



Robert Joseph O'Brien

December 8, 1929 - August 17, 2018

Robert Joseph O'Brien, 88, passed away Friday, August 17, 2018 with his loving wife of 64 years and children by his side.

Funeral Mass will be held on Thursday, August 23, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. at the St. Mary's Catholic Church in Storm Lake. Burial will be at 3:00 p.m. in the Calvary Cemetery in Sioux City. Visitation will take place on Wednesday, August 22, 2018 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. with a rosary at 4:30 p.m. and a vigil service at 7:30 p.m. all at the church. The family asks, in lieu of flowers that donations be made to the S.O.S. store in Storm Lake. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Bob was born in Sioux City, Iowa on December 8, 1929 to Michael and Myrtle Toomey O'Brien. Following his graduation from Trinity High School in Sioux City in 1948, he joined the Navy, serving one year active and five years reserve. He earned his B.A. in Biology from St. Ambrose College in 1953. Bob worked for Nestle's and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals before joining Armour & Company. In 1966, he went to work for Iowa Beef Packers in Denison and was named plant manager there in 1967. In 1983, he became the plant manager of the IBP pork plant in Storm Lake. He retired from IBP in 1999 as an assistant vice president and general manager.

Bob married the love of his life, Nella Chayka, on June 19, 1954 in Sioux City

at St. Boniface Church. After moving several times, they settled in Schleswig, Iowa where they raised their many children. Schleswig became such an important home for the O'Brien's. In February 1967, son Kevin was killed in an accident. The support and love the townspeople of Schleswig showed the O'Brien's, proved they were indeed "home". In 1983, a move to Storm Lake began a new adventure for Bob and Nella. Now "empty nesters", they found a new family in Storm Lake. Bob and Nella were known for giving their time and energy to community activities, supporting local businesses and attending any and all sporting events for St. Mary's, Storm Lake HS and Buena Vista. Bob and Nella were honored to be asked to serve as Grand Marshalls of the Storm Lake High School Homecoming Parade. Bob served on numerous committees for advancing the causes of local students and his church, St. Mary's Parish. He was most proud of his part in starting the S.O.S. store in 2005. This store helps with tuition assistance for those who attend St. Mary's schools. This is one of his proudest accomplishments and he was so honored to work with all of the wonderful people who made it happen. Bob was a proud 3rd Degree Member of St. Mary's Council and joined the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Rosati Assembly 272, Storm Lake, in 2008.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife, Nella; his children Bob Jr.; Kathleen and her children, Matt (Angela), Kelli (Matt), Kyle, Nathan (Caitlin) ; Timothy his wife Julie and their children, Stephanie (Brad), Brett (Aynsley) and Erin (Nick); Patrick, his wife Sherri and their children, Ian (Amanda) and Molli (Tyler); Colleen (O'Brien) Jackson, her husband, Mark , their son Christgen; Maureen (O'Brien) Hall and her husband, Ron; and his nine beautiful great-grandchildren. Also survived by his sister, Shiuvaun (O'Brien) Nasypany and her husband, Ray; sisters-in-law Gladys O'Brien, Doris O'Brien and Mary O'Brien; sister-in-law Irma Lorber and her husband, Chuck; brother-in-law, Leon Morgenstern and his many loved nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his son Kevin; brothers Don, Mike, Jack, Phil

and Tom; his sister, Patty; his sisters-in-law, Carol Morgenstern, Alice Janney and Ruth O'Brien; and brother-in-law Albert Aiken, as well as nephews Danny Morgenstern, Danny O'Brien and niece Nora Aiken Scott.

The funeral mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Storm Lake, with the Father Timothy Friedrichsen officiating, followed by a luncheon at St. Mary's Parish Hall. Burial will be later that afternoon in Calvary Cemetery in Sioux City, with Father Bruce Lawler officiating. Visitation, Wednesday evening at St. Mary's Catholic Church with rosary at 4:30. The family present 5 to 8 p.m., and a parish vigil service at 7:30 p.m.

