



Robert "Bob" M. Grendahl

July 22, 2024

The memorial service celebrating the life of Robert "Bob" Grendahl of Wadena, will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 10, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wadena with Pastor Nate Loer presiding. Visitation will be held at the Johnson-Schuller Chapel in Wadena on Friday, August 9, from 5:00 until 7:00p.m. and will resume at the church on Saturday from 9:30a.m. until the time of service. Burial will be at the Wadena Cemetery Wadena, MN.

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Bob's service is being live-streamed via the Immanuel Lutheran Church's Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/immanuelwadena>

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Bob, age 82, passed away on Monday, July 22, 2024 at his home surrounded by family after a courageous battle with cancer.

Bob was born on April 7, 1942 to Melvin and Mary (Dvorak) Grendahl in Rochester, MN. Bob was raised in Wanamingo, MN and graduated from Wanamingo High School in 1960. He later attended Rochester Junior College and Brown Institute in Minneapolis. Bob met Donna Runger in 1962 in Minneapolis and they were united in marriage on February 15, 1964 at Zion Lutheran Church in Thief River Falls. Bob worked as an Electronics Specialist for Northwest Airlines and they built their first home in Burnsville. In 1967 their daughter, Rene', was born. In 1968 they briefly moved to Thief River

Falls and then to Warren, MN, where Bob began employment with Tenneco Inc., as an Electronics Specialist. In 1970, Bob was transferred to the Division Office in Wadena. In 1971, their son, Robby, was born. Bob remained with Tenneco until his retirement in 2006.

Shortly after moving to Wadena, Bob quickly became active in the community, serving as a Boy Scout leader and an active member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, where he served on various committees as well as church council President, Sunday school teacher, and confirmation mentor. Bob was an original founder of the Wadena Hockey Association, active coach at every level, referee, hockey board member, honorary life member of Wadena Hockey Association, and assistant coach of the first Wadena High School varsity hockey team. Recently, Bob was honored to be inducted into the Herb Brooks Youth Hockey Hall of Fame.

After his retirement Bob stayed active in the community as a volunteer at the Wadena Depot and member of the Depot board as well as the Wadena Zoning & Planning Department.

Bob enjoyed spending time with his four grandchildren. He attended and supported all of their activities and events.

Bob had many hobbies and interests throughout his life. Bob loved spending time in the outdoors. He enjoyed many hunting and fishing adventures throughout the United States and Canada and tending to all the needs at the Deer Camp with a keen interest in conservation and land stewardship. Bob also loved watching sports of all kinds, The Kentucky Derby and The Stanley Cup Playoffs were household favorites. Bob enjoyed creating, building, and could fix most anything. He made sure that the neighbors were plowed out after a snowstorm, and was always willing to lend a helping hand. He was also very up to date with his technology, wearing his Apple watch on his last day here on Earth. Summing up Bob's 82 years of life and energy in a few paragraphs is difficult. Without a doubt, his most important contribution was

his positive legacy of service. Bob lived his life with a spirit of putting others before self. His memorable smile, that he shared generously, will be greatly missed. His life was a life well lived.

Bob is survived by his wife Donna, daughter Rene' (Grendahl) Lindbo, son Robby (Lori) Grendahl, grandchildren Matthew and Thomas Lindbo, Ryan (fiancée Hannah), and Mari. brothers Marvin and Darryl (Patty) Grendahl, brother-in law Ron (Lara) Runger and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding Bob in death were his parents Melvin and Mary (Dvorak) Grendahl, brothers Carl and Richard, and in-laws Larry and Doris (Olson) Runger.

Cemetery Details

Wadena Cemetery

Franklin Drive & 5th St. SW
Wadena, MN 56482

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 9. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Johnson-Schuller Chapel
205 4th Street Southwest
Wadena, MN 56482
(218) 631-3632

Visitation

AUG 10. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Immanuel Lutheran Church - Wadena
403 2nd St. SE
Wadena, MN 56482

Memorial Service

AUG 10. 11:00 AM (CT)

Immanuel Lutheran Church - Wadena
403 2nd St. SE
Wadena, MN 56482

Graveside Service

AUG **10**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Wadena Cemetery
Franklin Drive & 5th St. SW
Wadena, MN 56482

Tribute Wall



“ *Schuller Family Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Robert "Bob" M. Grendahl*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - August 03, 2024 at 12:10 AM

MH

Beautiful Video for a great person and family Mary Ann

Mary Ann Hagen - August 06, 2024 at 06:13 PM

BF

“ Donna, Renee, Robby and Families,
I am so sad to hear of Bob's passing. So many great memories and we know now he is in a good place and pain free. Your family will always be in our thoughts and prayers.

