



Robert "Bob" Crorey

AUG 5, 1930 - JAN 14, 2022



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Robert "Bob" Crorey

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On January 14, 2022, a sweet five year old boy called out “Bye, bye, Poppa Bob” bringing tears to the eyes of all who heard him. His grandpa, “Poppa Bob” had passed away at home that day, in his own bed—which was Bob’s final wish—following a medical emergency after playing pickleball the week prior. He was 91 years old.

Robert “Bob” Crorey was born on August 5, 1930 in Roseville, Michigan—the second of nine children to William and Florence (Morris) Crorey. In 1950, Bob married his high-school sweetheart and the love of his life, Ruth Hulsberg. Ruth predeceased him in 2007. Our family is planning a future gathering at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Roseville, to lovingly memorialize both Bob and Ruth, who were married there. ❤️

Robert “Bob” Crorey was a firefighter with the Roseville Fire Department, retiring with the rank of Captain. He enjoyed a long, healthy, and busy retirement—and fondly recalled the retirement years he spent wintering in sunny Bradenton, Florida.

Bob was the sportsman of our family. He excelled in every sport he tried! Even as a senior citizen of advanced years, there was no stopping him whether he was playing tennis, pickleball, bowling, horseshoes, or cornhole. Bob was featured twice in “The Times Herald” newspaper for the many medals he won in the St. Clair County Senior Olympics. A proud accomplishment!

Robert “Bob” Crorey is mourned by five children and their families: Colleen (Dale) Kelley, Cynthia (Robert) Gaffigan, Carolyn (Richard) Zryd, Robert Crorey Jr., and James (Molly) Crorey.

Grandpa “Poppa Bob” is sadly missed by 10 grandchildren, between 5-45 in age, and 14 great-grandchildren. Bob is survived by his younger siblings: Jane Van Howe, Marion Majewski, David Crorey, Christine Savage, as well as many nieces and nephews. He is also mourned by his long-time childhood friend Vic Taranta. ❤️



Obituary

Robert "Bob" Crorey

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Bob's loving family asks for your thoughts and prayers during this sad time. Thank you. Plans are being made to honor his memory in the summer of 2022, with good food...Pickleball, horseshoes, and cornhole. Somehow we think he would approve and be pleased!

"Bye, bye, Poppa Bob. We love you and miss you VERY much!" ❤️

Memorials may be made in Robert "Bob" Crorey's name to the Washington Life Center, St. Clair Council on Aging, or St. Mark Lutheran Church in Roseville, Michigan. Arrangements by Young Funeral Home, China Twp. To leave a message of comfort visit www.youngcolonial.com



Events

Robert "Bob" Crorey

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Cemetery Details

 Cremation



Tribute Wall

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VT

Vittorino (Vic) Taranta posted:

I had always regarded myself as a social misfit yet Bob Crorey chose to be my best friend. We spent endless hours talking about sports, fishing, and construction and collaborated on several jobs including building his garage on Ford St. We'd drive out on the ice on lake St. Claire in the winter my VW beetle and after cutting holes in the ice sit in my big and wait for the tip-ups to trip. Bob's family took me in as a member of their family and I'll always cherish the memory of those happy days.

January 19 at 7:02 PM

VT

Vic Taranta February 24 at 4:53 AM

Thanks Colleen. My friendship with you Crorey's was a highlight of my life and I'll be eternally grateful. I love you all immensely.

CK

Colleen Kelley January 20 at 4:34 AM

Aww, Vic! ❤️ No one influenced us as children more than you. You were a wonderful friend to both of our parents...and us. I have many, many fond memories of your ready smile, wit, songs, playing your ukulele, etc. Thank you for your positive influence in my life. ❤️ Both Mom and Dad loved you, and we "kids" do too! Dad greatly appreciated your long and loyal friendship. May God bless you! ❤️🙏❤️ P.S. Dad was always trying to make pizza that tasted as good as yours. I don't think he ever mastered it!

FK

Frank And Patty Keena posted:

Uncle Bob, will be truly missed. So many good memories of Bob and Ruth. Memories of Bob include what a stand up guy he was and really wonderful to his mom. And he was just the very best horseshoe player around. Always tried to beat him in horseshoes, never did. Sending love and prayers to the whole family, Frank and Patty Keena ❤️

January 18 at 2:39 PM

JH

Jane Crorey Van Howe January 19 at 11:28 AM

Bob would always get the "ringer's" around the Horseshoe Poles so easily -- & Win, of course. I finally learned how to "do a Bob" Keep my Eye directly on the Pole - Yes, Bob was a good Son, and you both were one of "Grandma Crorey's" favorite "Grands" always there for her, also - taking time to visit her asking her "What can we do". Colleen Crorey and Connie Keena were more of her favorite Grands - (she had many & loved them all). Thank You for being so caring, loving to your Grandma Florence Grace Crorey.



