



## Robert "Santa Bob" Sirrell Sr.

December 9, 1946 - May 11, 2020

Robert J. Sirrell, Sr. (Santa Bob)

Peacefully passed away on Monday, May 11, 2020 surrounded by loved ones at his family home, after battling complications of NASH (liver disease).

Bob was born on December 9, 1946 in Exeter, NH to the late Bernard and Evelyn (Michaels) Sirrell. He attended schools in Kenosha, WI.

On June 25, 1966 at St. James Catholic Church he married Karen Tritt. From that union they had a son, Robert, Jr. Within a couple of years they started the process of getting guardianship of Bob's half-brother Edward, who came to live with them at the age of eight.

After finishing school in 1966, Bob went to work at J. I. Case Co., retiring after 38 years. A short retirement of three months, he went to work at F. K. Foundries in North Chicago.

There he worked for 13 years and retired for the second time in August of 2017. Bob was a proud and active member of the Case 20 Year Club.

Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Karen of Pleasant Prairie; son, Robert, Jr. (Tina) of Pleasant Prairie; half-brother, Edward (Tami) of Berlin, WI; grandchildren, Justin, Tiffany, Ashley, Trever and Tanner and four great grandchildren. Due to blended and extended families he is further survived by siblings in many states and the Bahamas, along with many nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Bob's Life will be held on Saturday, August 1, 2020 from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. at the Kenosha Moose Lodge, 3003 30th Ave. in Kenosha.

# Comments

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“ Dear Karen and family,  
So very sorry to hear a your profound loss. I always enjoyed when the two of you came into Ruffolo's. You are "family". I will surely miss your sidekick. He definitely made a lasting impression. My sincere condolences to you and your family. Joanie Haberski (Ruffolo's)

Joanie Haberski - May 19 at 06:52 PM

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“ Dear Karen, so sorry to see that Bob has passed away. Not seeing you for many years doesn't mean that you aren't thought of. I really appreciated that Bob had come to my sister Susie's funeral. Unfortunately I did not recognize him because of the beard. He had to tell me who he was. We had a big laugh. Thinking of you and your family. Take care of yourselves.

Barb Kuhl (Nokes)

Barbara Kuhl - May 19 at 03:34 PM

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“ Karen, I am so sorry about the passing of your beloved husband Bob. My thoughts and condolences are with you and your family at this difficult time. I admire how, even though you've been going through such a challenging time for many months, you continually showed concern and thoughtfulness by asking others at cardio how they're doing. Looking forward to seeing you, Karen, when we can all be together at cardio again. Burt

Burt Zielinski - May 19 at 11:11 AM

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“ I worked for several years with Bob during my 30 year career in the Quality Assurance department at the JI Case Company. A really nice person to work with. A very knowledgeable QA inspector. My deepest sympathies to Bob's family.

Curt Wallin  
Beaufort, Missouri

Curtis L Wallin - May 18 at 01:00 AM

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“ Karen, I am so sorry for your loss. I know Bob will be sadly missed. We use to have a good deal of fun together. I have known Bob for many years, he was gruff but had the heart of a saint. Again my condolences.

Richard Tremmel - May 17 at 11:19 AM

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“ Deepest Sympathy on your loss.

Jim 'DOC' Poplawski, Chairman, UAW Local 180 Retirees

Jim 'DOC' Poplawski - May 17 at 07:50 AM

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“ Deepest condolences to the family from Eva Gerardo, daughter of the late Richard "Rick" C. Gerardo who worked at Case for many many years. My thoughts and prayers are with you

Eva Gerardo - May 17 at 07:49 AM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Tina Sirrell - May 14 at 08:54 PM

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“ Bob was a great neighbor to us. We always appreciated Bob and Karen taking care of our dog Blake. Bob willingly helped us with different projects around our house. He always had great stories to share with a friendly smile on his face. Bob especially enjoyed the annual block party. He directed proper placing and assembling of the big party tent. He will be missed dearly. Condolences to Karen and her family. Sincerely, the Derginers across the street.

