



Robert "Bob" Prater

December 7, 1937 - May 3, 2015

Robert A. "Bob" Prater, 77, of Kilbourne, passed away at OSF-St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria at 5:17 p.m. on Sunday, May 3, 2015. He was born December 7, 1937 in Peoria, IL to George and Fannie (Stone) Prater. He married Janet Gay Brockmeyer on May 23, 1959 in Peoria Heights. She preceded him in death on April 26, 2005.

Mr. Prater is survived by one daughter, Nanette Prater of Kilbourne, formerly of Denver, CO. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, brother, Kenneth and sister, Georgene.

Mr. Prater graduated from Balyki High School in 1955 and received his Associates Degree from Lincoln College. He helped to create the Kilbourne Volunteer Fire Department and was still a member. He served on the Kilbourne Village Board from 2000 until 2013. He had also served on the People's State Bank of Chandlerville's Board of Directors for 25 years. He owned Prater's Grocery Store in Kilbourne from 1950 until 2012 and was very proud of the store being in business for over 100 years. He also owned Prater Oil in Kilbourne. It was started by his father in 1943 and he took over the business in 1965 and ran it until 2010. He also owned and operated two gas stations over the years. He learned his love of working at gas stations after working for Beecher Gas Station in Peoria, IL in the mid-1950s.

Bob dearly loved being in business and serving his community. When asked what he enjoyed the most about his business, he said that he loved everything about them. What he missed the most was the people; being able to see and

talk to them on a daily basis. When he was asked who his best friend was, he replied, "She died" and then commented that it was his wife. They will now be reunited in heaven.

He fought a long hard battle at the end of his life and beat the odds several times. He had a strong will to live and that was God's plan so he was able to spend time with family, friends and his pets. He loved to be out and about seeing what the farmers were doing, whether it was planting the fields, irrigating or harvesting their crops. This made each trip to the doctor's appointments enjoyable for him.

He and his daughter made two trips to Denver in 2014 and along those trips visited several state capitals. He loved history, especially anything involving WWII. On December 7, 1941, when Pearl Harbor was bombed, he was supposed to be going to town for ice cream with his family for his 4th birthday, but it was not to be because everything came to a halt when Pearl Harbor was bombed, even a little boy's birthday celebration. To this day, he still talks about that day and loved his ice cream.

Bob also enjoyed fishing, O27 ga. model trains and restoring his 1957 Chevy car. He was a loyal Chicago Cubs fan and enjoyed watching NASCAR.

Visitation will be held on Friday, May 8, 2015 from 4:00 until 7:00 p.m. at Hurley Funeral Home in Havana. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 9, 2015 also at the funeral home. Rev. James Dearing and Rev. Mark Prater will officiate. Cremation rites will be accorded following the services.

Memorial contributions may be made to Kilbourne Fire Department. Online memorial messages may be left for the family at www.hurleyfh.com.

Hurley Funeral Home in Havana is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 8. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Havana
217 North Plum Street
P.O. Box #648
Havana, IL 62644
(309) 543-2244
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

Funeral

MAY 9. 11:00 AM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Havana
217 North Plum Street
P.O. Box #648
Havana, IL 62644
(309) 543-2244
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ Robert "Bob" Prater

October 12, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ Growing up in Kilbourne and getting to go to Praters to get candy was always a treat as he always made sure he had a good selection of candy for the kids in the community. He will be truly missed by so many people no matter how long you had been away from Kilbourne he knew who you was. Bob may you RIP. Annette our prayers our with you God bless you.
Joy Tribbett
Mabelvale, AR



Joy Tribbett - May 12, 2015 at 10:15 AM



“ Some of my favorite childhood memories have Uncle Bob in them. I loved having breakfast with him at Grandma Prater's and then visiting him at the store. I will always remember him and his sense of humor. He will be missed. Love and prayers to Nanette and the rest of the family. Love, Kelli

kelli cohee - May 09, 2015 at 09:36 AM



“ Praters store, Bob and Russell are a big part of my childhood memories. Also seeing Bob in the big grey gas truck. Anyone who lived in Kilbourne was blessed with those memories. I loved getting the big round yellow cheese slices fresh. Good memories.

Donna Lewis - May 08, 2015 at 07:30 PM

AR

“ *Nanette, I am so sorry to here about the passing of your father. He was such a wonderful person. He didn't know a stranger. He is with Janet now and he is very happy now. If there is anything that you need please don't hesitate to ask.*

Anna Richardson (Selby)

Anna Richardson - May 08, 2015 at 01:18 PM

DL

“ *Diana Shoemaker Lind lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Prater*



Diana Shoemaker Lind - May 08, 2015 at 10:22 AM



“ *Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Prater.*



May 07, 2015 at 05:21 PM

BC

“ *Brenda Otto Craig lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Prater*



Brenda Otto Craig - May 06, 2015 at 10:04 PM

BC

so sorry for your loss

Brenda Otto Craig - May 06, 2015 at 10:05 PM

VS

Sorry for your loss. Thinking of you.

Vanessa Stolba - May 07, 2015 at 05:33 PM

DL

Bob was always so friendly, along with Russell. Very fond memories of living in Kilbourne, loved the store!

Diana Shoemaker Lind - May 08, 2015 at 10:24 AM

KD

*Nanette,
So sorry to hear about your dad, He was a great man, respected and loved by many. Thinking of you during this difficult time. Hugs and prayers.*

Karen

Karen Danner - May 08, 2015 at 02:23 PM

TH

“ *Nanette,
We are so sorry to hear of Bob's passing. He had many friends and done so much for many. I will always remember going into the store and the ice cream bars.
May he rest in peace with all of his friends and loved ones.
With deepest condolences,
Tammie & Jon Higginbotham*

Tammie Higginbotham - May 06, 2015 at 02:58 PM

DS

Sorry for your Loss

Debbie Otto Smith - May 08, 2015 at 04:28 PM

JS

i am so sorry bob was a good man he always treated us kids with respect I will miss him Janice Gilmore-stum

janice stum - May 08, 2015 at 05:56 PM

CK

Nanette,

So sorry to hear of your father's death and even sorrier that I am unable to attend his visitation or funeral. As his oldest "girl cousin," I have such fond memories of us in the early days but regret that we have been out of touch for so long. I had no idea that he had served as a volunteer firefighter in Kilbourne. Having worked for the Muscular Dystrophy Association for twenty years in Northern Illinois, the support of both the IAFF, AFFI, and all volunteer departments were such an important part of my day-to-day efforts in the fight against neuromuscular disease. On behalf of my entire family, I will be sending a contribution to the Kilbourne Volunteer Fire Department in his memory and in honor of the many Prater Family contributions to Kilbourne, Illinois. My deepest sympathy to you and your family...I will be in touch with you soon. So nice to read the comments of those who loved him and feel his loss within the community.

Carole Stone Kalus and family (Kerry, Kelly, and Kevin)

Carole Stone Kalus - May 08, 2015 at 10:23 PM