Tribute Wall

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Linda Schwehofer posted:

Bob was such a happy soul! Always a smile with a twinkle in his eye....I will miss him ❤️ He became a regular at the Township & Senior Luncheons. He always had a smile for the ladies. May he rest in peace 🙏

January 18 at 11:43 AM



Jane Crorey Van Howe January 19 at 11:36 AM

I would encourage Bob to find a nice Lady Friend like Ruth. Bob would say and then laugh - "The ones that I might like are already married"!!!! Bob & his neighbor, Donna, did look out for one another long ago now. "Just Good Neighbor's" - like Mr. Roger's!



James Crorey shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Dad was also an active bowler. This photo is from a story in The Times Herald about active people in the Blue Water area. Dad was one of the people featured as an active Senior.



January 17 at 3:41 PM



Jane Crorey Van Howe January 18 at 8:54 AM

Jim, how Bob loved to his Grandsons, bragging how smart they were. Will they inherit their Grandpa Bob's sport genes and become a Professional Sport Star - Baseball, Tennis, Basketball???? Jeff Savage was "close" - a great Baseball Pitcher in College.



Colleen Kelley January 18 at 2:00 AM

Love that look of determination on Dad's face. 💙



Tribute Wall

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Glen Crorey posted:

Uncle Bob left this world in a way that most us could hope for. 91 active to the end, minimal suffering, wonderful memories of a awesome wife. great kids respectable career. As for me I have only one regret that I didn't find just what made this great man tick. Glen Crorey

January 17 at 12:03 PM



Jane Crorey Van Howe January 19 at 11:40 AM

Glen, did you contact your Sister, Karen Bowman. Bob was good to Karen when she needed his help.



Colleen Kelley January 18 at 1:58 AM

My Dad liked to break and set records. He even broke the Crorey record, living until age ninety-one. Dad was pleased about that, but his "goal" was 95 years (said for the ICU.) He didn't make it to 95 but we're VERY proud of him anyway! ❤️



Jane Crorey Van Howe posted:

Our Brother, Robert Stephen Crorey, was the second Son born of a large Family having 3 Brothers & 5 Sister's - WOW. Bob was very popular graduating from Roseville High School participating in many Sports - & "winning". Bob won the Tennis Championship Trophy Competition in the "All School District 's Play-off". A big Thank You too all the Senior Sport Players for supporting Bob after his High School Sweetheart, Ruth, passed away. Bob & Ruth raised a wonderful Family of Five Children. Our Mother was lucky having Bob always willing to help her with "Honey-do's" - Bob could fix most anything! Bob was AKA, in our Family, as the Natural talented "Eye on the Ball Sport Star - playing to win, if keeping score" (but always a "gracious loser if not winning", claiming I did my best"). When Bob first joined "The Senior Sport Team", he went to the Winter Bowling Games asking to join one of the Bowling Teams". When Bob told them, "I have not Bowled before" - the Last Placed Team took Bob!!! Well, guess what???? They came in 1st Place at the end of the Season - thanks to Bob. He bowled many 300 Games. Bob was again blessed passing in his family home after playing One of his Favorite sports - Pickle Ball. Thinking of all the Good Memories of past years of our Family, Hugs & Love from Sis, Jane Crorey Van Howe.

January 17 at 9:12 AM



Colleen Kelley January 18 at 1:51 AM

Such a loving tribute, Aunt Jane. ❤️ Thank you! Love, Colleen



Tribute Wall

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DC

David Crorey posted:

I have always been proud of my big brother Bob. Always doing good deeds such as taking my mother to the store making repairs around her house etc. I've always bragged about him being captain of the Rose Roseville Fire Department. In recent years I would go to his house and we would sit in the garage or behind the house or take walks in his property/woods across the street and he would tell me stories about when he was a boy on the our grandfathers farm, growing up, fire department etc. He was never lacking of great stories and I was always interested in listening.I will miss him dearly!

January 17 at 7:40 AM

JH

Jane Crorey Van Howe January 19 at 11:46 AM

Bob was very lucky having our Brother David (Dave) always there for Bob when he needed caring, loving, support especially after losing Ruth just before the Christmas Holidays and other medical issues. "Dave is like a Rock of Gibraltar" -

JH

Jane Crorey Van Howe January 18 at 8:27 AM

That's true Colleen, Bob "looked after" his younger siblings to make sure we were okay.

CK

Colleen Kelley January 17 at 7:46 AM

Aww! ❤️ Just recently he said "I always thought I was like a father to my younger brothers and sisters." Probably in some ways, he was. And I think he always felt a great responsibility for his mother. She always told him "You'll get your reward in Heaven." 👤



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BM

Bob Macdonald posted:

I met Bob playing Pickleball in St Clair. I learned he was a retired Fire Captain out of Roseville. We shared many memories of some of the firefighters we both knew. Amazing man. We should all be so lucky to be as active and competitive as he was at his age.