Sally - May 14 at 08:27 PM

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“ To me Bob could beat any trivia or Jeopardy champ Well at least I though so to me there wasn't anything Bob did not know If I had a problem I called Bob Here is a few of Bob's knowledgeable and oh so true  
Never and I mean never give out your Social Security number to any one not for anything Bob told me he was the only man at Case who does not have his SS number for his I D on his Insurance's It is the Law ( Look it up it is )  
You are paying the Doctor So He schedules the apt around your time Not his Social Security You paid into it So you are entitled to it ( I was going for Disability )  
And Bob always knew someone to back up the story ( He was so right on that )  
Listen Every time a Republican is in the presidency seat I gain money And every time a Democrat is in office I loose money' Ummm  
Why should a non union worker who is against the Union be entitled to the same Benefits as the Union workers who fought to get them  
Get rid of the junk and clutter in your house Move it to the back door and out And do not let it back in  
A house is not just a house it is a home your home filled with the story of your life But sad to say Your memories are yours and no one wants them.  
Bob loved his family and Like me wanted to connect with everyone long lost cousins , Two years ago We got into this DNA thing went with two different company's Ancestry and 23 and Me.( Bob wanted me to do 23 and me So he paid for my kit )  
Many of our conversations centered around our family tree and finding our long lost cousins. The Bell and MICHELS side There is NO A in our family sur name Bob always wanted to put the A in Michels lol Every Memorial day around that time Bob would take me out to St Luis cemetery in Caledonia Wi to plant Geraniums along with Karen on our Ancestors graves If I make it out there this year it will be a tough one with the memories  
And last bit If you do not have family You have no one For Family is the Glue that hold's your life together. And our patriarch of our family may have passed on to Angel hood But he lives on in the hearts of his family And the hearts of all who were lucky enough to have known him

Theresa M Peterson - May 13 at 06:29 PM

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“ Yes I have another story Bob was again staying with us and My grandmother sent us up to the little corner store ( Jerry's ) to buy a bottle of milk. I wanted to carry it home. Well being a kid It drop it out of my hands and the glass broke and the milk spilled all over the side walk. I started to cry I knew I was going to get it when I got home. Not so Bob told me he would take care of it And we turned back around and went back to the store. Where Bob paid and bought another bottle of milk He smiled and said this was between him and I don't tell aunt Helen ( My grandma ) I smiled and said I love you Bobby He smiled and said he loved me too I shall never forget that And that was the sweet side of Bob that came out every now and then when he wasn't being the

holy terror of S.56th Street.

Theresa M Peterson - May 13 at 05:43 PM

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“ Don't take a bike ride with Bobby Cousin Mary warned. I did not listen and hoped unto the handle bars Let be tell you No other ride Disney,Great America,Universal could compare to that ride; I screamed the whole way around the block Bob peddled so fast and I hung on for dear life as he tore around the block When I got off I was so glad Never again did I ever take a bike ride with Bob.

Theresa M Peterson - May 13 at 05:31 PM

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“ Another Memory My brother Tommy and I loved to play at the Roosevelt school playground. We Loved at that time the swings. One day some big bully type kids would not let us on the swings. Non of those big kids would get off the swings So we could have a turn. We came home crying. Bob ( Bobby ) was staying with us. He asked and we told him what happened. He said Bobby will take care of this. He hoisted my brother Tommy on his shoulders and me running along side of him. Went back to the playground. Bob asked who the kids were and we pointed them out. Bob then asked Are you picking on my cousin's Tommy and Theresa . I hope not cus if you are.You will get this . He grabbed one of the kids held up his big fist And that kid along with all the rest were real scared. We got to swing anytime we wanted. Every time we walked on to the Roosevelt playground If we wanted to swing or play on anything. All we would have to say is Better let us Or else we will go home and get our Cousin Bobby. Cousin Bob came to our rescue More then once

Theresa M Peterson - May 13 at 05:23 PM

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“ Bob ( Back then he was Bobby ) When I was a child He would come and spend a few day's sometimes a week with my Brother Tom Grandma Helen and My Dad Paul I thought of him as a big brother. All the kids in the neighborhood knew not to mess with Bob. He more or less controlled the 56th street block in West Allis. One day He showed up suitcase in hand And asked if My brother Tommy and I could hide him , and tell no one he was visiting. Sure we said For We loved when Bobby came He was so much fun. So we hid him up stairs sneaked him up stairs And told no one he was there. We sneaked him up some food from super. Anyways the phone rang. And it was Evelyn his mom Asking if Bobby was there. My dad asked if we saw Bobby At first we or I lied. My dad sensed that Something was wrong. So I asked him if Bobby was in some sort of trouble. My dad said If he is not found He will be. So then we told him My dad went flying up to the attic and confronted Bob And he had to leave. And More Bobby stories to come

