

## Robert Martin Thompson

February 9, 1922 - January 2, 2023

Robert (Bob) Martin Thompson, Sr. died on January 2, 2023 at Accura HealthCare of Aurelia, Iowa, following a short stay. He was 100 years old. Born on February 9, 1922, Bob died of age-related causes.

Funeral services will be held Sunday, January 15, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. at the St. Mark Lutheran Church in Storm Lake. Visitation will take place from 1-2:30 p.m. prior to the service at the CHURCH. Burial will be at a later date in the Buena Vista Memorial Park Cemetery. A livestream of the service can be found by clicking the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/stmarkstormlake/>. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of arrangements. Memorials may be directed to the St. Mark Lutheran Church in Storm Lake, the Buena Vista Regional Medical Center Oncology and Infusion Center, and the Buena Vista Historical Society.

Bob was born in Eagle Grove, Iowa, and grew up there on the family farm enjoying many adventures with his younger brother, Maynard.

He began his education at Eagle Grove Junior College and then continued at Columbia University, New York, New York, during the service studying pharmacy. After the war, he received his BA from Buena Vista College, his Master's in Education from Drake University, and did post graduate work at Iowa State University.

Bob served his country for three years during WWII in the US Coast Guard. He was stationed on Cedar Island near Charleston, South Carolina, and was a member of the “original” Mounted Beach Patrol guarding the coast. Bob was a natural for the beach patrol, showing off his riding skills on a horse he named Eagle Boy as a nod to his Iowa roots. After the first year on the patrol, he then spent the next two years as a Pharmacist Mate.

At the age of 35, with 11 years of experience in teaching, coaching, and school administration, Bob moved to Storm Lake from Castana, Iowa, when he accepted an administrative position with the Storm Lake Community Schools. He served 31 more years in education there before his retirement in 1988. During his time in Storm Lake, Bob served three years as Elementary Principal, ten years as Director of Elementary Education, five years as Director of Curriculum, and 13 years as Assistant Superintendent.

Bob often worked behind the scenes bringing about positive changes for the school and community. One example is his assistance with a small group of great people to bring girls athletics to the Storm Lake school system. He acted as head softball coach and assistant basketball coach in the initial years.

Professionally, he also served as Adjunct Professor at Buena Vista College for 15 years, President of the Storm Lake Educational Association, and President of the Lakes Conferences Elementary Principals.

Bob’s community service in Storm Lake included: Lutherans in Action where he was treasurer for five years and a board member for 14 years; YMCA Board where he was President for one year and a board member for four years; Community Chest where he was president three years; Park Board where he was the secretary; City Planning and Zoning Board where he was a board Member for six years; Methodist Manor Care Review for two years; Big

Brothers for four years; St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council where he was a Trustee/Treasurer and served on various committees such as Parish Education and Endowment; Buena Vista County Hospital Board of Trustees for eight years with six years as Treasurer; and the Buena Vista County Historical Society Board.

For many years, he was a member of the Storm Lake Municipal Golf Course where he played in the "Bingo, Bango, Bongo" league and in retirement joined the SERPACI car club (acting as President one year) driving his bright red convertible.

As a baseball enthusiast, Bob played with and managed several teams including Onawa Red Sox Manager from 1953-1956; Eagle Grove Cardinals Manager; Storm Lake Whitecaps; Alta Merchants; Royal Merchants; and the US Coast Guard COTP team in Jacksonville, Florida.

Bob met his first wife, Mickey, while in the Coast Guard and was married to her for nearly 48 years until her passing in 1993 from breast cancer. He once said he wanted to have nine children so he could field a baseball team. He and Mickey were blessed with seven. In 1995, he was blessed to marry Susan.

Bob was known for his sense of humor and descended from a long line of Norwegians on both his maternal and paternal side giving him the opportunity to poke fun at himself and his Scandinavian friends by telling Ole and Lena jokes.

Bob had a way with words and his children and grandchildren delight in quoting his many catchphrases. A few include: "Did you get that little bit of humor?" "I'll exaggerate for the sake of emphasis." And "I'm already telling you more than I know."

Bob had a memorable way of singing happy birthday and was the undisputed “Wright County Champion” of checkers, cribbage, and almost any game that was being played.

As a youth, Bob learned sign language so he could communicate with his hearing-impaired cousin.

Bob was a dedicated family man and trusted friend. No one entered a room without being noticed and welcomed by Bob.

Bob is survived and missed by his loving wife of 26 years, Susan Thompson, who was his caregiver in recent years; his children: Chris (Gale) Castner; Mike (Rae) Thompson; Teresa (Garland) Koch; Lisa (Jon) Sandeline; Jon (Lynne) Thompson; his daughter-in-law: Nancy Thompson. Forever cherished by his 15 grandchildren: Tiffany (Matt Cole) Myers, Mark Myers, Jennifer (Don) Bocklemann, Jessica (Keith) Hennigar, Jeffrey (Annie-Lori) Thompson, Amy (Jess) Nauman, Kelly (Mark) Nelson, Dale and Christopher Frink, Alexander Koch, Jon Todd Sandeline, Alec and Samuel Thompson, Katie (Kollin) Cuvelier, and Megan Thompson; his 12 great-grandchildren: Frankie Cole, Brooklyn and Brianna Bocklemann, Dakoda, Candence, and Savannah Hennigar, Quinn, Delaney, and Rylen Nauman, Holland and Grant Nelson, and Trey Cuvelier; and his step-grandchildren, Madison, Halle, and CJ Walton.