The family asks, in lieu of flowers that donations be made to the S.O.S. store in Storm Lake.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

2802 Casselman St
Sioux City, IA 51103

Previous Events

Rosary

AUG 22. 4:30 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church -- Storm Lake
320 Seneca Street
Storm Lake, IA

Visitation

AUG 22. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church -- Storm Lake
320 Seneca Street
Storm Lake, IA

Vigil Service

AUG 22. 7:30 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church -- Storm Lake
320 Seneca Street
Storm Lake, IA

Funeral Mass

AUG **23**. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church -- Storm Lake
320 Seneca Street
Storm Lake, IA

Interment

AUG **23**. 3:00 PM (CT)

Calvary Cemetery
2802 Casselman St
Sioux City, IA 51103

Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Robert Joseph O'Brien*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - August 21, 2018 at 06:54 PM

SP

“ *There aren't enough words to express my respect and admiration for this amazing man! He was my first 'boss' when I entered the working world and that experience is one that has stuck with me to this day as an example of what a 'boss' should be. He made it a point of being in all departments at IBP at least once a day, he knew everyone's name and even their nickname and family members's names as well! His door was always open if you needed to just say hello or have a chat, and that was if he was in there and not out on the floor checking in on 'his people'. In my entire career, I only had one 'boss' that came close to Bob's standard and I never missed the opportunity to relate my working experience with him. RIP, Sir ... know that you left an indelible impression on so many!*

Sue Peters - September 02, 2018 at 10:23 AM

TO

Your beautiful words are greatly appreciated, Sue. Dad was certainly one-of-a-kind and much admired by all. Thank you for sharing.

Tim O'Brien

Timothy J O'Brien - September 20, 2018 at 02:03 PM

RW

“ *Nella and family,*

So sorry to hear of the passing of Bob. He was a great friend and mentor to my dad. I'll always remember Bob's green Lincoln that he would drive to work. May God bless you and comfort you during your time of sorrow.

Rollie Woodward

Rollie Woodward - August 28, 2018 at 10:09 PM

TO

Thank you, Rollie! The entire family has very fond memories of the Lincoln, and of course great memories of your Dad. We so appreciate you reaching out to us this way.

Tim O'Brien

Timothy J O'Brien - September 20, 2018 at 02:09 PM

TB

“ *So sad to hear the news about Bob. I loved to see his face and that of Nella and Maureen when I would conduct the Word & Communion Service at Legacy. You will be in my thoughts and prayers for peace. Tamara Barrett, St. Boniface Parish, Waukee*

Tamara Barrett - August 23, 2018 at 02:12 PM

TO

Thank you, Tamara. Dad and Mom always looked forward to the St. Boniface services at Legacy and they were blessed by that constant in their lives. Our deepest appreciation goes to you and the entire congregation for this wonderful outreach!

Tim O'Brien

Timothy J O'Brien - September 21, 2018 at 12:20 PM

BS

“ *Dear Nella and Family,*

HAIL TO OUR CHIEF!

The nicest man I ever worked for - kind and caring. So glad in my life (at 92), our paths crossed. He will never be forgotten.

*Betty Stutzman
Tucson, Arizona
August 22, 2018*

Betty Stutzman - August 22, 2018 at 02:51 PM

MH

Betty, I can't tell you how pleased I am to see your name and your kind words. My Dad loved you like family. A special place in his heart, you always held. God Bless you sweet lady. We, as a family, send our love to you. Maureen (O'Brien) Hall And the O'Brien family.

Maureen Hall - August 31, 2018 at 05:23 PM

TO

Chief Indeed! Thank you, Betty, for touching our family once again with your kind words! We pray you are in good health and enjoying Arizona.

Much love,

Tim O'Brien

Timothy J O'Brien - September 20, 2018 at 02:12 PM

CS

“ Dear O'Brien Family,

My husband Steve and I both worked for Bob at IBP in Storm Lake in the mid 80's.

He was a wonderful man, and it was not until later at the 25th Anniversary Party at the Cobblestone that I learned Bob was related to our very good friends Tom and Mary O'Brien from Spencer where I grew up. This fact just endeared him to me even more! And when I met Nella I was sure there were no others as kind and warm as these two!!

My love and prayers are with you all, you are all blessed to be in his forever heart!

Peace is wished upon Bob and his loved ones!

