



Robert M. Thompson Jr.

March 28, 1951 - October 7, 2020

Robert M. Thompson Jr., age 69, of Storm Lake, Iowa died October 7, 2020 at MercyOne in Sioux City, Iowa.

Celebration of Life Services will be held on Saturday, October 17, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in STORM LAKE. To watch the live stream of the service, please use the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82571830244> and enter the password: funeral. Visitation will take place prior to the service from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the FUNERAL HOME. Guests are required to wear masks when in attendance at the services. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be given to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at www.stjude.org/donate or 501 St. Jude Place Memphis, TN 38105. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Robert Martin Thompson Jr., the son of Robert Sr. and Mickey (Todd) Thompson, was born on March 28, 1951 in Spencer, Iowa. As an infant, he was baptized. He later reaffirmed his faith at the Cornerstone Church in Ames, Iowa in 2002.

Growing up, Robert attended grade school and high school in Storm Lake. He graduated from Storm Lake High School in 1969. He then went on to attend Buena Vista College where he earned his Bachelor of Science in 1973. In

1986, he earned his Master of Education Administration from Drake University and then his Superintendent Certification from UNI in 2001. Through his teaching career, Robert won the Gilbert High School Teacher of the Year award multiple times. Robert was also a coach and coached numerous high school and middle school sports including football, basketball, baseball, and track.

On July 26, 1974, Robert was united in marriage to Nancy Andresen in Bellevue, Iowa. The couple was blessed with three children: Jennifer, Jessica, and Jeffrey.

In his free time, Robert enjoyed watching football games, exploring science/astronomy with anyone who would listen, and sharing his witty sense of humor. He loved spending time with his family by going to his grandchildren's activities and bicycling with Nancy on scenic trails.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife, Nancy Jean Thompson of Storm Lake, Iowa; father, Robert M. Thompson Sr. of Storm Lake, Iowa and step-mother, Susan Thompson of Storm Lake, Iowa; children: Jennifer (Don) Bockelmann of LeMars, Iowa; Jessica (Keith) Hennigar of Aplington, Iowa; Jeffrey (Annie-Lori) Thompson of Council Bluffs, Iowa; brothers, Mike (Rae) Thompson of Storm Lake, Iowa and Jon (Lynne) Thompson of Aplington, Iowa; sisters: Christy (Gale) Castner of Blue Eye, Missouri; Teresa (Garland) Koch of Dove Canyon, California; Lisa (Jon) Sandeline of Fort Dodge, Iowa; grandchildren: Brooklyn and Brianna Bockelmann; Dakota, Cadence, and Savannah Hennigar; Madison, Halle, and C.J. Walton; sisters-in-law, Doris Pritchert of Green Valley, Arizona and Linda Schulte of Council Bluffs, Iowa; extended family and friends.

Robert is preceded in death by his mother, Mickey Thompson and brother, William Jeffrey Thompson.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 17. 4:00 PM - 6:00 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>

Celebration of Life

OCT 17. 6:30 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Robert M. Thompson Jr.*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - October 16, 2020 at 11:27 AM



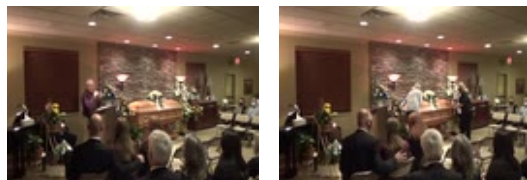
“ *Great coach, great teacher. I remember a time where he caught me “comparing answers” with the girl that sat in front of me. He gave me a well deserved zero for the quiz. The end of the semester came along and he said “Jay, I don’t have a score for you for this quiz earlier in the semester”. I told him that’s where he caught me comparing answers with my desk neighbor. He laughed and said he appreciated my honesty and gave me a B. RIP coach.*

Jay Willadsen

Jay Willadsen - October 21, 2020 at 09:46 PM



“ *2 files added to the album Live stream of service*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - October 19, 2020 at 11:25 AM

MP

“*Mr. Thompson was one of the most influential teachers I have had. He was truly passionate about the classes he taught and cared about each of his students. I spent many hours in his classroom talking about school work and talking about life. When a student didn't understand a concept, he went the extra mile to break down the concept in a way they could understand according to their learning style.*



I loved hearing his stories about family and the travels he had with his wife. He stressed how important it was to get out and see the world, experiencing all it has to offer.