(My text to Bob on 3/17/24)

Mr. Grendahl,

I wanted to tell you how much I appreciate all of the work you put into the Wadena Hockey program over the years.

I am forever grateful for whatever magic words you said to my Dad back in the day for him to sign me up for hockey. With my brother Lee playing already, I knew being able to afford it was the main issue.

Growing up around your house with Robby and having him as a good friend and my D partner in high school, are memories that I'll never forget.

Being on so many great teams growing up, raising 2 sons that played and love the game as much as I do and myself coaching for 20 years is all kudos to you sir. I thank you for planting the seed in my younger self.

Thanks again Coach!

Love Ya, Brad

Brad Macklem & Family - August 10, 2024 at 04:29 PM

DW

“ Dylan and Becca Woodford purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Robert "Bob" M. Grendahl.



Dylan and Becca Woodford - August 09, 2024 at 01:10 PM

SF

“ Sharon Folkestad lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Grendahl



Sharon Folkestad - August 08, 2024 at 11:56 PM

Jl

“ Ryan,
Thank you for all the wonderful stories of Grandpa Bob!
And the pictures of him hanging in your office are priceless - I'm pretty sure they were on the wall within the first few minutes of your first day of work.
With much sympathy to you and your family, Jill

Jill - August 08, 2024 at 01:20 PM

LH

“ Condolences to Donna and the family. Bob was just the nicest person you could ever meet and we were blessed to know Bob for many years. When we first moved to Wadena in 1985 our son got involved in hockey. Well things weren't going the best because Bryan could only skate backwards, couldn't go forward or even stop. Well Bob was watching the young ones skate and I told Bob about Bryan's skating. I said we had gotten him some used skates from a local hardware store and the first thing Bob said was get him NEW skates. Well I drove to Alex, got new skates and it was a miracle!! Bryan took off going forward and could stop and was skating all over the place. All of this thanks to Bob's advice.

Lyle J. Haraldson - August 06, 2024 at 10:30 AM

CC

“ I am so sorry to hear of Bob’s passing. He was always so friendly and caring. When Bob asked you how you were doing, he genuinely wanted to know. He always lended a listening ear, and had a smile for everyone. Sending prayers to Donna, Rene’, Robby, and families. With Sympathy, Cindy Carew

Cynthia Carew - August 05, 2024 at 09:24 PM

GH

“ Like many young boys in Wadena over the past many decades, I too was a product of the Wadena Hockey Association and Bob’s coaching.
Bob and my dad worked hard on the founding and early years of running the hockey club, my dad always had great respect for Bob. They donated a lot of time and energy, and were rightfully proud of what they started in town.
Bob worked on developing young hockey players into better players and young people with character. Bob not only successfully coached winning teams, he emphasized developing his players’ character. He consistently demonstrated how to put in the work to achieve success—not just on the ice but in school and in life. He also emphasized how to win humbly and to lose graciously, a trait I’ve used throughout my life.
Robby and I were teammates; we were coached every other year by Bob. He had to be incredibly patient with us throughout the years! I think all of us felt a special bond with him when he coached us because he always took interest in our lives and worked us hard through the seasons.
Bob will be missed, but he will be always remembered.
My condolences to Donna, Rene’, Robby and the family.

Gary Houle - August 05, 2024 at 05:34 PM

TF

“ The Houle Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Robert "Bob" M. Grendahl.



The Houle Family - August 05, 2024 at 04:33 PM

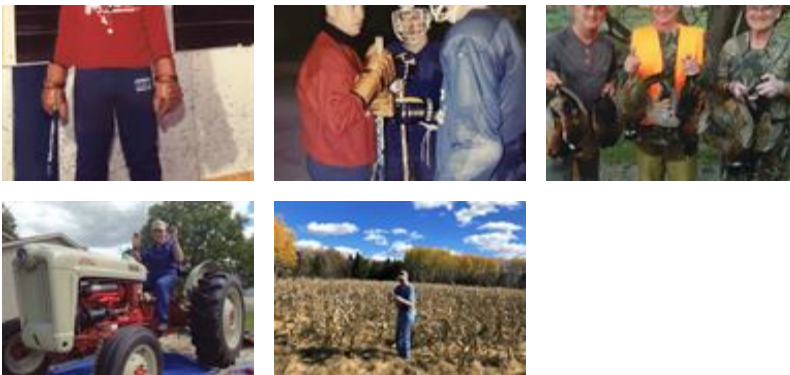
TF

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

The Houle Family - August 05, 2024 at 04:33 PM



“ 5 files added to the album Life Tributes



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - August 05, 2024 at 01:21 PM