*Respectfully yours,
Steve and Cheryl Schoof*

Cheryl Schoof - August 22, 2018 at 02:48 PM

TO

Thank you, Steve and Cheryl. Words expressed as you have bring us peace. Dad and his brother Tom are reunited and no longer in pain.

Tim O'Brien

Timothy J O'Brien - September 20, 2018 at 02:15 PM

JS

“ Jeff, Julie, Molly & Amy Schwartz



Julie Schwartz - August 22, 2018 at 10:35 AM

TO

Thank you, Schwartz family!

Timothy J O'Brien - September 20, 2018 at 02:15 PM

PG

“ *A CANDLE HAS BEEN LIT IN MEMORY OF BOB. OUR HEARTFELT SYMPATHY TO NELLA AND ALL THE FAMILY. HE WAS A GREAT MAN. MAY HE RIP.*

*LARY & PATTY GUNVILLE
STORM LAKE, IOWA*

Patty Gunville - August 21, 2018 at 08:04 PM

TO

Thank you, Lary and Patty. He truly was a great man!

Timothy J O'Brien - September 20, 2018 at 02:16 PM

WM

“ *Bob was a wonderful, caring man. He had a heart of gold-from that pot at the end of the rainbow full of Irish gold! He was very proud of his Irish heritage!! And very, very proud of his children. It was a privilege to have known him.*

My sincerest sympathy to you, Nella, and to all your children! He is now in Heaven with his Lord; watching you all and smiling!!

*My deepest sympathy,
Wanda [Anderson] Moeller*

Wanda Moeller - August 21, 2018 at 07:20 PM

TO

Wanda, I have just now been able read the shared memories and kind tributes to Dad and want to personally thank you for taking a moment to express your heartfelt words, They have deeply touched me and our entire family and we so appreciate it. Please keep Mom and our sister Colleen in your prayers and we will do the same for you and yours.

Much love!

Tim

Timothy J O'Brien - September 20, 2018 at 02:00 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph O'Brien.*



August 21, 2018 at 07:10 PM



“ *184 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - August 21, 2018 at 05:17 PM

DW

“ Dale And Doris Wiley lit a candle in memory of Robert Joseph O'Brien



Dale and Doris Wiley - August 21, 2018 at 03:19 PM

TO

Thank you, Dale and Doris.

Timothy J O'Brien - September 20, 2018 at 02:17 PM

SR

“ Nella and family,

So very sorry to hear of the loss of your husband plus a wonderful father to your children.

You and Bob were so friendly to Norman and I when we lived in Schleswig. Fun memories of seeing both of you plus other Schleswig residents at dances or other events.

God's gracious blessings to all of you as you grieve the loss of Bob.

Susan Rossow
of LeMars, Iowa

Susan Rossow - August 20, 2018 at 10:48 PM

TO

He truly was a wonderful Dad to our entire clan. Thank you for your kind words, Susan. We will miss seeing he and Mom spinning on the dance floor together.

Tim O'Brien

Timothy J O'Brien - September 20, 2018 at 02:20 PM



“ *White Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph O'Brien.*



August 20, 2018 at 05:43 PM



“ *Bob will be truley missed at Legacy Point*



Legacy Point staff - August 20, 2018 at 03:12 PM



Thank you all so much for loving him so. You took such wonderful care of both Mom and Dad. Dad loved the banter and getting to know all of you. The love you showed him in his last days will stay with our family forever. So kind, gentle and loving. We just can't thank you enough.
Maureen

Maureen O'Brien Hall - August 20, 2018 at 08:12 PM



You all truly left an indelible imprint on our family with your very kind care and the respect you showed Dad every day. Thank you!

Tim O'Brien

Timothy J O'Brien - September 20, 2018 at 02:22 PM



“ *Springtime Wishes was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph O'Brien.*



August 20, 2018 at 01:54 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to Bob's family. My husband admired and commented on Bob's genuineness, honesty and integrity when he worked at IBP. Bob leaves a wonderful legacy in our memories of him.*

Ruth Freese - August 20, 2018 at 11:06 AM



Thank you, Ruth. We so appreciate seeing these words of comfort.

