

Bob R. Willadsen

October 3, 1930 - March 13, 2017

Bob R. Willadsen, 86, of Storm Lake, IA, passed away on March 13, 2017 in Mesa, AZ.

Visitation will be from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. on May 11, 2017, at Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake, IA. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 on May 12, 2017, at Lakeside Presbyterian Church in Storm Lake, IA with Pastor Chuck Valenti-Hein officiating. Burial will take place at the Storm Lake Cemetery. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Homes in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Better known in his younger years as “Bobby,” or “Scooter,” Bob was born in Newell, IA to Jay and Dora (Thompson) Willadsen on October 3, 1930.

Bob graduated from Storm Lake High in 1948 and Buena Vista College in 1952. Sports were an integral part of his youth as he competed in football, basketball, and track. His high school teammates described him as, “speedster of the squad,” and “the spark plug of the team. His prowess on the football field at Buena Vista earned him recognition as a First Team Iowa Conference selection in 1951, the only unanimous choice of the coaches, and also Honorable Mention, Little All American. For many years, he held the state high school record for the 100 yard dash. Bob was inducted into the BV Hall of Fame in 1972.

Following college, Bob served in the US Army during the Korean War from 1952-1954. He earned the rank of sergeant and received the National Defense Service and Good Conduct medals.

While working as a Territory Sales Manager for North American Mfg. and residing in Fremont, CA, Bob met his future bride, Marjorie A. (Luther). They were married on June 17, 1967, in Fremont. They had two wonderful children, Jennifer and Jay, who have filled their hearts with pride and joy and given them five very special grandchildren.

Bob moved his family to Storm Lake, IA in 1974 and worked for Noble Manufacturing Company in their implement sales division. When Noble closed, he worked for a brief time with the Iowa Lottery before accepting a sales position with John Day Company until his retirement. He was active in the Elks Club, Lakeside Presbyterian Church, BV Club & Lake Creek Country Club.

A favorite place to be in the springtime was along the left field fence of the softball games where he cheered for Marge's BVU teams. He never missed a home game and was her most loyal supporter. He treated her players like members of his own family and always had a smile or encouraging word for each one.

Family was the most important element in Bob's life. Daughter Jennifer, and son, Jay blessed him with five grandchildren who became the light of his life. He cherished spending time with them and especially loved taking them out for a spin around the lake on his pontoon boat, watching them in their sports' activities and hearing about their educational endeavors. His new and most endeared nickname became "Grandpa Bob."

Spending time discussing the Beavers or Hawkeyes games with friends at the former "Sportsman" store each morning, was a popular pastime of Bob's. He

also enjoyed golfing, fishing, boating, and vacationing in the Cayman Islands. After retirement, he served as a volunteer football coach for Buena Vista University and was particularly proud when the student-athletes called him “coach.”

Eight years ago, Bob & Marge began spending winters in Mesa, AZ with fellow Storm Lakers. This past fall, they decided to sell their Storm Lake home and move to Mesa full-time. They had recently purchased a home and had moved in two weeks prior to his passing. Bob enjoyed spending those last few days with his children and wife and appreciated the many visits by close friends.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Jay and Dora Willadsen; and his sister, Blanche Twogood. He is survived by his wife, Marge (Luther) Willadsen; daughter, Jennifer (Willadsen) Hoff, son-in-law, Dale, grandchildren: Hailey, Kylie, and Tegan, of Hermantown, MN; and son, Jay Willadsen, daughter-in-law, Kristy (Kemper), and grandchildren: Conner and Cooper of Hopkinton, MA.

John Wooden once said: “The most Important thing in the world is family and love,” and, “it is not so important who starts the game but who finishes it.” The motto under Bob’s name in his senior yearbook said: “It is better to be small and shine than great and cast a dark shadow.” These quotes reflect Bob’s character and the way he lived his life as a husband, dad, grandpa, and friend.

The family wishes to thank all of you who chose to share your friendship with Bob. He always had a smile and a kind word for you. We have appreciated your comfort and prayers through this difficult time. Please join us for lunch following the service and stop to say hello and share your memories with us.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be given to the Bob Willadsen Endowed Football Fund at Buena Vista University or Lakeside Presbyterian Church of Storm Lake, IA.

Cemetery Details

Storm Lake Cemetery

Storm Lake, IA 50588

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 11. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Storm Lake
1615 W Milwaukee Ave,
Storm Lake, IA 50588
(712) 732-1911
jensenfuneralhomes@gmail.com
<https://www.fratzkejensen.com>

Memorial Service

MAY 12. 11:00 AM (CT)

Lakeside Presbyterian Church - Storm Lake
110 E. 3rd St.
Storm Lake, IA

Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Bob R. Willadsen*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - May 10, 2017 at 03:39 PM

KC

“ *Dear Marge & Family,
We were so sorry to hear of your loss. Please know that you have been in our thoughts & prayers. We have fond memories of your time @ BVU, Marge. Take good care of each other.
Sincerely,
Kim & Dale Carver*

Kim & Dale Carver - May 11, 2017 at 04:34 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bob R. Willadsen.*