I will never forget Mr. Thompson and wish to express my sincere condolences to his family.

--Madeline Pritchett, GHS '17

Madeline Pritchett - October 17, 2020 at 08:01 PM

NT

*Thank you so much for posting your your comforting story. I hope you can go out and experience all the life has to offer. Follow your dreams.
Nancy T.,(Bob's wife)*

nancy Thompson - November 02, 2020 at 10:59 AM

PF

“*Peg Flynn lit a candle in memory of Robert M. Thompson Jr.*



Peg Flynn - October 17, 2020 at 07:59 PM

MZ

“ I am so sad to hear of Bob's passing. He was a **REMARKABLE** man. He taught all three of my girls at Gilbert. They, too, cannot say enough great things about their teacher.

My first impression of Bob was on parent's night at the beginning of the school year, when each educator had a short window of time with parents, talking about the the upcoming year, expectations, etc. Bob was ahead of the curve. He had a PowerPoint presentation - NO OTHER teacher had ever done that. He was informative, sincere, eager to help our kids. It was obvious he really enjoyed and believed in his mission as an educator. He was the "real deal."

Bob truly loved what he taught, and it overflowed into his classroom. He could make complex topics understandable for the students. He got the kids excited; engaged. He helped students to understand and apply the difficult information. But beyond the teaching itself, Bob had a HEART for the students. ALL students. He cared about them as individuals. Their lives...everything.

My girls told me that Bob loved his wife. REALLY LOVED HIS WIFE. He was a family man. He talked about her a lot to his students. What a remarkable role model. Not only as an instructor, but also as a man of integrity.

One more thing - I know that Bob had a great faith in Christ: At a parent teacher conference one year, while Bob and I were talking, I saw a paperback book near some of his documents, and I asked him what it was. He looked at me, his eyes saw the cross necklace hanging around my neck, which made him feel comfortable disclosing it was Lee Strobel's book "The Case for Christ." He lent it to me to read. I thanked him and told him I would return it; instead, he asked that I simply pass it on for someone else to read. (Which I did.)

He was a good man. A shining star. If you look up at night, I believe you'll see him twinkling in heaven.

Love, comfort, and blessings to his family ~

Mary Zimmerman

Mary Zimmerman - October 17, 2020 at 08:44 AM

TK

Thank you for these kind words about my brother. Teresa

Teresa Koch - October 17, 2020 at 11:55 PM

NT

Thank you, Mary. Your words give myself and my family much comfort. Nancy T.

nancy Thompson - November 02, 2020 at 11:03 AM



“ *Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Robert M. Thompson Jr..*



October 16, 2020 at 09:36 PM

DA

“ *Daniel A. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Robert M. Thompson Jr..*



Daniel A. - October 16, 2020 at 08:00 PM

KW

“ I am so sorry to hear of Bob’s passing. My heart is broken. I extend my deepest sympathy to Nancy and the family. I am so sorry for your loss.

Bob was my best friend. We got to know each other during junior high days in Storm Lake. He was so much fun to be with. I have always considered Bob one of my closest friends ever. I will always remember him that way.

Bob and Nancy were kind enough to host Susan and I for a couple of days at their home last September. It was so nice to spend time with them. Bob was always interested in something regarding nature and science. I will cherish that time we were able to spend together. I was looking forward to doing that more often.

The first time I remember hearing about Bob was during the grade school track meet at Bradford Field at Buena Vista College track. There was this fast kid from North Grade School – Bob Thompson. He was fast and he continued to be an outstanding sprinter all the way through high school. He was also an outstanding football player with great speed and sure hands as a receiver.

We shared a love of sports spending many hours tossing the football around, running plays, hanging out in the driveway shooting baskets at several friends’ homes around town. For several years we attended the Drake Relays in Des Moines. Bob in fact ran in the Drake Relays in high school. We took a road trip to Wilmington, North Carolina after high school and stayed with his relatives there. We camped out at Gull Point State Park at West Okoboji on several occasions. He was clever and was good for a practical joke, always in good fun. What a great guy.

Bob was proud of his children. He spoke well of them. He always told me how wonderful it was to have Nancy in his life. He was proud of her accomplishments. She was his best friend.

