



Robert Edmond Dionne

August 10, 1930 - April 6, 2025

After a brief illness, Robert Edmond Dionne, 94, peacefully passed away in Tucson, Arizona on April 5, 2025.

Robert was the son of Armel L. and Christabell (Surprenant) Dionne, who preceded him in death. Also deceased are infant brother Richard, nieces Lori Dionne, Debbie Dionne, and nephew Robert Nesthus. Recently deceased is sister Ruth M. (Dionne) Nesthus -Klein and brothers-in-law Sam Nesthus and Edmond Klein. Also deceased are brothers Raymond (Norma Jean Rantz) and Roland (Iris Case) Dionne.

Surviving is Robert's sister Madonna M. (Dionne) Lane of Littleton, CO, and her sons Christopher (Catherine) Lane of Aurora, CO, and Timothy (Ann) Lane of Parker, CO. Also surviving are nieces and nephews Stephen (Lyn) Nesthus of Lake Placid, FL, Brian Nesthus of Jefferson, WI, Bruce (Patti) Nesthus of Baraboo, WI, Debra (Dionne) Gunn, (Gary), Terrance Dionne, Kathy Dionne, Michael (Britton) Dionne, Rhonda (Dionne) Spoula (David), Jeffrey (Leigh Ann) Dionne, Randall (Tysheema) Dionne and numerous great and great, great nieces and nephews.

Robert attended a one-room schoolhouse in Martinton, IL where Mrs. Clements taught all eight grades. Robert later moved to Bourbonnais, where he graduated from Notre Dame Grade School. He attended St. Patrick's High School and graduated in 1948.

During school, he worked at Walgreens on Court Street as a soda jerk, stock boy, and cashier.

In 1949, Robert joined the U.S. Navy "to see the world" but never served aboard a ship or left the United States. His training was at Great Lakes Naval Academy near Chicago, IL and after graduation, he served at Cherry Point, NC, then Frederick, MD. He was a Corpsman caring for the wounded men returning from Korea.

Harry S. Truman extended Robert's and other Navy personal's service for another year, where he served at a Marine Base wearing a Marine uniform. Upon returning home, Robert entered the Walgreens Management Program after which, he worked with various store managers until he became manager of his own store in Joliet, IL. He managed stores in Bettendorf and Sioux City, IA, Midland, TX, Lafayette, New Orleans, Metairie, and La Place, LA.

He was the District Manager of the Southeastern District for several years until he began caring for his elderly mother, and preferred not to have to travel. He was given the store in Marrero, LA where he stayed until he retired after 45 years at Walgreens.

After surviving many hurricanes, including Ivan in 2004 and Katrina in 2005, and the death of his beloved mother, Robert left Louisiana and moved to Tucson, AZ, where he grew fruit trees, flowers, and worked in his garden without having to dodge hurricanes.

He was a member of Our Lady of the Desert Parish in Tucson and continued to financially support the Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Bourbonnais.

Visitation will be held from 4-7 p.m. on Friday, May 2, 2025 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, 295 Main St. NW Bourbonnais, IL. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 3, 2025 at Maternity B.V.M. Catholic Church, 308 E. Marsile St. Bourbonnais IL. Interment will follow at Maternity B.V.M. Cemetery in Bourbonnais.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, or the American Cancer Society.

Cemetery Details

Maternity Cemetery

Corner of Canterbury Lane & William Latham
Dr.
Bourbonnais, IL 60914

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 2. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Funeral Mass

MAY 3. 10:00 AM (CT)

Maternity B.V.M. Catholic Church
308 E. Marsile
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 933-8285
<http://www.mbvmchurch.org/>

Tribute Wall

JD

“ As the oldest son of Roland Dionne who was Robert’s younger brother I can truly say that although he never had children of his own Bob was truly a family man.

When I was six years old my youngest sister Lori began a two year battle with Leukemia and my Uncle Bob was there to lend his support in every possible manner.

Later in life he set up retirement accounts for all his brothers and sisters, added to those accounts yearly, and introduced them to the stock market when most of them would have never done it without his guidance. They were able to draw from those accounts when life made it necessary. When his beloved siblings passed away those accounts were inherited by their children. I recently followed Uncle Bobs example in part by passing on some of those benefits to my children to assist in buying homes.

My wife and I plan to set up an educational account for our first grandchild. So Uncle Bobs family leadership will benefit four generations. Uncle Bob applied the lessons of Jesus in both the support of his family and his church which provides help for the poor and struggling and provides sanctuary to regardless of ethnicity, social status, or country of origin.

I was able to correspond with Uncle Bob by email and mostly with phone calls and made a point of telling him he was one of the strongest family men I knew. We have had discussions I will remedy and draw upon for the rest of my life. Those moments were a valued gift. When my father and father-in-law passed on I lost two of the men I turned to for advice. Sadly I have lost my remaining father figure and will miss his advice.

My uncle served his country and expressed to me his great love for democracy. I will never forget how as recently as last month he expressed his concern for its future.

I will honor his memory by reminding my descendants of his values and generosity and how he applied those not just in words but in deeds. My Uncle Bob had the character I would look for in leader and head of family. He was honest to a fault. He had a calm way of approaching every situation with dignity without demeaning someone who didn’t have to benefit of his knowledge. Like his

family, the world would be in good hands with someone like him in a leadership role.

Jeff Dionne

Jeffrey W Dionne - May 03, 2025 at 10:33 AM

JD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jeffrey W Dionne - April 27, 2025 at 08:59 AM

JD

The boys are back in town!

Jeffrey W Dionne - April 27, 2025 at 09:02 AM

SD

Bob became a prominent member of our "Family of Friends" in Tucson Az after leaving the ravages of Katrina. I sold him a four bedroom home in Tucson. When I inquired as to why he wanted such a large home, he replied he would be having the company of his two sisters, Madonna and Ruth on a regular basis. And the snowbirds came every winter.

Bob was a regular at every holiday and birthday celebration in my home, always seated next to me. His empty seat will be greatly missed. Bob was a true giver. He was very generous with the fruits and vegetables he produced in his green house and back yard. He was the ultimate gardener, producing a beautiful backyard filled with flowers and trees which he readily shared.

For many years we celebrated Mardi Gras together for which he ordered the food from his favorite restaurant from the New Orleans area. Halloween was also a favorite time for Bob. He lovingly provided sweets for the neighborhood children and enjoyed seeing them in costume. After covid, we set up shop in the open garage, watching the little ones get their treats. This became our holiday tradition.

Bob's wry humor was often on display. When I cook in my kitchen, I do not like guests getting into my space behind the counter. So, for a birthday gift one year, he gave me red traffic cones along with yellow tape, to keep guests out of my space. I still use them!

He will be greatly missed by all of us here in Tucson who loved him. Rest in peace, my friend!

Love, Sonya

Sonya Dougherty - April 30, 2025 at 05:10 PM