



Robert Joseph Spolyar Sr.

March 7, 1937 - December 8, 2025

Robert “Bob” Spolyar was born in Gary, Indiana, on March 7, 1937, to loving mother, Mary (nee Buecheck) and father, Joseph Spolyar, and passed away December 8, 2025, at the age of 88.

Bob was educated in the Gary Public Schools. He graduated in 1955 from Lew Wallace High School and was very proud of his “Region” roots. His given gifts of a sharp brain, strong work ethic, and enviable resilience landed him at Purdue University for one year before pledging an oath to serve his country, beginning at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. He graduated in the Class of 1960. Bob carried his love of the Naval Academy with him throughout his entire life.

After graduating from the Academy, Bob made his best life decision and wed Marguerite (Marge) Hoffman in Philadelphia. Together, they began a winding road of military service in the United States Marine Corps where Bob flew jets. They enjoyed their time in the Corps’ community through assignments in Pensacola, FL, Kingsville, TX, Camp Lejeune, NC, and Quantico, VA.

When he left the military, Bob took a job as an engineer in Richmond, VA which later brought the family to Lebanon, Indiana. They were delighted to raise their family in a small-town setting with so many great families contributing to their lives and growth. Bob and Marge raised their seven

children with equal parts of love, high expectations, and discipline.

While working full time as he and Marge raised their children, Bob attended law school at night, graduating from Indiana University School of Law in 1972. He started his law career as legislative counsel for the Indianapolis-based National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies, leading both state and federal lobbying efforts. Later, he became an independent lobbyist collaborating with clients that included industry leaders in insurance, horse racing, gaming, and retail. His work was instrumental in protecting Hoosier drivers and introducing casino gaming and parimutuel wagering to the state. Bob also served on the board of directors for Indiana Lumbermens Mutual Insurance Company. A man of integrity and honor, he always believed in putting character, effort, and principle above winning.

Bob proudly served on the board of the Lebanon Boys and Girls Club for many years and was an active member of Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Lebanon. An avid fan of Lebanon High School sports, especially baseball, Bob loved the hours he spent at Memorial Park baseball diamond, cheering the teams long after his own children had graduated. Whether at the diamond, court, or gridiron, he loved encouraging young people to work toward their potential.

Sadly, after retirement, dementia began tarnishing his once astute mind. Although he could still recognize his family and produce answers to the Sunday crossword clues, he eventually succumbed to the devastation of Alzheimer's.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, and his devoted wife, Marguerite.

Survivors include his brother, Richard Spolyar (Jan Edds) of Carmel, his children Anne Sellers (Andrew) of Indianapolis, Robert Spolyar, Jr. (Isabelle)

of Carmel, Joseph Spolyar (Lee) of Angola, Stephen Spolyar of Lebanon, Mary Spolyar of Indianapolis, James Spolyar (Michele) of Zionsville, and Kathleen Spolyar of Lebanon. He leaves his fourteen grandchildren: Jane Sellers, Mary Sellers, Eleanor Spolyar, Clara Spolyar, Addison Spolyar, Emily Spolyar, Meredith Hanjora (Noah), Josie Spolyar, Sarah Akinrinlola (Ola), Michael Spolyar, (Jenna), Kristen Spolyar, Andrew Spolyar, Jacob Spolyar, and Samuel Spolyar, as well as his four great-grandchildren Sloan Spolyar, Elena Spolyar, Charly Hanjora, and Sophia Akinrinlola.

The Spolyar family would like to extend thanks and gratitude to their parents' caregivers who gave so much of themselves over many years to care for both Marge and Bob in their times of frailty and need. We owe much to the good souls of Tonia Fortner, Kina Arnett, Carol Ballard, Suzette Jones, and the entire team at Clover Senior Care. May the blessings you have bestowed upon our parents be received many times over by you.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 18, 2025, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 319 East South Street, in Lebanon, Indiana. The family will greet friends from 9:00 a.m. until the time of Mass at the church. Interment with Military Rites will follow services at St. Joseph's Cemetery, in Lebanon. Myers Mortuary has been entrusted with his arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been arranged to benefit the baseball complex in Lebanon's Memorial Park. Donations may be made to the Lebanon Parks Department, Robert Spolyar Fund, Memorial Park, 130 E. Ulen Drive, Lebanon, IN 46052.

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph Cemetery

935 East Washington Street
Lebanon, IN 46052

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 18. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
319 East South Street
Lebanon, IN 46052

Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
319 East South Street
Lebanon, IN 46052

Tribute Wall

JP

“ I was at your dad’s funeral Mass this morning. I really did not know your dad. What I wanted to say that it was evident today what excellent people he & your mother were. Evidenced by such a beautiful family. I had tears in my eyes when all of you went up for the offertory. May God bless and keep you, make his face to shine upon you and give you peace Janet Starkey Petsch

Janet Petsch - December 18, 2025 at 01:39 PM

DH

“ Dan & Merri Hanjora purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Robert Joseph Spolyar Sr..



Dan & Merri Hanjora - December 17, 2025 at 08:44 AM

TF

“ The Rowan and Lantz Families purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Robert Joseph Spolyar Sr..



The Rowan and Lantz Families - December 16, 2025 at 08:58 PM

CE

“ Anne,
My condolences at the loss of your father. It sounds like he accomplished a lot during his lifetime.

Carl Evans - December 15, 2025 at 12:57 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph Spolyar Sr..*



December 15, 2025 at 10:40 AM



“ *Lucas Oil Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Joseph Spolyar Sr..*

Lucas Oil Family - December 15, 2025 at 10:40 AM



“ *I had the privilege of working with Bob at the statehouse. He was a smart and effective advocate. Beyond that, and more importantly, he was honorable. RIP.*

Rick Cockrum - December 15, 2025 at 08:06 AM



“ *Nick & Erica Lind; Ari & Amy Kornhauser purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Robert Joseph Spolyar Sr..*



Nick & Erica Lind; Ari & Amy Kornhauser - December 13, 2025 at 12:04 PM

DC

“ Bob was one of the very finest people I have known. To his children I send my sorrow for you all and hope all goes well. The sun will shine again and you will enjoy life as your father would want. David Carney

David Carney - December 12, 2025 at 04:04 PM

TL

Much love to the entire Spolyar family as they celebrate Bob's tremendous life of service and intellect and love. Our family sends our sincere condolences and is including you in our nightly prayers.

Tonya Lawrence - December 15, 2025 at 07:41 AM

MC

Every time I ran into Bob at the Statehouse he made me smile. He was one of the finest people in the hallway advocating for his clients. I am so sad he battled dementia in the end. He deserved better than that. Rest in peace Bob. You had a life worth living.

Marc Carmichael - December 15, 2025 at 08:00 PM