



Robert James Sowell

September 18, 1948 - December 15, 2023

Robert James Sowell, known to his loved ones as Bob, passed away in his home, December 15, 2023, in Kankakee, Illinois. He was born on September 18, 1948, in Morgantown, WV. Bob was a loving father, devoted grandfather, and cherished member of his community.

Throughout his life, Robert pursued a fulfilling career in the medical field. He worked as a certified Surgical technician and ER tech at Riverside Medical Center. Additionally, Robert dedicated many years to teaching, imparting knowledge and wisdom to students at St. Teresa Catholic School, St. Patrick and Teresa Catholic School, and Aquinas Catholic School. Robert had a great love for sports and spent several years coaching various sports including basketball and refereeing soccer. Alongside his wife, Sandra he coached Girl's basketball at St. Anne Community High School. Later in his career, he joined the Regional Office of Education. Robert was a valued member of the Association of Surgical Technologists, where he contributed his expertise and passion during his tenure as a Past President and honored Board Member. Robert leaves behind a legacy of strong family bonds. He is survived by his brothers, Anthony Sowell and Richard (Emily) Sowell, and his sisters, Karen Sowell and Rebecca Sowell. He is also survived by his daughters, Sharron Sowell and Roberta Sowell, as well as his beloved grandchildren: Robert A. Sowell, Nicolas Sowell, Karter Jackson, and Maliya Jackson. In addition to his immediate family, Robert had a host of nieces, nephews, and honorary children and grandchildren who held a special place in his heart. Robert found

comfort and community in his faith home as a member of St. John Paul II Catholic Church.

Memorial Services for Robert will be held on December 27, 2023, from 3pm-7pm at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz in Kankakee. A funeral Mass in his honor will take place at 10am at St. John Paul II East in Kankakee. Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Memorials may be made to the Family Wishes.

Robert's warm smile, kind heart, and unwavering love will be deeply missed by all who knew him. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Cemetery Details

Mound Grove Gardens Cemetery

1000 N. Greenwood
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 933-6726

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **27**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Mass

DEC **28**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. John Paul II- East Campus
361 St Joseph Ave
Kankakee, IL 60901

Tribute Wall



“ Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." was purchased for the family of Robert James Sowell.



December 28, 2023 at 12:46 PM



“ AST staff planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert James Sowell.

AST staff - December 28, 2023 at 12:46 PM



“ Shari and Bobbi, your dad and "Dad" to me was always so kind to me and my kiddos. Always welcoming us into your home and treated us like family. We have fond memories celebrating my mom's birthday and the times we gathered together just because. I extend my heartfelt and loving condolences to you and your family. Love you all!!



Felicia, Chase, Kara and Darien - December 28, 2023 at 12:18 PM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Bob at Riverside and what a kind gentle giant with a great sense of humor! Amy Ciaccio-Jarvis

Amy Ciaccio-Jarvis - December 27, 2023 at 01:34 PM

LS

“ Prayers and condolences to the family during this difficult time.



Lori Davis - Thomas Edison School - December 26, 2023 at 07:07 PM

JM

“ Going thru some old photos. In the elementary building at Sts. P&T around 1995.



Jonathan Meisenbach - December 23, 2023 at 07:22 PM

TB

“ I had the privilege of having Mr. Sowell as a teacher for two years in a row at St. Teresa's. His patience, wisdom, and kindness in dealing with middle schoolers was unparalleled! I have been a high school teacher for nearly 30 years, and I can truly say that he comes to mind when students are unruly and patience is running low. Thank you to his family for sharing him with us all these years.

Tonya Randle Banks - December 23, 2023 at 04:01 PM

JM

“ Mr. Sowell was one of my favorite teachers. I have fond memories of being in his computer class. He'd play the radio while we learned to type and was always super personable. A great history teacher who really put the past into context. I remember how he wouldn't tolerate anyone saying “shut up” to one another, and that really promoted how we as students needed to respect each other (he'd always retort with “250” if he heard someone say it... which meant the offender had some writing to do!). I wasn't the best athlete, but his PE classes always made me feel like I could succeed and it was OK if I wasn't as gifted as others. He was a great man and I'm sorry I lost track of him after graduating. My condolences go to the Sowell family. May you find comfort in memories of Bob and that many others (myself included) have been positively impacted by him. -Jon Meisenbach

Jonathan Meisenbach - December 23, 2023 at 02:54 PM

TF

“ The Geisler Family lit a candle in memory of Robert James Sowell



The Geisler Family - December 21, 2023 at 02:49 PM

DT

“ I am so sorry for your loss he was my 8th grade teacher at st Teresa's. I was blessed enough to be the last class before they combined. He was a wonderful teacher. He will be greatly missed and his laugh. What a wonderful person. I am praying for you

Darby Thomas - December 21, 2023 at 12:40 PM

JJ

“ *Jacqueline Jenkins lit a candle in memory of Robert James Sowell*



Jacqueline Jenkins - December 21, 2023 at 12:02 PM

WS

Keeping you And family in My prayers 🙏❤️🌈🌈🙏👑☀️❤�🌈🌈

William sowell - December 23, 2023 at 11:41 AM

CF

Bob was one of the kindest persons I will ever know. Very dedicated to AST, excellent level headed president and truly always a pleasure to work with him on projects. I will greatly miss my friend. RIPBob, love you, Cynthia Fuentes

Cynthia Fuentes - December 28, 2023 at 11:08 AM

NM

“ *Nancy Meli lit a candle in memory of Robert James Sowell*



Nancy Meli - December 21, 2023 at 10:21 AM

MB

“ *Minnie Buckingham lit a candle in memory of Robert James Sowell*



Minnie Buckingham - December 21, 2023 at 09:57 AM

HB

“ I worked with Bob in the Emergency Room at Riverside Medical Center. Bob was a great guy and funny. We had good times working together. Condolences to the family! RIP!

Hugh Boyt - December 20, 2023 at 08:53 PM

MG

“ Sherri and Bobette, what can I say? Your dad was an amazing friend and a great guy. I'm so glad we had the opportunity to be neighbors and friends. Please accept my sincere condolences, he will be missed. Love to you as you move forward. Love you, girls.

Mari Gromer - December 20, 2023 at 07:31 PM

NB

“ Bob was a good one. I am so blessed to have gotten to play sports for him as a kid and work alongside of him as an adult. You will be missed by many. Thoughts and prayers go out to your family.

Nick Bittmann - December 20, 2023 at 06:06 PM

HB

“ Fly High Bob!!! God got one of the best. Bet Sandy was there with open arms. So, glad your family was in Nick's life and ours. The Bittmann's.

Henry Bittmann - December 20, 2023 at 04:01 PM

DB

What a great guy

D'Arcy Ballinger - December 20, 2023 at 05:49 PM