



Robert Jarema

February 26, 1942 - February 1, 2025

Robert “Bob” Allen Jarema passed away February 1, 2025. Bob was born in Detroit on February 26, 1942. He grew up in Hamtramck, and resided there until he moved to Sterling Heights in 1968.

Bob is survived by his wife of 58 years, Barbara (nee Gardiner), daughter Jennifer (Scott) Cutter, son Marc, and daughter-in-law, Eva. Bob leaves behind six grandchildren whom he adored; Aidan, Madeline, Abigail, Eli, Nathan, and Talia. Brother-in-law of the (late) Raymond and Teresa Gardiner. While Bob had several cousins, he had three who were like brothers to him; Wally (Mary), Chet (Judy), and Ed (Corrine). He is survived by his best friend of over 65 years, Dan (Darlene) Rys, and leaves behind many wonderful nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and caregivers who absolutely loved him. Bob is preceded in death by his parents Edward and Lottie (nee Szepelak) Jarema, and his older brother, Donald.

Bob attended St. Florian Catholic School in Hamtramck and graduated in 1959. He went on to attend Wayne State University where he received his bachelor’s degree in education. He completed his journey by obtaining his Master of Education from the University of Michigan. Bob started his teaching career in Hamtramck, before accepting a position teaching third grade in

Warren Consolidated Schools for nearly 30 years. He truly loved his profession and has always said he wouldn't change a thing if he had to do it all over again. His passion for teaching didn't end in the classroom, he also took his calming demeanor to the road and was a driving instructor from the late 1970's until 2022.

Bob was an avid sports fan. He was known as "Bobby J" by his teammates. Throughout his life, he played football, baseball, volleyball, horseshoes, floor hockey, and his absolute favorite, softball. Bob took softball very seriously. He kept stats and always had post-game reviews with the team manager (whether or not the manager wanted to), he even put off having knee replacement surgery as not to end his "career". He truly loved the game, his teammates, and his fan club, which consisted of his daughter and his grandkids. In addition to team sports, Bob also loved rabbit hunting trips with his cousins and nephews. Bob always took it upon himself to bring the snacks during these trips. He made sure to stock up on Twizzlers, peanuts, and Little Debbie cakes. Bob's love for sports only intensified when his grandkids were old enough to start playing. He was, by far, their biggest fan. He ultimately supported his grandkids in every aspect of life, whether it was a game, Christmas concert, homework, recital, driving lessons, talent shows, fundraisers, etc., he

was a continuous presence in their lives. Bob loved to bring candy for the kids to share after their games. He would often stop by their elementary schools and bring candy for the teachers, as well. He was lovingly known to many as "The Candy Man" for this reason.

Bob enjoyed taking day trips around the state with his wife. They had a Sunday afternoon ritual that consisted of a drive out to Romeo for donuts,

while listening to Polish music in the car. Bob also appreciated the various Polish festivals in the area, and made it a point to check out his favorite polka bands. He excelled at music trivia, and often sent trivia questions to his nieces and nephews, and his softball and floor hockey buddies.

Despite his health battles and obstacles in the last few years, Bob absolutely loved life. His resilience and positivity were traits to be admired. He was easily one of the most generous people on the planet. His kindness was beyond measure. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. His memory will live on in the hearts of his family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Bob's name to Special Olympics Michigan. www.somi.org

The family will greet friends at Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors of Sterling Heights on Friday, February 7, 2025 from 3:00 pm until 8:00 pm. Funeral mass Saturday, February 8, 2025 at 10:00 am at St. Malachy, 14115 Fourteen Mile Road, Sterling Heights, MI. Visitation at the church begins at 9:30 am. Interment to follow at Resurrection Cemetery, Clinton Township. Fond memories and online condolences may be offered to the family at www.MandziukFuneralHome.com.

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery

18201 Clinton River Rd
Clinton Township, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 7. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Scripture Service

FEB 7. 7:00 PM (ET)

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

Instate

FEB 8. 9:30 AM (ET)

St. Malachy Catholic Church
14115 Fourteen Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI

Mass of the Christian Burial

FEB 8. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Malachy Catholic Church
14115 Fourteen Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI

Tribute Wall

JF

“ My condolences to all who knew him. Mr. Jarema was a favorite of all students at Pearl Lean elementary. I didn't get to be in his classroom (3rd grade) but I was always a big fan. He was very kind and patient with kids. He was an excellent teacher, which was apparent when he was a part of our group sing-alongs. My sister had him as a teacher and so did my brother and they loved him. Years later, when I was taking driver's training, and I had to take my road test, who but Mr. Jarema was my driving instructor! I told him who I was, and he remembered our family and was very complimentary about them. He made what would normally be a nervous situation into a very relaxed one. He was a blessing to his students and to anyone he interacted with. Always kind, always considerate. This is very sad news to hear. He was a great man who shared his gifts with others and made them better people. He made the world a better place. He will be missed.

John Joseph Fox - February 07, 2025 at 01:43 PM

PC

“ Bob would often bring Barb to the Big Boy. I always looked forward to seeing them (and yes Bob would also bring us candy). I will be thinking of Barb and her family in the days ahead. May Bob rest in peace.

Pam Cowans - February 07, 2025 at 11:26 AM

KK

“ I loved working with Bob at Lean Elementary. We called him “Mr. Nice Guy.” He truly was. Even after his retirement, he would surprise us with donuts. He was a great guy. His students loved him.

Karen Kuciel - February 06, 2025 at 07:53 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Jarema.*



February 06, 2025 at 08:31 AM



“ *The Walt Jarema Family purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Robert Jarema.*



The Walt Jarema Family - February 05, 2025 at 05:32 PM



“ *Besides softball, Bob & I were into oldies rock'n'roll songs, trying to stump each other on who sang those oldies. He was a great guy & fun person to be around. TIGER*

LEON KULESZA - February 05, 2025 at 01:27 PM



“ *Enjoyed many good times w Bob; playing softball, floor hockey and retiree luncheons in which he handed out sport quizzes. He was also my youngest son's drivers ed instructor. RIP good friend. Dan Korbutt*

Dan Korbutt - February 04, 2025 at 11:37 AM

BC

“ *My son Scott is Jenny's husband. When Scott's father and I met Bob for the first time, he felt like a friend we had known forever. He was a great father, father-in-law and grandfather. How empty our lives would have been, had we not met him.*

Beverly Cisco - February 03, 2025 at 05:45 PM

TJ

“ *Theresa Jarema lit a candle in memory of Robert Jarema*



Theresa Jarema - February 03, 2025 at 01:16 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert Jarema.*



February 03, 2025 at 11:41 AM