On his wife’s side, remembered by children: Cathy (Doug) Otto, and James (Alma) Kutzner; grandchildren: Spenser Otto, Kelsey (Troy) Hofmann, Jayden Otto, and Sean Kutzner; and great-granddaughter: Zoey Hofmann.

His memory lives on with his nephew Marty and niece Pamela (Matt Fredrickson) Thompson, and great nephew, Gus Fredrickson.

Bob was preceded in death by his first wife of 48 years, Mickey; his adult son: Robert Jr.; his juvenile son: Billy; parents: Martin and Louise; brother: Maynard, and Maynard's wife, Doris.

# Cemetery Details

## Buena Vista Memorial Park Cemetery

875 IA-7  
Storm Lake, IA 50588

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 15. 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

St. Mark's Lutheran Church -- Storm Lake  
1614 West 5th Street  
Storm Lake, IA 50588  
<http://www.stmarkstormlake.com/>

## Funeral Service

JAN 15. 2:30 PM.

St. Mark Lutheran Church

## Funeral Service

JAN 15. 2:30 PM (CT)

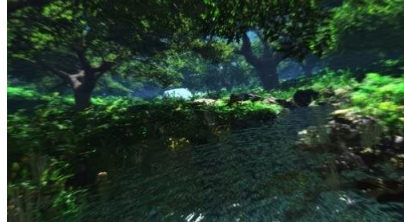
St. Mark's Lutheran Church -- Storm Lake  
1614 West 5th Street  
Storm Lake, IA 50588  
<http://www.stmarkstormlake.com/>



# Tribute Wall



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



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**Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home** - January 10, 2023 at 11:43 AM



“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



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**Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home** - January 16, 2023 at 11:11 AM



“ *Your dad, grandpa, husband was a wonderful man. He always had a twinkle in his eye and a clever thing to say or a joke to share. I fondly remember riding home from basketball practice in his little yellow VW Bug. The defroster and heat didn't work very well, so we were always scraping the windows! Blessings, Liz Anderson*

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**Liz Anderson** - January 15, 2023 at 03:03 PM

PG

“ *Pete Keith, Lynn and Gwen purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Robert Martin Thompson.* ”



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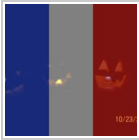
**Pete Keith, Lynn and Gwen** - January 13, 2023 at 12:52 PM

CB

“ *I remember Bob from when I was news director at KAYL in the mid and late 70's. I interviewed him many times. Always helpful and a great guy.* ”

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**Cliff Brockman** - January 12, 2023 at 01:22 PM



“ *Sally Rassler lit a candle in memory of Robert Thompson* ”



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**Sally Rassler** - January 12, 2023 at 12:34 AM

CD

“ *Cheryl DeMan lit a candle in memory of Robert Thompson* ”



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**Cheryl DeMan** - January 11, 2023 at 07:42 PM

JS

“ *The Best Grandpa Anyone Could've Ever Possibly Asked For.* ”



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**Jon Todd Sandeline** - January 11, 2023 at 12:24 AM

DC

“ *Don Crouch lit a candle in memory of Robert Thompson* ”

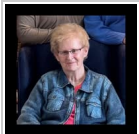


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**Don Crouch** - January 10, 2023 at 04:43 PM

PR

“ *Hello Susan- thinking of you! Love you, Priscilla* ”

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**PR** - January 09, 2023 at 12:17 PM



“ *Ron played golf with Bob at the Muni golf course and always come home to tell me a joke that he had told. He is a dear friend and will be misses by us and many more.He ushered with Ron at St.MarkWe send our Deepest Sympathy to his family, Ron and Pat Wilson.* ”

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**Ron Pat Wilson** - January 06, 2023 at 05:00 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Martin Thompson.*



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January 05, 2023 at 10:34 PM



“ *Lory (Preston) And Jeff Krummen. lit a candle in memory of Robert Martin Thompson*



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**Lory (Preston) and Jeff Krummen.** - January 05, 2023 at 07:56 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to Susan and the family. Mr. Thompson was my grade school Principal. I trust I did not cause him any problems. May he Rest In Peace 🙏*

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**Brad Strader** - January 05, 2023 at 05:49 PM



“ *Larry Sue Zwemke lit a candle in memory of Robert Thompson*



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**Larry and Sue Zwemke** - January 05, 2023 at 02:48 PM

LH

“ He was a great person and wonderful principal at west and north school



Leigh Ann Harrington-Schriber - January 05, 2023 at 10:10 AM

MK

“ I have so many fond memories of Bob's time on our BVRMC Hospital Board of Trustees. He was a dedicated and committed board member. His life is an example of service to others. Rest in Peace Bob! Michele Kelly



Michele Kelly - January 04, 2023 at 11:00 AM

JD

“ John Connie Demers lit a candle in memory of Robert Thompson



John and Connie Demers - January 04, 2023 at 08:14 AM

PF

“ Peg Flynn lit a candle in memory of Robert Thompson



Peg Harrington Flynn - January 03, 2023 at 03:43 PM

PG

“ A CANDLE HAS BEEN LIT IN MEMORY OF ROBERT (BOB) THOMPSON. MAY HE NOW RIP AT 100! TAKE THAT 25 CENTS ALONG WITH YOU,BOB. (FISHIN FRIEND).



JOY, PEACE & LOVE, LARY & PATTY GUNVILLE

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**PATTY GUNVILLE** - January 03, 2023 at 02:44 PM

TT

*My sympathy to all the Thompson family! Bob was a very easy man to like. He was a huge tribute to Storm Lake. Tom Tillman*

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**Tom Tillman** - January 11, 2023 at 03:17 PM