January 16 at 2:04 PM

JH

Jane Crorey Van Howe January 19 at 12:00 PM

Did Retired Fireman Bob ever tell you about the "Burning Bush" at his Home not that long ago???? Calling 911 for HELP. Allturned out okay thanks to the Fire Dept.

JH

Jane Crorey Van Howe January 18 at 8:43 AM

Not many of us can say we continued to have a close communication with our School "Chums" like Bob & Vic, becoming more like real brothers throughout the years. How all us young Crorey Girls & Carla Jahn were infatuated with Handsome, Outgoing Vic Toronto sp?

CK

Colleen Kelley January 17 at 8:35 AM

We will pass your message along to Vic! Last November I went to Florida for two weeks. Next time I visit Florida I'll try to see you Aunt Marion! ❤️Dad really loved his retirement time in sunny Florida. 😊

TP

Tommy Perry January 17 at 6:16 AM

I forgot to mention Vic.Please tell him that I said Hello and that he is in my prayers also.i know him and your Dad were Great Friends.Cant leave him out.thank you,Colleen,Love You,!!Aunt MarionXOXO

CK

Colleen Kelley January 17 at 5:40 AM

Thank you, Aunt Marion! We know you loved your brother and he loved you too. ❤️ Love, Colleen

TP

Tommy Perry January 17 at 5:14 AM

My dear nieces and nephews.Uncle DAVE called to tell me about your Dad,please know how sorry I am.i keep thinking that he is with your Precious Mother,now.Poppa Bob is so cool.i love it.My Prayers and Thoughts are with All.With Gods Blessings and Love.Your Aunt Marion XOXo

CK

Colleen Kelley January 16 at 2:08 PM

My sister had just bought him an official Roseville Fire Department crewneck shirt for Christmas. He was known to flash his fire department badge when pulled over by the police! Thankfully that didn't happen often. Thank you for your sharing your remembrances of our Dad. He was pretty amazing!



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JB

Jeanne Burczyk posted:

Bob, what a character he was! I was with him at the court on his last day of Pickleball here on earth. I'm sure he is placing that ball expertly in heaven just like he did there. We were all amazed how he could still be playing like he did at his age. If we could all be so lucky! My condolences to his loving family. His Pickleball family will miss him!!

January 16 at 11:54 AM

JH

Jane Crorey Van Howe January 18 at 8:47 AM

Bob looked forward to playing with all his Senior Sport Friends -it was the "joy of his life" playing with you all.

CK

Colleen Kelley January 16 at 12:59 PM

After the two weeks of not playing due to the holidays, my Dad was really looking forward to pickleball the week of January 2nd. I think he even bought a new racket. He loved his time on the court. ❤️

JS

Judy Smith posted:

My Heart goes out to you and your family, we will miss you at Pickleball ❤️

January 16 at 10:15 AM

CK

Colleen Kelley January 16 at 1:02 PM

Thank you so much! He thoroughly enjoyed playing pickleball!~



Tribute Wall

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KA

Kay posted:

You will be missed Bob by all of us. Us pickleball players have been amazed over the years how well you play and are hoping to be halfway as good when we get to your age. RIP.

January 16 at 10:07 AM

KB

Karen Bowman January 24 at 5:51 PM

The first time I met my Uncle Bob I was 43 years old. Just looking at one another there was no doubt we were family. Thanks to his kindness and compassion he made it possible for me to meet my dad and two brothers Glen and Norman and my extended Crorey family. I will be forever grateful to this kind man, my Uncle Bob. It's so nice to hear so many wonderful things about him. Prayers for peace and comfort to family and friends.

JH

Jane Crorey Van Howe January 18 at 9:17 AM

Bob enjoyed cooking & baking - apple pies as I recall. However, Bob told me once that he did not enjoy vacuuming, etc that Ruth always did - he was spoiled there! Ruth was talented "in the arts" - did amazing delicate needle work while Bob was out and about playing some kind of sport game.

JU

Juanita January 18 at 5:50 AM

Before Covid stopped our Senior Dinners at China Twp, Bob would proudly bring one of his homemade soups! And as soon as it was over he would rush to the Washington Center for his Pickle-ball game! He would tell about his cooking for the firefighters he loved! Rest in peace Bob!

CK

Colleen Kelley January 16 at 1:01 PM

He was pretty amazing! Thank you for your kind words.

JB

Jim Berry January 16 at 11:13 AM

We will miss you Bob and the great sportsmen you were at your age. Jim Berry



Media

Robert "Bob" Crorey

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James Crorey shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

January 17 at 3:41 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Robert "Bob" by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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