



Robert William "Bob" Heckman

February 24, 1941 - December 27, 2024

Robert William “Bob” Heckman, a devoted family man, loyal friend, and proud retiree of Ford Motor Company, passed away peacefully with family by his side in Sterling Heights, Michigan. He was 83 years old.

Born on February 24, 1941, in Dayton, Ohio, Bob was the beloved son of the late Viola and Adolf Heckman and is also preceded in death by his Brother Richard and sister-in-law Nancy. A highly accomplished student-athlete, Bob excelled in both academics and athletics at the University of Dayton. Bob was the 1962 team captain and a “dominating force at left end” on the football field, as noted by the College Football Hall of Fame. His GPA ranked among the top 20 students, and he served as Class Vice President—a testament to his leadership and drive.

Bob earned a Ph.D. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from the University of Purdue and enjoyed professional career in Labor Relations that spanned decades at Ford Motor Company, where made many friends and where his dedication and work ethic left a lasting impression.

Above all, Bob cherished his family. He is survived by his beloved wife of 48 years, Toni Heckman; his children Carrie Heckman (Wrye Martin), Kristi Tietz, and R.J. Heckman (Eileen); and his cherished grandchildren Malcolm (24), Lola (22), Ella (20), Sydney (19), and Nicholas (19).

In his later years, Bob and Toni shared a close partnership in all things, from day-to-day joys to adventures and travel. Bob loved watching sports, playing golf with friends, and won more than his fare share together with Toni on regular trips to the casino. His humor, kindness, and unwavering love for his family and friends defined his life.

Bob will be honored and laid to rest at Mandziuk Funeral Home in Sterling Heights, Michigan, with visitation from 2-7 pm (and service at 4pm) on Monday, December 30 with a burial to follow at White Chapel Cemetery on Tuesday morning. This Spring the family is planning a celebration of his life with details to be announced at a later date. His memory will live on in the hearts of those who loved him.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be sent to either Detroit Rescue Mission or National Right to Life Organization.

Cemetery Details

White Chapel Cemetery

621 West Long Lake Road
Troy, MI 48098

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 30. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Funeral Service

DEC 30. 4:00 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Tribute Wall

JA

“ Janet sent a virtual gift in memory of Robert William "Bob" Heckman



Janet - December 27, 2025 at 01:30 PM

JA

It's been a year since you passed 💔😞 and I know Toni missing you 💔 You were a special man who touched ☐ the lives of everyone around you. You're in my thoughts and prayers 🙏❤️✨ Janet

Janet - December 27, 2025 at 01:33 PM

JA

“ Janet lit a candle in memory of Robert William "Bob" Heckman



Janet - November 24, 2025 at 12:20 PM

JA

“ Janet lit a candle in memory of Robert William "Bob" Heckman



Janet - October 13, 2025 at 03:23 PM

JA

“ Janet lit a candle in memory of Robert William
"Bob" Heckman



Janet - April 20, 2025 at 12:57 PM

JA

“ Janet lit a candle in memory of Robert William
"Bob" Heckman



Janet - February 24, 2025 at 03:40 PM

JA

“ Janet lit a candle in memory of Robert William
"Bob" Heckman



Janet - February 03, 2025 at 03:05 PM

MK

“ Heartfelt condolences to Bob's friends and
family. Bob was a kind and gentle man we will
remember with love and affection.



Monica Kavanagh - December 30, 2024 at 10:55 AM

LV

“ 1 file added to the album Family Gatherings



Linda Valli - December 29, 2024 at 06:37 PM

LV

Toni and Bob were always such good company--and such good people. I'm fortunate to have them as my cousins. I join so many in missing Bob and sending Toni my love.

Linda Valli - December 30, 2024 at 11:58 AM

CH

“ Carol Hudson lit a candle in memory of Robert William "Bob" Heckman



Carol Hudson - December 28, 2024 at 10:26 PM

SM

“ Sherri Mertz lit a candle in memory of Robert William "Bob" Heckman



Sherri Mertz - December 28, 2024 at 09:12 PM

JA

“ Janet lit a candle in memory of Robert William
"Bob" Heckman



Janet - December 28, 2024 at 06:30 PM

SH

“ Uncle Bob will be missed by many. He was such a kind man and it
was always a pleasure to be able to chat with him. The Rainko
family will miss seeing him at family events. Love you all.

Shari - December 28, 2024 at 05:47 PM

SH

“ Shari lit a candle in memory of Robert William
"Bob" Heckman



Shari - December 28, 2024 at 05:43 PM