It is wrenching that Bob is no longer with us. My heart is broken. May our memory of him and his spirit bring us joy and be with us always. Rest in Peace my Friend.

Ken Wall - October 16, 2020 at 12:28 PM

TK

What a beautiful tribute Ken. Thank you for taking the time to post and for being my brother's dear friend. Teresa

Teresa Thompson Koch - October 16, 2020 at 09:38 PM



“ 193 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - October 16, 2020 at 11:20 AM



“ *Peaceful Wishes* was purchased for the family of **Robert M. Thompson Jr.**



October 16, 2020 at 08:06 AM



“ *Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers* was purchased for the family of **Robert M. Thompson Jr.**



October 15, 2020 at 05:38 PM



“ *Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Robert M. Thompson Jr..*



October 15, 2020 at 10:20 AM



“ *Always good memories of Bobby Thompson...grade school, Jr High and HS...I can still see him streaking down the track in our 6th grade 4x110 North School blue ribbon heist. And Bob Sr. Probably saved my life in Sioux City run by car when I concussed on East Elementary playground...3 days in a hospital. My prayers to the family.*

Tom Jensen - October 14, 2020 at 06:24 PM



“ *As a parent of one of his students he was an amazing teacher who made a huge impact on my daughter. His kind words and encouragement meant a great deal to not only her but to me as a parent. He was one of her favorite teachers and helped her through not only school struggles but health concerns. Heartfelt sympathy to his family during this loss as he was a truly amazing teacher and inspiration to others.*

Joni Pallos - October 14, 2020 at 11:35 AM

BP

“ As a special education teacher at Gilbert High I worked closely with Bob. He was always so helpful in making accommodations for my students in his classes. Many don't know that during his time in Gilbert he also tutored Iowa State chemistry students for free. Another thing I remember is the kind words he would use to describe his wife. So sorry for your loss. Barb Pedersen

Barb Pedersen - October 13, 2020 at 09:39 PM

TO

“ He was that teacher, that made me fall in love with chemistry and helped shape me as person, one my all time favorite teachers. RIP Mr. Thompson and thank you.

Terry Oehler - October 13, 2020 at 09:37 PM

LM

“ I feel like the wind has been knocked out of me since i heard of Bob's untimely passing. What wonderful comments from the students of the Gilbert school system. Bob's parents Bob Sr & Mickey were such great role models for the entire Thompson family. Bob was a real caring live wire- I could only hope to leave such a imprint as Bob has. Lewie Moldovan

lewis moldovan - October 13, 2020 at 09:14 PM

SM

“ Steph/Sharon Mickelson lit a candle in memory of Robert M. Thompson Jr.



Steph/Sharon Mickelson - October 13, 2020 at 06:10 PM

GW

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Gwen - October 13, 2020 at 05:56 PM

CU

“ As the parent of two Gilbert grads, I saw Mr. Thompson not only be a great science teacher, but an encourager who saw the best in his students. He was passionate, not only about teaching, but about his students. I am so sorry for your loss. Maybe God be with you as you mourn the loss of your loved one.

Connie Underwood - October 13, 2020 at 02:51 PM

JG

“ I'm so saddened to hear this. I had the honor of growing up next door to the Thompsons AND having Bobby as a coach and teacher. He brought the same enthusiasm and wit whether it was teaching physics or tackling drills. May his memory be a comfort to his loved ones. Jerry Georgeff

Jerry Georgeff - October 13, 2020 at 12:35 PM

MH

“ Mr. Thompson was definitely an inspiration to our kids -James, John & Sarah! He made learning chemistry fun... what a treasure he was! Our heartfelt sympathy to his family at this difficult time! Stephen & Mary Howell

Mary Howell - October 13, 2020 at 10:52 AM

RJ

“ To the family of Bob Thompson--My name is Bob Jensen. I had the distinct pleasure of serving on the faculty with Bob at Gilbert High for a few years. He was a GREAT teacher !! Several students that we each had contact with would tell me what a rewarding experience it was, having Mr. Thompson as their teacher. " He just knows EVERYTHING!!" was an oft repeated comment. He was the epitome of a real professional! We had some wonderful discussions! There are a huge number of young people out there that have benefitted from his influence. My heart goes out to all of you as this "bright light" is extinguished!