*God Bless,
Tim O'Brien*

Timothy J O'Brien - September 20, 2018 at 02:24 PM



“ *Kate C lit a candle in memory of Robert Joseph O'Brien*



kate c - August 20, 2018 at 10:53 AM



Thank you, Kate.

Timothy J O'Brien - September 20, 2018 at 02:24 PM



“ *Bountiful European Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph O'Brien.*



August 20, 2018 at 10:29 AM



“ *Neighborhood Hearing Aid Center purchased the White Sympathy Baskets for the family of Robert Joseph O'Brien.*



Neighborhood Hearing Aid Center - August 20, 2018 at 10:05 AM



“ *Bob was a great person to work with he made work days fun days we new what needed to be done work wise and if you had a problem lets discuss it.He really enjoyed the I_B_P- old timers reunions braging about his I_B_P_work force and telling many stories of different folks he enjoyed picking on or things he remembered about them fun times at the Denison plant. Bill and Connie Sharp.*

William Sharp - August 19, 2018 at 07:46 PM



Dad loved all his IBP pals - especially the "old timers"! Thank you, Bill for reaching out this way. We do not get tired of hearing the stories.

Tim O'Brien

Timothy J O'Brien - September 20, 2018 at 02:27 PM

TD

“ To Nella and family--Fortunate is the person who got the opportunity to work for Bob. They should be a better person for it. Honest, kind, humble and a man of great faith !!!
Tom Dunlop.

Thomas J. Dunlop - August 19, 2018 at 05:49 PM

TO

Even more fortunate to be his son. Thank you, Tom!

Tim O'Brien

Timothy J O'Brien - September 20, 2018 at 02:28 PM

BK

“ *Always a friendly greeting and a smile. Prayers for family*

bonnie kirkholm - August 19, 2018 at 03:08 PM

TO

The prayers are greatly appreciated, Bonnie!

Timothy J O'Brien - September 20, 2018 at 02:29 PM

BS

“ *Bob was a very well liked leader at Iowa Beef Packers in Denison Iowa for 16 years it was a joy to work under his leadership he was always very friendly and always had time to talk if there was a problem you wanted to discuss with him he will be missed. Bob liked to go to the IBP old timers reunions we had and talk about the IBP team members at the plant in Denison Iowa. from . Bill and Connie Sharp.*

Bill Sharp - August 19, 2018 at 02:37 PM

Mike Blair

“ Mike Blair lit a candle in memory of Robert Joseph O'Brien



Mike Blair - August 19, 2018 at 08:25 AM

TO

Thank you, Mike!

Timothy J O'Brien - September 20, 2018 at 02:30 PM

SM

“ Sue Mason lit a candle in memory of Robert Joseph O'Brien



sue mason - August 18, 2018 at 09:06 PM

TO

Thank you, Sue!

Timothy J O'Brien - September 20, 2018 at 02:30 PM

Shiuvaun Hebert

“ Shiuvaun Hebert lit a candle in memory of Robert Joseph O'Brien



Shiuvaun Hebert - August 18, 2018 at 03:58 PM

TO

Thank you, Cuz! Love you!

Tim

Timothy J O'Brien - September 20, 2018 at 02:31 PM

DJ

“ *Deb And Kevin Jesse lit a candle in memory of Robert Joseph O'Brien*



Deb and Kevin Jesse - August 18, 2018 at 03:38 PM

TO

Thank you, Deb and Kevin!

Timothy J O'Brien - September 20, 2018 at 02:31 PM

LK

“ *Bob was plant manager at IBP when I worked there. Bob was friendly and always had a hello for everyone. I don't know of anyone that worked at the plant that didn't like him. He was as nice as they come. Lois Koster*

Lois Koster - August 17, 2018 at 11:03 PM

BP

My husband and I also worked at IBP when Bob was there, he was always friendly at work and when you seen in him in public. Great person, he will be missed. Dave and Barb Parker

Barb parker - August 19, 2018 at 05:16 PM

TO

Lois & Barb,

Our entire family thanks you for sharing with us this way. We never tire of hearing of Dad's kindness and the respect that he showed everyone. Bless you both!

Tim O'Brien

Timothy J O'Brien - September 20, 2018 at 02:34 PM