May 11, 2017 at 12:14 PM

GD

“ We just heard about the loss of Bob. He and Marge were our neighbors when we had our cabin at Casino beach. He was always a great neighbor and friend as was Marge. We have many fond memories of our times there. They were always our fellow Beavers. Our thoughts are with you both.
Gary and JD Debner

Gary and JD Debner - April 24, 2017 at 11:06 PM

JT

“ Bob was a good friend in the past to all the Toays. Our prayers are with you and your family Marge. Bob died on my 86th birthday. I fondly remember our times in Storm Lake. Blessings, John Toay

john toay - April 03, 2017 at 04:59 PM

AB

“ Our Thoughts and Prayers are with Marge and Family. Bob was one of the nicest people you could ever meet.. He loved BVU and was a loyal supporter of all its athletic programs. I would like to know how many hundreds of hours he sat in the bleachers cheering for BVU athletes....it has to be a record. He will be missed by all who knew him. Rest in peace. Al & Vicki Baxter, Chesapeake, VA.

Al Baxter - April 03, 2017 at 10:30 AM

 Heidi Knaak

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Heidi Knaak - April 03, 2017 at 09:14 AM

RM

“ Randy & Mona Mason lit a candle in memory of Bob R. Willadsen




Randy & Mona Mason - March 28, 2017 at 11:19 PM

RA

Marge, we were sadden to hear about Bob. May God give you strength during this difficult time.

Randy - March 28, 2017 at 11:19 PM

 Tracey Sudbay Hash

“ So very sorry to hear of Bob's passing. Many condolences.

Tracey Sudbay Hash - March 27, 2017 at 09:21 PM

RF

“ Sad to hear of the passing of Bob . A good man . Condolences

Randy Utter & family - March 21, 2017 at 01:57 PM

RH

“ Ronda Utter Hogan lit a candle in memory of Bob R. Willadsen



Ronda Utter Hogan - March 21, 2017 at 11:13 AM

RH

I've know Bobby for most of my life. He always had a smile on his face - such a nice man. My condolences to you Marge and your entire family.

Ronda Utter Hogan - March 21, 2017 at 11:15 AM

RH

“ I've known Bob most of my life - he was always smiling! My deepest condolences to you Marge and the rest of your family.

Ronda Utter Hogan

Ronda Utter Hogan - March 21, 2017 at 11:00 AM

DM

“ Dave Merten lit a candle in memory of Bob R. Willadsen



Dave Merten - March 21, 2017 at 09:04 AM

DL

“ GOODBYE BOBBY. DON LAWSON

DON LAWSON - March 20, 2017 at 09:24 PM

PM

“ Pam McClannahan lit a candle in memory of Bob R. Willadsen



Pam McClannahan - March 18, 2017 at 07:48 AM

PM

*Marge, heartfelt sympathy to you and your family.
Bob was a great guy ! Hugs, Pam*

Pam McClannahan - March 18, 2017 at 07:51 AM

SA

“ *Skoog And Barb Anderson lit a candle in
memory of Bob R. Willadsen*



Skoog and Barb Anderson - March 17, 2017 at 09:08 PM

RM

“ *Rita & Mark lit a candle in memory of Bob R.
Willadsen*



Rita & Mark - March 17, 2017 at 11:42 AM

JE

“ *Enjoyed Bob's friendship for many years. He
now is free from pain and restrictions.
Thinking of you Marge and family at this time.
Prayers*



jane a else - March 16, 2017 at 04:36 PM

LD

“ *Larry & Terry Davenport lit a candle in memory of Bob R. Willadsen*



Larry & Terry Davenport - March 16, 2017 at 02:41 PM

LA

Dear Marge and Family, Sending our thoughts and prayers for you to experience the comfort and peace of knowing Bob was loved and respected by so many people.

Larry - March 16, 2017 at 02:44 PM


Stephanie
Politte

“ *Marge, Jennifer, and Jay,
May our thoughts and prayers comfort you at this time.
Love, Joyce and Steph*

Stephanie Politte - March 16, 2017 at 01:46 PM

BB

“ *Bob Baschke lit a candle in memory of Bob R. Willadsen*



Bob Baschke - March 16, 2017 at 12:44 PM

PH

“ Paul & Eileen Howie lit a candle in memory of Bob R. Willadsen



Paul & Eileen Howie - March 16, 2017 at 12:21 PM

JD

“ John & Connie Demers lit a candle in memory of Bob R. Willadsen



John & Connie Demers - March 16, 2017 at 11:20 AM

JD

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Marge and the family. May the special memories you have help you through this difficult time.

John and Connie Demers - March 16, 2017 at 11:21 AM

PG

“ A CANDLE HAS BEEN LIT IN BOB'S MEMORY. OUR SYMPATHY & PRAYERS TO MARGE & THE FAMILY. MAY BOB RIP. LARY & PATTY GUNVILLE & OUR FAMILY



PATTY GUNVILLE - March 16, 2017 at 09:39 AM

VB

We are sending prayers and thoughts to Marge and Family. We will always remember Bob's smile and friendly manner. May he now R.I.P. Vicki and Al Baxter

Vicki Baxter - March 17, 2017 at 04:37 PM