



## Robert D. "Bob" Merrill

January 25, 1948 - January 16, 2024

Robert "Bob" Duane Merrill, 75, of Sheridan, Indiana, passed away peacefully on January 16, 2024. Several years ago, Bob was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. While Alzheimer's is incurable, Bob outsmarted the terrible disease by suffering a stroke while visiting family on Bainbridge Island, Washington. While most strokes are tragic, his was a stroke of fortune, as it allowed him to be surrounded by his loved ones in his final hours and to sidestep some of the worst symptoms of Alzheimer's.

Bob was born at Witham Memorial Hospital in Lebanon, Indiana on January 25, 1948 to the late Donald Merrill and Dorothy (Staton) Merrill. Bob and his older siblings, Gene Merrill and Patty Merrill, attended Lebanon High School where Bob was a member of the wrestling team. Decades later, his many grandkids would regularly test his wrestling skills, which always remained sharp. Bob graduated from Lebanon High School in 1966.

A serial entrepreneur since high school, Bob purchased the B&B Tavern in Jamestown, Indiana around 1970. In the mid-1980s, he branched into movie rental stores in Jamestown and Lebanon, before later expanding into collectible sports card stores throughout Lebanon and Indianapolis. By the early 1990s, he was one of the largest sports cards dealers in the state of Indiana. His love of fixing things later led him into commercial real estate, where he owned and managed properties throughout the Indianapolis area;

there was no maintenance detail too small for him to not do himself.

In 1973, a shoeless girl strolled into his bar, but he refused to serve her without first seeing her identification. This was simply a ruse to get her name and to ask her on a date. Her older brother, the late Larry Gearld, warned her not to go out with Bob Merrill. Despite the stern warning, and despite his picking her up in a car full of junk while wearing striped pants, she went anyway. Fifty-one years later, Debbie would be by his side when he took his last breath.

Bob is survived by his wife Debbie, his sons Travis (Christine) Merrill and Robert (Ariel) Merrill, Jr., as well as seven grandchildren and a great grandson who adored their Papaw. He was preceded in death by his daughter Angie.

Bob loved adventure, and was always up for anything, whether it be a trip to Menards or a trip to Tokyo. He traveled widely and no matter where he was, he had an uncanny knack for finding people with ties to Indiana. Unless the Colts were playing, he could not sit still for very long. He loved to move – whether it was an hours-long walk, practicing yoga, playing ball with one of his beloved dogs, or working in the yard.

While providing generously for everyone around him, he primarily drove a 15-year-old Honda CRV with a broken passenger door that didn't open, no air conditioning, ungodly mileage, and a pink flamingo sitting in the passenger seat whose only purpose was to make people laugh.

Memorial Services are planned for 11:00 a.m. on Friday, February 9, 2024, at Myers Mortuary, 1502 North Lebanon Street, in Lebanon, Indiana. Visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. until the time of services. Friends and family will also gather at Booker's Bar & Grill around 1:00 p.m. in Kirklin, Indiana to share memories about Bob and to raise a toast to a life lived fully.



# Cemetery Details

## IOOF Cemetery

Jamestown, IN 46147

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Myers Mortuary  
1502 North Lebanon Street  
Lebanon, IN 46052  
(765) 482-0620  
office@myersmortuary.com  
<https://myersmortuary.com/>

## Memorial Service

FEB 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

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1502 North Lebanon Street  
Lebanon, IN 46052  
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# Tribute Wall



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert D. "Bob" Merrill.



February 06, 2024 at 06:56 PM



“ Kevin and Stacey Hopwood planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert D. "Bob" Merrill.

Kevin and Stacey Hopwood - February 06, 2024 at 06:56 PM



“ Neil, Jenna & Theo Patel purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Robert D. "Bob" Merrill.



Neil, Jenna & Theo Patel - February 06, 2024 at 12:51 PM



“ Neil, Jenna & Theo Patel planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert D. "Bob" Merrill.

Neil, Jenna & Theo Patel - February 06, 2024 at 12:51 PM



“ Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Robert D. "Bob" Merrill.



February 04, 2024 at 03:26 PM



“ The Campbells purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Robert D. "Bob" Merrill.



**The Campbells** - February 03, 2024 at 04:00 PM



“ The Campbells planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert D. "Bob" Merrill.

**The Campbells** - February 03, 2024 at 04:00 PM



“ The Mach Family purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Robert D. "Bob" Merrill.



**The Mach Family** - February 01, 2024 at 10:02 PM

TF

“ The Mach Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert D. "Bob" Merrill.

The Mach Family - February 01, 2024 at 10:02 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Robert D. "Bob" Merrill.



January 31, 2024 at 10:12 PM

AB

“ Allison Lugo Knapp & Amy Blume-Marcovici planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert D. "Bob" Merrill.

Allison Lugo Knapp & Amy Blume-Marcovici - January 31, 2024 at 10:12 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert D. "Bob" Merrill.



January 29, 2024 at 04:02 PM

WF

“ With Love, The Snow Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert D. "Bob" Merrill.

With Love, The Snow Family - January 29, 2024 at 04:02 PM

ME

“ Debbie (Travis and Bobby), I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. Having just lost my mother to dementia as well, I can only imagine the battle you've faced the last few years. I wish you peace and comfort in the days, months, and years to come. Marcy (Frederick) Elhamidi, daughter of Marilene Frederick

Marcy J Elhamidi - January 29, 2024 at 02:03 AM

GC

“ Bob always seemed to be a pleasant person, friendly, and personable. I remember him coming to my house picking me up and riding around in his new 1966 Dodge Coronet. I have fond memories of Bob. His family will be in my prayers. Gene Cosler

Gene Cosler - January 27, 2024 at 12:26 PM

DJ

“ Dale Jeffries purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Robert D. "Bob" Merrill.



Dale Jeffries - January 27, 2024 at 11:55 AM

AT

“ *Athletico Physical Therapy purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Robert D. "Bob" Merrill.*



**Athletico Physical Therapy** - January 26, 2024 at 11:53 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert D. "Bob" Merrill.*



January 23, 2024 at 05:42 PM

TR

“ *I hate to hear this, I always enjoyed Bob over my 34 years in banking with all of his business avenues he was a part of. He was always so interesting, had a smart business mind and was ahead of the curve on almost everything. You are right in his obit, his sense of humor and work ethic were remarkable. My thoughts and prayers to his family.*

**Tami Richardson** - January 22, 2024 at 03:07 PM

JY

“ *Bob and I were classmates in the LHS Class of 1966. The last time I saw him was at our 45th reunion in 2011. I had a very pleasant chat with him and enjoying getting caught up with we've been doing. I was very impressed with his entepurnial talents.*  
*Jeff Young*

**Jeff Young** - January 22, 2024 at 01:37 PM

RG

“ *Rest in peace my friend*

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**Ron Gott** - January 21, 2024 at 01:33 PM

SM

“ *Bob will forever be remembered as a good man. He will be missed.*



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**Sandra Mountcastle** - January 21, 2024 at 12:47 PM

SB

“ *Sally Byrd lit a candle in memory of Robert D. "Bob" Merrill*



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**Sally Byrd** - January 21, 2024 at 12:29 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert D. "Bob" Merrill.*



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January 20, 2024 at 03:34 PM

TF

“ *The Normann Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert D. "Bob" Merrill.*

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**The Normann Family** - January 20, 2024 at 03:34 PM