931 to Arthur and Ella (Cahan) Butz.

Robert was a graduate of Herscher High School and served in the United States Air Force.

Bob was a lifelong farmer, very involved his entire life in what is now a 5th generation family farming and trucking business. Always a fan of taking the scenic route, Bob appreciated nature and the simple things in life.

He was a past President of the Illinois Holstein Association, a past Director of Illinois FBFM, a real estate agent for many years and he was a Diamond Life Master in the American Contract Bridge League.

Bob is survived by his beloved wife of 70 years, Joan (Wischnowski) Butz, whom he married December 14, 1952 in Kankakee; daughter, Nancy Memenga of Greenville, SC; two sons and daughters-in-law, David & Laura Butz of Kankakee and Michael & Sharon Butz of Westfield, IN; grandchildren, Amy (Peter) Blackett, Suzanna (Casey) Colbern, Rebecca Royal, Stephen (Aidan) Butz and Lucas (Alina) Butz; step-grandchildren Justin (Kendra) Blanchette and Tasha (Vern) Turner; ten great-grandchildren and six step-great-grandchildren.

Bob was predeceased in death by his infant sister, Ardis Butz; sister and brother-in law, Geneva & Myron Diefenbach; and his grandson, Joshua Memenga.

Visitation will take place on Saturday, November 25, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home; 1480 W. Court St. Kankakee, IL 60901.

The memorial service will be at 12:00 p.m., also at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home in Kankakee.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the wishes of the family.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **25**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Kankakee - Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home
1480 W. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Funeral Service

NOV **25**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Kankakee - Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home
1480 W. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
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Tribute Wall

PG

“ I had never met Bob Butz in person but attended his memorial service because of my friendship with David, Laura and Steven Butz. My memory of him will always be that he must have been a remarkable man. He demonstrated what a good human should be every day. This is evident in the way his wife, children, grandchildren and great grand children loved and respected him. His great examples live on through his family.

Paula Grimes - November 27, 2023 at 07:39 AM

SB

“ As a young teenager, I have many memories of working on the farm with Bob during the spring planting and fall harvests (1979 – 1981). I remember how great I thought it was that I was able to drive tractors (John Deere 4440, an older 3020 I think) and a tandem axle grain truck, even though I didn't have a driver's license yet. I remember when I made a mistake, how patient and understanding Bob was. I don't think I ever saw him angry; he just took it all in stride. Including one time when Bob warned me not to drive the 3020 into the field on the Bonfield farm because I would surely get stuck. Well somehow, I managed to drive into the field where Bob told me not to go and got stuck. Bob was planting nearby. I saw him stop, go through the process of detaching the planter, and he started to head over to me with his tractor. I was prepared for the worst when he arrived, but he just said, “let's get you pulled out of here with a smile on his face”.

Scott R. Butz

Scott R Butz - November 24, 2023 at 11:39 AM

LR

“ *What a great friend and bridge partner. We are all going to miss him.*

Larry Rabideau

Larry Rabideau - November 23, 2023 at 06:16 PM

NA

“ *So sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your entire family.*

Nancy Mackin

Nancy - November 18, 2023 at 08:45 PM

SL

“ *My sympathy to the Butz family. So many good memories!*

Sue Stauffenberg LaMore

Susan LaMore - November 18, 2023 at 03:52 PM

LE

“ As a regular partner of Bob as part of a bridge team of four (with Larry Rabideau and John Goring), for the five years preceding Covid, we would all attend three or four tournaments every year. As a team we had some pretty good results, in no small measure due to Bob's excellent play. This particular memory comes from one of our team's post-bridge get-togethers in our motel room. Bob did not suffer fools gladly, and I was reminded of this later on the same day Kay and I learned of his passing, as we watched President Biden lay a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery. As Taps began to play I thought of Bob and something he had said about his service in occupied Japan. True to Bob's character he had not been happy with the way some servicemen and civilians were treating the local Japanese. I have a feeling that throughout his life, Bob would not hesitate to call out what he thought was either an injustice, a lack of fair play, or expressions of entitlement, just one reason among many that Bob will be missed.

Lee Esworthy, Bob's bridge partner and friend

Lee Esworthy - November 18, 2023 at 12:11 PM

KS

“ Just learned of Bob's passing. My sympathy to the entire family. Remember well those old Holstein shows. May he rest in peace.

Kathy Hack Shanahan

Kathy Hack Shanahan - November 17, 2023 at 05:59 PM

JG

“ We’ve known Bob for many years, through numerous bridge games, usually 2 tables and usually starting with dessert and coffee. For quite awhile, I was quite timid when I was his partner, since I knew what an excellent player he was, and myself, not so good! After awhile I realized he was just a very nice guy who loved the game and after he complemented my play a time or two, I relaxed and just had fun. He was a great story teller, and we often heard a few stories, not ALWAYS to do with bridge. I’ll miss him and remember him as a bridge “legend” and all-around great guy. ❤️

Janet Glidden - November 15, 2023 at 06:05 PM

DS

“ My sympathy to the family of Mr Butz. I have fond memories of all of you at Trinity UMC. May God bless your sweet memories!

Dorcilla Schoolman - November 14, 2023 at 05:23 PM



“ Classic Charcuterie Snacks Gift Set was purchased for the family of Robert J. Butz.



November 14, 2023 at 10:29 AM

TE

“ Tim And Connie Eaker lit a candle in memory of Robert J. Butz



Tim and Connie Eaker - November 14, 2023 at 10:07 AM

CO

“ Mike & Sharon & Family,

My thoughts and prayers are with each of you during this difficult time. I hope all your wonderful memories help ease your pain. Hugs and prayers from my heart and home to yours. Reach out if I can help in any way.

Cindy O'Connor - November 14, 2023 at 09:53 AM