Robert Jensen - October 13, 2020 at 10:04 AM

S2

“ Mr. Thompson was one of the most incredible teachers I have ever had. He cared so deeply about learning and helping students understand the full potential that they had. I will always remember emailing him my freshman year of college when I had to write a biography about someone who impacted my life and being so amazed by the lives he touched and the adventures he has had. Mr. Thompson will be so missed, but the lessons he taught will stay with me always.

Sydney -GHS Class of 2017 - October 13, 2020 at 10:01 AM

SF

“ Sydney Fink lit a candle in memory of Robert M. Thompson Jr.



Sydney Fink - October 13, 2020 at 09:52 AM



“ *Simply Lily was purchased for the family of Robert M. Thompson Jr..*



October 13, 2020 at 09:38 AM



“ *I had Mr. Thompson for high school chemistry and anatomy, where he helped me discover my interest in science. I will never forget how his sense of humor and passion for the subject made class so enjoyable. My deepest sympathy goes out to his family - he will be forever missed.*

Madison Moody - October 12, 2020 at 10:45 PM



“ *My family and I were shocked and saddened when we heard of Bob's passing. We taught together in Gilbert for several years and he was one of my son's favorite teachers. We was a true teacher and a supportive colleague and friend. RIP friend and peace to your family.*

Chad Cook

Chad A. Cook - October 12, 2020 at 10:29 PM

LS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Lisa Sandeline - October 12, 2020 at 05:43 PM

TK

Bob with Dad (Bob Sr.).

Teresa Thompson Koch - October 16, 2020 at 09:46 PM

TK

“ *My big brother Bob, (whom we called Bobby), always made me laugh. He was so smart and our go-to guy for all things science. He was a family man and found his soulmate in Nancy. In our childhood, he had a great imagination, was so fun, and watched out for his little brothers and sisters. I remember one Christmas when I started to doubt the existence of Santa, the next day my belief was restored when he showed me sleigh tracks in the front yard.*

Bob's accident and sudden passing is a tragic loss for our family. Hopefully time and good memories will help us begin to heal. We have been blessed with Bob. He will be with us always.

Teresa Thompson Koch

Teresa Thompson Koch - October 12, 2020 at 04:49 PM



“ *Pink & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Robert M. Thompson Jr..*



October 12, 2020 at 04:24 PM



“ *Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Robert M. Thompson Jr..*



October 12, 2020 at 03:46 PM



“ *2 files added to the album Memorial Folder*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - October 12, 2020 at 03:46 PM



“ *Mr. Thompson was my favorite teacher and made my junior high and high school experiences that much better, both in and out of the classroom. I know many other Gilbert students felt the same. My friends and I have so many memories of his mundane and fantastical stories, from finding uranium on the side of the road, laying in a bathtub of mercury for science, or imitating his grandchildren who hadn't quite figured out how to whisper yet. His ability to teach and bring science to life was unparalleled and his lessons will stick with me forever. My deepest sympathies!*

- Ambrianna, Class of 2010

Ambrianna Adams - October 12, 2020 at 03:41 PM

TK

Thank you for your kind post. That means a lot to our family. He loved teaching. Teresa - Bob's sister

Teresa Thompson Koch - October 12, 2020 at 04:52 PM

GL

“ Bob was one of my best friends in high school. Bob, Ken Wall and I had multiple adventures in Okoboji, Sioux Falls and just driving around Storm Lake. The topper was our trip to Wilmington, NC to visit Bob's relatives after graduating high school. What a trip that was! The three of us went to Gettysburg, the Smithsonian in Washington DC, ate grits and eggs and even saw the Maco light in NC.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maco_light

It was an incredible trip with great friends. Bob had a wonderful sense of humor and a very quick wit. I was shocked and saddened to hear of his passing.

Sending my deepest sympathy to his family.

Gary Larson

Gary Larson - October 12, 2020 at 01:09 PM

TK

What a fun memory to read! Thanks Gary for posting. Teresa, Bob's sister

Teresa Thompson Koch - October 12, 2020 at 05:00 PM

KW

I will always remember that trip. It was a great trip with great friends. We ate sea food, hush puppies and sweet tea at the food tent in Wilmington. Swimming in the Atlantic Ocean, going to Cape Fear. Yes, grits and eggs. His relatives we so gracious. What a great family.

