



## Robert J. Dittrich

March 9, 1925 - April 20, 2008

Robert J. Dittrich was born March 9, 1925, in Elgin, the youngest of three children of Herbert P. and Mary (Zenk) Dittrich. His birth was not without excitement as his mother arrived at the hospital in Elgin by way of sled due to a late winter blizzard. Bob died at his home in Kankakee on Sunday (April 20, 2008). Raised on a farm near the village of Huntley, Bob attended schools in Crystal Lake and Woodstock until the untimely death of his father in 1941. Following the death of his father, he left school to assist his mother and siblings on the family farm until it was sold. With the nation at war, Bob enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on Sept. 30, 1943. He served with honor in the 4th Marine Division which was instrumental in the defeat of the Japanese on the islands of Saipan and Iwo Jima. He participated in action against the enemy at Roi-Namur, Marshall Islands in February of 1944 and at Saipan, Marianna Islands in June and July of 1944. Upon his honorable discharge from the Marine Corps in November of 1945, he returned to his home area and attended business school in Rockford before joining Midwest Bottle Cap Company as a service representative in Belvidere. He married the former Margaret McKern on May 15, 1948, in Belvidere, and together over the next 40 years they operated successful restaurants, including the Wedgewood Drive-In in Belvidere, Club Irwin in Irwin, and Jerome's near Kankakee. Bob was a member of the 4th Degree of the Knights of Columbus, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars; and was an active member of St. Patrick's Parish in Kankakee, where he served as an usher. He was also a

member of the Irwin Lions Club. He was an avid fan of the Chicago Cubs and for many years organized an annual trip to Wrigley Field for his special group called "I.C.A.S." (Irwin Cub Athletic Society). He was preceded in death by his parents, Herbert and Mary Dittrich; sister, Angeline McDonald; brothers-in-law, Kenneth McDonald, Robert McKern, Richard McKern, and Carter Hadley; and sister-in-law, Betty McKern. He is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, Margaret, of Kankakee; four children, John (Lois) Dittrich of Forth Worth, Texas, Jim Dittrich (Chris Wells) of Woodridge, Janet (Myron) Bertram of Bourbonnais, and Jerry (Lisa) Dittrich of Lincoln, N.H.; grandchildren, Rob (Mary Beth McGregor) Dittrich of Chicago, Jennifer Dittrich and James Dittrich, both of Carol Stream, Matt (Erika) Keen of Plainfield, Andy Dittrich of Woodridge, Casey (Danielle) Bertram, Kellie (Ryan) Torrenga, and Kayla (Michael Pacton) Bertram, all of Bourbonnais; and one great-grandchild. Also surviving is brother, Howard (Marjorie) Dittrich of Lakeland, Fla.; sisters-in-law, Mildred (McKern) Hadley of Fort Walton Beach, Fla. and Norma McKern of Oak Creek, Calif; as well as 19 nieces and nephews. Visitation will be from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home, west Kankakee, with a Mass of Solemn Burial at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Kankakee, at 11 a.m. Wednesday. Burial will follow the Mass at St. James Cemetery, Irwin. In lieu of flowers, the family requests Mass intentions or a donation to a charity of the donor's choice.

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Tribute Album



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - December 07, 2010 at 02:52 PM



“ John and Family,  
  
  
I want you to know that my heart goes out to you and your family during this time of mourning. I never had the chance to meet Mr. Dittrich but knowing his son gives me an intimate picture of what he must have been like. I know that he is looking down and smiling at all the wonderful people that he had in his life.  
  
Our prayers are with you!  
  
Dan Smith & Family  
Flower Mound, TX.##imported-begin##Dan Smith##imported-end##

April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ Hi everyone -  
  
I am sorry I can not be there for the wake and the funeral. Grandpa Dittrich lived a long, hard life. He could always bring a smile to anyone's face with his infectious grins! I still remember how his face always lit up whenever he heard the Cubs on in the background! He was a lifetime Cubs fan! He will surely be missed and I am glad I got to know him even if only for 2.5 years.  
  