“ 42 files added to the album Life Tributes



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - August 02, 2024 at 08:05 PM



“ I was introduced to Bob by the Bill Larson family. Bill and his son Mark (Lars) and I would go deer hunting together every year in the Wadena area. The weekend was never complete until we saw Bob. He would religiously drive over to our deer camp on Friday night, sit and have a beer, and join in on the deer hunting stories being thrown around. He'd even share a package of deer sticks from the previous year.

Bob truly was “one of a kind”...gentle, honest, gracious, funny, and as my buddy Mark Larson said, salt of the earth. I will miss his visits, but I look forward to seeing him up in heaven and sharing some more big buck stories! God bless you, Bob, and God bless the whole Grendahl family. Until we meet again!

Mark “Petey” Peterson - August 01, 2024 at 11:04 PM

AB

“ Alvida Browne lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Grendahl



Alvida Browne - July 31, 2024 at 09:30 PM

DA

“ Bob & Donna were close friends of Jerry when I came into the picture. We were blessed to share the friendship of these two wonderful humans & I will forever hold many cherished memories. May we all strive to be “Bob like”💙.
What a legacy💖



Di Schiller Anderson - July 31, 2024 at 08:33 PM

DW

“ Deb wiese lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Grendahl



Deb wiese - July 31, 2024 at 12:22 PM

MI

“ Bob was an amazing and caring guy. Thoughts and prayers for Donna, Rene', Matthew, and Thomas. He might be but gone but never forgotten. Sending love and prayers



Mike - July 30, 2024 at 11:44 PM

MR

“ Mike Orum RMH purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Robert "Bob" M. Grendahl.



Mike Orum RMH - July 30, 2024 at 11:37 PM

WL

“ Wadena City Library lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Grendahl



Wadena City Library - July 29, 2024 at 03:47 PM

BS

“ Bill Sartell lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Grendahl

So sorry to hear about Bob's passing.

We are so appreciative about his interest and motivation in establishing organized youth

hockey in Wadena. As a member of the original group of rink rats that made up the first Pee Wee hockey team. We thank him for his patience in coaching us to learn the game of hockey the right way.

We, as all young players, felt we were better than we were. But he encouraged us to strive to be as good as we thought we were. We can never thank him enough for his efforts.

Over the years, Bob became a friend. And it was always fun to run into him and spend time talking to him about whatever.

*My condolences to Donna, Robbie and the rest of the family
Billy Sartell*



Bill Sartell - July 29, 2024 at 02:17 PM



We are so grateful that Bob was our great friend for 50 years! He was so kind, thoughtful, friendly, helpful, fun, cheerful, etc etc, and he always had such a warm smile. He will live in hearts and memories forever!

Marilyn Nervig - July 30, 2024 at 03:58 PM

MB

“ Always a pleasure to come to Wadena to coach or referee Wolverine hockey and to have an ambassador like Bob there to greet you. Condolences to Robbie and the rest of the family. Matt Brenk, Detroit Lakes.

Matt Brenk - July 28, 2024 at 11:30 PM

DM

“ Dixie Murray lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Grendahl



Dixie Murray - July 28, 2024 at 08:04 PM

TL

“ Thomas Lindbo lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Grendahl



Thomas Lindbo - July 28, 2024 at 12:26 AM

RL

“ Rene Lindbo lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Grendahl



Rene Lindbo - July 28, 2024 at 12:26 AM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" M. Grendahl.



July 26, 2024 at 10:12 AM

RF

“ Richard and Karen Muckala Family lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Grendahl



Richard and Karen Muckala Family - July 25, 2024 at 10:18 PM

JB

“ Bob was one of the people who started Hockey in Wadena. He was a great booster of the program and one of the promoters of it becoming a high school sport. My two sons and many many others benefited from his vision and support. He will be missed. Jim Brendel

Jim Brendel - July 25, 2024 at 08:34 PM

ML

“ We lost a great person with Bob's passing.
Always smiling and helping anyone and always available. Salt of the earth.