Ken Wall - October 16, 2020 at 01:02 PM

FK

“ From Courtney, Lauren, Joanna, & Katie purchased the Healing Tears - Blue and White for the family of Robert M. Thompson Jr..



From Courtney, Lauren, Joanna, & Katie - October 12, 2020 at 11:38 AM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Robert M. Thompson Jr..



October 12, 2020 at 09:02 AM

CT

“ Chad And Becky Triplett lit a candle in memory of Robert M. Thompson Jr.



Chad and Becky Triplett - October 11, 2020 at 08:53 PM

LS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Lisa Sandeline - October 11, 2020 at 03:08 PM

TK

Dad and Bobby - such a cute photo. Thanks for posting Lisa.

Teresa Thompson Koch - October 12, 2020 at 04:53 PM

LS

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Lisa Sandeline - October 11, 2020 at 03:06 PM

TK

Oh my - such an adorable photo of Christy, Bob and Mike - the three oldest. So fun to look back at all the good times. Teresa

Teresa Thompson Koch - October 12, 2020 at 04:55 PM

DL

“ Bob was a football teammate, co-worker at Thompson and Laird, fellow sports fan and good friend. He was a wide receiver in high school with great speed and good hands. If the junior quarterback he played with his senior year would have had a better arm, I am sure he would have set many records at SLHS.

We shared our high school and college years but then grew apart. I deeply regret that.

I knew Bob as super smart with a quick and agile sense of humor. I don't think there was ever a time we spent together that wasn't filled with laughter. I have nothing but memories of good times when I think of Bob. There are many stories of all those times that I will cherish forever. I am lucky that he was a friend and was part of my life.

The new of his tragic and untimely end is devastating. I can only express to Nancy and the children that I share your grief and sorrow. I am sure the family has the same kind of memories that I have of Bob and they will help sustain us and is an important part of his legacy.

Doug Laird

Douglas Spencer Laird - October 11, 2020 at 01:35 PM

TK

It was so good to read this Doug. Thank you for your kindness and the smile. Teresa - Bob's middle sister

Teresa Thompson Koch - October 12, 2020 at 04:57 PM

FR

“ From Aunt Pete, Gwen, Lynn and Ron purchased the Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers for the family of Robert M. Thompson Jr..



From Aunt Pete, Gwen, Lynn and Ron - October 10, 2020 at 09:12 PM



“ Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Robert M. Thompson Jr..



October 10, 2020 at 04:17 PM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Robert M. Thompson Jr..



October 10, 2020 at 08:31 AM



“ Ghirardelli Galore was purchased for the family of Robert M. Thompson Jr..



October 09, 2020 at 11:17 PM

GF

“ Our condolences to the entire Thompson family. So sorry to hear about Bobby. Our hearts and prayers are with all of you.

Gary & Nancy Flanigan - October 09, 2020 at 06:27 PM

 Shirley Laird

“ I am so saddened to hear about the untimely passing of Bob. He was a good friend from high school. I hope Nancy and the children and grandchildren can gather strength and peace from the good times and memories you can all share. Sending love to you all!

Shirley Laird - October 09, 2020 at 02:58 PM

RC

Nancy and family so sorry for your loss. In my thoughts and prayers.
Rhonda (Weis) Cunningham

Rhonda (Weis) Cunningham - October 10, 2020 at 03:26 PM

RF

Nancy, this is your cousin Becky (Penhollow) Findley. Sorry about you loss. Michelle told me about it. We are praying for you and your family.

Rebecca Findley - October 10, 2020 at 07:55 PM

BS

“ My sincere condolences to Nancy and family.

Brad Strader - October 09, 2020 at 08:39 AM

BP

“ Bob And Doris Pritchert lit a candle in memory of Robert M. Thompson Jr.



Bob and Doris Pritchert - October 08, 2020 at 11:10 PM

PG

“ OUR PRAYERS & SYMPATHY TO ROBERT'S WIFE & HIS WHOLE & ENTIRE FAMILY. WE ARE SADDENED TO HEAR THIS NEWS. WE LIT A CANDLE IN HIS MEMORY. MAY HE RIP.



PEACE TO ALL, LARY & PATTY GUNVILLE

PATTY GUNVILLE - October 08, 2020 at 10:50 PM

KZ

“ Kim Zimmerman lit a candle in memory of Robert M. Thompson Jr.



Kim Zimmerman - October 08, 2020 at 09:09 PM