Love,  
Mary Beth##imported-begin##Mary Beth McGregor##imported-end##

April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ I was blessed when John and Lois came into my life and have been so moved by the words that John has written honoring his father. The love and appreciation he has expressed for his parent's is a reminder of the power of the bond between child and parent. If John is a reflection of his father's love and guiding hand then what a special man Mr. Dittrich must have been. ##imported-begin##Lisa Davis and Paul Beard##imported-end##

April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ Our thoughts are with you all throughout this difficult time. May he rest in peace. ##imported-begin##Katie Vintinner##imported-end##

April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ I am deeply sorry for your loss. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with your family at this difficult time. ##imported-begin##Christi Gunnels-Garrett##imported-end##

April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this sad time, and we feel our deepest sympathy for you and your family. It is heartbreaking to face such a loss, and we can only hope your sorrow lessens with time and the comfort of friends and family. Please know we are here for you and we love you. We pray for the peace of the Lord to ease your grief and fill your hearts with happy memories. ##imported-begin##Natalie and Victor Friese##imported-end##

April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ I just wanted to tell the family to remember the good times. I will always remember Uncle Bob coming to Mom & Dad's farm in Garden Prairie. There was always laughter when he was around.  
  
Just know that he is definitely in a better place, and he will watch over everyone from heaven now.##imported-begin##Becky Perry##imported-end##

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April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ My heart goes out to all of you at this difficult time. I'll always remember the good times we shared in Vegas. Bob was a very nice man who will surely be missed by all who knew him. You're all in our thoughts and prayers.  
  
Marge, please take care of yourself. He will always be a part of you. God bless all of you.  
  
Sheila and Family##imported-begin##Sheila Bonenfant##imported-end##

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April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ Mom. You are surrounded by the love of your family. You can be proud of the loving family you and dad have raised and nurtured for the last 60 years. Know that all of your children and grandchildren are always here for you. Love, John, Lois, Rob, Jenny and Jamie##imported-begin##John and Lois Dittrich##imported-end##

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April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ Once again, our deepest sympathies to everyone. It is a huge loss, of course, but certainly a life well lived.##imported-begin##Susan and Marshall Adesman##imported-end##

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April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ John,  
  
Sorry to hear of your dad's passing. He sounds like a great guy and we know he raised a great son in you. My condolences in your time of sorrow.   
  
God bless,  
  
Jim Hall###imported-begin##Jim Hall###imported-end##

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April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ We are sorry for your loss.  $\frac{1}{2}$ Eventhough it was not a surprise, I know it is not any easier to accept.  $\frac{1}{2}$ However, even with your current sorrow, I know there is comfort when you think of all of the wonderful things he did for his family, country and for God. May God bless the Dittrich family.###imported-begin##Brian and Kari Jenke###imported-end##

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April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ Dear John and family,  
  
  
  
I am so sorry for your loss.  $\frac{1}{2}$ Your Dad sounds like he was a wonderful man, and I know you will miss him, so much.  
  
  
  
He is at rest down and free from his pain and struggle.  $\frac{1}{2}$ Heaven has another angel.  
  
You will be in my prayers.  
  
I love you,  
  
cissie###imported-begin##cissie###imported-end##

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April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ Thank you John for touching base with me concerning your Dad. I am so glad I got to meet him at the ballpark. Once again you have managed to bring me to tears sharing such wonderful stories and memories about your parents and family. How blessed you were to have had your father for all these many years and may each memory of him comfort you and bring you peace. "In remembering, we keep what is best, as treasures forever". Please know you are in my heart and my prayers and give my love to Lois. Fondly, Booty Jones

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April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ Dear Family of Bob Dittrich.....Fondly remembering many visits to Club Irwin with my parents, Catherine and Al Taylor, of Bonfield, and enjoying, not only good food, but great friends and company. Bill and I send our deepest condolences to the Dittrich family at the loss of a great man. Mary Pat Barney Taylor Barney

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April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