Friends of our family for years. I will especially remember Bob helping at our deer land and of course the tradition of him every Friday of deer opener stopping at our camp for a beer and deer sticks, from last years harvest. Now he feels great and likely having coffee and lefse with my mother and father. I will never forget Bob. Donna may God be with you and your family. I will be there for the funeral....

Mark Larson family.

Mark Larson - July 25, 2024 at 07:52 PM

SB

“ Sharon Boline lit a candle in memory of
Robert "Bob" Grendahl



Sharon Boline - July 25, 2024 at 07:39 PM

GP

“ Gail Adair Pierson lit a candle in memory of
Robert "Bob" Grendahl



Gail Adair Pierson - July 25, 2024 at 01:12 PM

CL

“ Chris and Chick Lane lit a candle in memory of Bob Grendahl.



Chick Lane - July 25, 2024 at 11:33 AM

RB

“ Ray and Dorothy Beyer lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Grendahl



Ray and Dorothy Beyer - July 25, 2024 at 05:45 AM

GW

“ Glen Donna Wood lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Grendahl



Glen Donna Wood - July 24, 2024 at 08:18 PM

BT

“ Barb Thoennes lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Grendahl



Barb Thoennes - July 24, 2024 at 05:21 PM

JJ

“ *Jon and Patty Johnson lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Grendahl*



Jon and Patty Johnson - July 24, 2024 at 03:35 PM

MC

“ *Beth & I send our condolences to all of the Grendahl family. Bob was such a kind & giving person who has touched many peoples lives. He was so supportive of me as a 4th grader who wanted to play hockey & learn the game, even though I couldn't skate. With his encouragement and mentoring he taught and helped so many kids the love of hockey. Eventually as I got older, he took myself and others under his wings and got us involved with refereeing the great sport of hockey. This built confidence in me that I still carry today in life. Thanks Bob !! You will be missed by so many !! Prayers for the family - Mike & Beth Cottrell*

mike cottrell - July 24, 2024 at 11:19 AM

MB

“ *Our deepest sympathy to the Grendahl family, Mike and Donna Bartinski*

Mike and Donna Bartinski - July 24, 2024 at 09:28 AM

GK

“ Grendahl family, so very sorry for your loss. Bob and I go back 50 years to when he recruited me to play goalie for his Peewee hockey team. Over the years we have had many laughs on how he convinced me it would be a great position to play (little did I know the truth). I have always admired and had respect for the way he coached with integrity and his coaching style of being there for the players. I have many great memories of growing up next to your family and I will miss my visits with Bob. I hope he can now rest without pain, and I hope his memory will live on with his children and grandchildren. Praying for all of you. Greg Krier

Greg Krier - July 24, 2024 at 09:08 AM

SK

I have to echo Greg's comments. Great neighbor, great coach...great man. Our thoughts are with you all. Sharon (Krier) Kalina & family

Sharon Kalina - July 24, 2024 at 10:00 AM

PC

I'm so very sorry for the loss of such an amazing husband, father, grandfather, neighbor, friend, coach.... He wore many hats, but I will always remember his genuine kindness and that wonderful smile and twinkle in Bob's eye. May he truly rest in peace. ❤️ Thinking of you all. Pam (Miller) Carlson

Pam Carlson - July 27, 2024 at 09:34 PM

ML

“Where do I start Papa, a true servant to the community and the people you knew. There wasn't one day that I wouldn't call Papa and he would greet me with the same greeting “well hello Matthew!!!” Every time without a single beat missed, he would answer the phone in that same energetic positive voice.

From me joining Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts and finally attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. Papa was right there with me in excitement reliving his childhood and remembering all the fun he had as a leader in the Boy Scouts.

The funniest times being with papa was him quoting different movies and his famous laugh that came right after it. From quoting the original Top Gun to A Few Good Men. Papa was truly a man of many talents and knowledge and humor.

I would call Papa weekly to have him help me with maintenance questions ranging from the lawn mower to financial advice. Papa had the answer and was sending you all the information on the topic as soon as he could, while explaining it step by step over the phone to you.

The best part is he could fix anything with the most basic tool kit that he ALWAYS kept in the Buick and the pickup, just like a true Eagle Scout, always being prepared.

My fondest times were the summer trips Papa and Nana and I would go on. He would do the planning of the trips to different museums and events all the way to the best food. Without a blink of an eye he always knew the right attractions to go to.

Since I never had a father in my life Papa was my father figure and a natural pro at that!!! I think the best times I will miss was not just the important times like him wearing his grandparent Eagle Scout pin everywhere he went, or him watching me become a Police Officer. It was the weekly conversations and constant jokes and all the smiles and laughs he brought to Nana, Mom my twin brother

Thomas and myself.

His dedication to hockey, fishing, work and family will never be unforgettable.

During the many teachings I had with Papa he always reflected the golden rule which he followed daily and it made him the best person I know.

One of the last conversations I had with Papa, we were talking about work. Just like true Papa fashion he would text me weekly telling me to be safe on my shifts. Papa knew the end was coming and stated “ stay safe on your shift(s). I believe that was an infinity amount of safe blessings from him. He then stated he would watch over me, then he smiled.

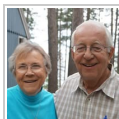
Papa I can't thank you enough for all your love and support over the years. I know I'm just one of many people you touched with your presence and dedication to serve and help. I cherish all of the time we had together and someday I'll be up there with you having an old fashioned watching Top Gun with you.

Love you Papa

Matthew ❤️



Matthew Lindbo - July 24, 2024 at 04:28 AM



Matthew, Your tribute to your Papa is full of love, pride and respect. He is now smiling down on you with great love, pride and respect.

Marilyn Nervig - July 24, 2024 at 10:24 AM



Wonderful Happy photo of you two Matthew!

Marilyn Nervig - July 24, 2024 at 10:28 AM

BT

“ *Barb & Terry Tumberg lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Grendahl*



Barb & Terry Tumberg - July 23, 2024 at 10:09 PM

LM

“ *Lois Miller lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Grendahl*



lois miller - July 23, 2024 at 08:26 PM

JE

“ *Jane Erckenbrack lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Grendahl*



Jane Erckenbrack - July 23, 2024 at 07:49 PM

DS

“ *What a great, kind, and sensitive man Bob was. Always enjoyed being around him and working with him. Always remember that engaging smile. Peace to the family. God bless the great memories of Bob.*

Dan and Dee Skogen - July 23, 2024 at 04:47 PM

KB

“ *Kelly (Anderson) Bain lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Grendahl*



Kelly (Anderson) Bain - July 23, 2024 at 01:18 PM

LS

“ *Laura Spilman lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Grendahl*



Laura Spilman - July 23, 2024 at 01:15 PM

JL

“ *I worked with Bob at the gas company (which is now the museum) until it closed. He always was a kind, thoughtful co-worker with a wonderful personality always smiling. We pray the Lord will send his family comfort.*



Judy Loeffen - July 23, 2024 at 12:26 PM

DM

“ Dale & Liz Miller lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Grendahl



Dale & Liz Miller - July 23, 2024 at 10:57 AM

SJ

“ Our earth will be less bright with the passing of Bob. Grace and peace to all of you in your time of sorrow.



Scott and Vicki Jahnke - July 23, 2024 at 10:37 AM



“ Nancy Peterson lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Grendahl



Nancy Peterson - July 23, 2024 at 10:21 AM

TH

“ Tammie Klawitter Hamlin lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Grendahl



Tammie Klawitter Hamlin - July 23, 2024 at 10:08 AM

KS

“ Bob was such a great person!! Sorry for your loss.



Kevin Stebleton - July 23, 2024 at 09:55 AM

MC

“ Marcy Collins lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Grendahl



Marcy Collins - July 23, 2024 at 08:55 AM

JE

“ Judy Erdahl lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Grendahl



Judy Erdahl - July 22, 2024 at 11:51 PM

JN

“ So very sorry for your loss. You all have so many treasured memories of special times with Bob. Prayers that those memories help you through the difficult days ahead.

Jan Ness - July 22, 2024 at 11:47 PM

RS

“ Rick & Deb Schwartz lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Grendahl



Rick & Deb Schwartz - July 22, 2024 at 11:03 PM

MO

“ Mike Ortmann lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Grendahl



Mike Ortmann - July 22, 2024 at 10:55 PM

GA

“ Bob always had a smile on his face , and would always say something to me. Sorry for your loss.

garth albers - July 22, 2024 at 09:39 PM

DK

“ Dan and Beth Kern lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Grendahl



Dan and Beth Kern - July 22, 2024 at 08:13 PM