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April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ The Bilbows send our love for you all in this time of Mr. Dittrich's passing. Our prayers are with you. John and Kendall Bilbow

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April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ John, Lois, Jerry, Rob, Jenny Jamie and anyone I have forgotten:  
My thoughts and prayers are with you!!! Mike Higgins Amarillo,  
TX###imported-begin###Mike Higgins###imported-end###

April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ ĩ½Father Don told about Bob passing away<br><br>this a.m., but I  
didn't understand what he had said, so Irene told me when we were  
leaving church. ĩ½Sorry to hear the<br><br>news, but God knows  
best. ĩ½Keep the good<br><br>memories in your minds & hearts  
and all will fall into place later. Will try to get to Mass if at all  
possible, as I don't seem to be able to walk very far.<br><br>Will be  
thinking of all of you & praying<br><br>for strength for all you to get  
through this difficult time, I am sure. ĩ½<br><br> ĩ½ĩ½ĩ½Love  
& prayers, Arlene###imported-begin###Arlene B. Devine###imported-  
end###

April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ Aunt Margaret (and Family),<br><br><br><br>We are not sure we'll  
be able to make it down for the services, but wanted you to know  
we'll be thinking of you and praying for you as well! I always enjoyed  
your visits to Wisconsin, and our visits in Illinois. I'm sure it is  
extremely difficult to lose someone you've been married to for so  
many years. I might try to come down with Pat or Pam, but I am not  
sure yet. May God Bless You!###imported-begin###Mark & Ann  
McDonald Family###imported-end###

April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ In the summer of 1978 I had a job driving a baseball Hall of Fame exhibit around the country, booking it with minor-league and major-league clubs. ¶½One club that booked it was the Chicago White Sox. ¶½While there I stayed in Mr. Dittrich's home in Herscher. I was a complete stranger to him, except that I worked for his son, John. Nevertheless, Mr. Dittrich and his wife could not have been kinder or more gracious to me. I was made to feel welcome and at home, and I am truly grateful for their hospitality.##imported-begin##David Anthony Denny##imported-end##

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April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ Dear John and Lois: <br><br><br><br>I delivered a sympathy card over to your office yesterday and its seems like there should be something more we should do? I am confident that your Dad is in a better place without pain and only joy of catching up with our Lord and Savior. Mrs Dittrich, words seem so shallow when you have spent almost 60 years of marriage together. I hope and pray that you will be at peace. You should be very proud of John and the entire family. There are so many wonderful qualities that you and Robert have handed down to them.I just hope and pray that my two children will be as solid and as friendly. John certainly lives the "Golden Rule" and treats others like he wants to be treated. ¶½Patriotic, dedicated, loyal and supportive are all qualities of your Husband/Dad that we don not find much of today. <br><br><br><br>Warm Regards, <br><br>DAVE & Deann O'Lenick <br><br>##imported-begin##Dave O'Lenick##imported-end##

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April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy to you and your family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.##imported-begin##Max and Donna Brewer##imported-end##

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April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ Thinking of you during this time of transitioning. ĩ½We're all going to miss Mr. Dittrich greatly.<br><br><br><br>God bless you all.##imported-begin##Marc Rancourt##imported-end##

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April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ Family,<br><br><br><br>I celebrate the life of Mr. Dittrich, and know how much he was loved in life and will be missed. We rejoice in knowing that he is now in heaven, peaceful and walking entirely in the sunlight of the spirit. John is a dear friend of mine, and I know he has struggled with the decline of his strong, steadfast and passionate father. ĩ½What a great role model Mr. Dittrich has served to produce such a thoughtful and capable leader as his son John. ĩ½My deepest sympathy goes out to the entire family, and most especially to Mother Dittrich, who grieves the loss of her man. Peace be with you. ĩ½Dave##imported-begin##David Hargrove##imported-end##

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April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ Our sincere sympathy we express to you and your family.##imported-begin##Peter and Evonne Fletcher##imported-end##

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April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ John  
  
  
  
Even knowing the time is short, the final good bye is so hard. Our prayers are with your family. It's great to have parents you can be so proud of.##imported-begin##Ted & Deb Barker##imported-end##

April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ With Deepest Sympathy to all the family. Our Prayers are with you.  
  
i½May you find comfort  
  
i½in God's love  
  
i½and in your memories  
  
i½of the wonderful times  
  
i½i½you shared  
  
i½with your loved one.  
  
Bob and Dana  
i½##imported-begin##Bobby and Dana Warhurst##imported-end##

April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY ARE WITH YOU IN YOUR TIME OF SORROW  
  
  
  
THE ANDERSON FAMILY##imported-begin##Ed Anderson##imported-end##

April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ Maggie & Family:  
  
  
  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. i½Sorry that we can't express our sympathy in person.  
  
  
  
We surely will miss Bob at the Euchre Games, probably by now he has a game going with me Harold and Clarence.  
  
  
  
God Bless you and yours.##imported-begin##Ralph & Natalene Ferrari##imported-end##

April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you and the family at this time.##imported-begin##Mary Kusmirek##imported-end##

April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ I feel privileged and honored to have met Bob at my sister's and brother-in-law's home in Las Vegas, on New Years Eve, 1995. I enjoyed his witty sense of humor and funny jokes. He was a pretty good card player, too!<br><br><br><br>My sincere sympathies and special prayers go out to your family, especially to his lovely wife, Marge, during your time of sadness. <br><br><br><br>I will also say a special prayer in Bob's honor. I'm sure he will be sadly missed and very fondly remembered by all who knew and loved him.<br><br><br>Peace and Blessings to your family, in this time of sorrow and always. May God watch over you and wrap His Loving arms around you all ~<br><br><br><br>Kathi Rancourt##imported-begin##Kathi Rancourt##imported-end##

April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ Aunt Margaret and Cousins, Uncle Bob has always been a great respected part of our extended Wisconsin family. Coming to many of our Family's functions and weddings etc., showing his genuine caring, loving, and fun nature.<br><br><br><br>He will missed by us all, I will always have good thoughts of Uncle Bob.  
Steve##imported-begin##Steve McDonald##imported-end##

April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ Mr. Dittrich, <br><br>I am so sorry to hear about your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this tough time. <br><br>Sincerely, <br><br>Sean Prendergast###imported-begin##Sean Prendergast###imported-end##

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April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ Even though I only knew him for a little while he made me feel like I have known him my whole life he will be deeply missed. please accept my deepest sympathy. i ½ Sincerely LIZ TAYLOR###imported-begin##Liz Taylor###imported-end##

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April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ John, <br><br><br><br>I'm very sorry to hear about your Dad. i ½ I know you were very proud, like me, that our fathers served the U.S. in WWII. i ½ He sounds like he was a great dad for you. <br><br><br><br>My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. <br><br><br><br>Take care, <br><br><br><br>Kevin<br><br><br>###imported-begin##Kevin McNabb###imported-end##

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April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ I am sorry for your loss, I remember Bob as always have'n a smile.###imported-begin##kurt i ½ & Mari martin###imported-end##

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April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ We never met Robert Dittrich, but we know his son, i½John, and knowing John, i½we can understand what a fine man the elder Mr. Dittrich must have been. John, Lois and other family members, we are so sorry for your loss but know you will carry on your Dad's legacy in the best possible ways.<br><br><br><br>With love and understanding,<br><br><br><br>Joe & Mary Dulle<br><br>Fort Worth, TX###imported-begin##Mary & Joe Dulle###imported-end##

April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM



“ To the Dittrich Family: <br><br>Please know that all of you will be in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.<br><br> i½<br><br>May God Grant Mr. Robert J. Dittrich Eternal Rest.<br><br><br><br>Sincerely,<br><br>Lydia Sas-Jaworsky Bergeron<br><br>Lafayette, Louisiana###imported-begin##Lydia Sas-Jaworsky Bergeron###imported-end##

April 20, 2008 at 06:36 PM