



Nabeel Manuel Babbie

March 12, 1959 - April 30, 2025

Nabeel Babbie, a longtime resident of Oak Park, Michigan, passed away at his son's home on April 30, 2025, in Royal Oak, Michigan, surrounded by loved ones-both present and in spirit. Nabeel's gentle strength and selflessness led him to be adored by those close to him and strangers alike.

Nabeel was the son of Firyal, who was the first from her family to immigrate to Detroit from Iraq, where she married Manuel. Shortly after, Nabeel was born on March 12, 1959. After the passing of his father, the majority of his childhood was spent in the Balfour Avenue home in Oak Park. Over the years, the home was shared with many newly arrived relatives from Iraq, and Nabeel later raised his own family there.

Nabeel graduated from Shrine Catholic High School and earned a bachelor's in journalism from Wayne State University. Early in his career, he worked for Al-Alam Al-Jadid, a community Chaldean newspaper founded by his uncle. Throughout his life, Nabeel was incredibly hardworking and he held many roles-small business owner, real estate agent, and manager at a car dealership. He spent 17 years with Cintas, where he took pride in his work as a sales representative and the relationships he built.

Nabeel met his wife Cheryl Ann through mutual friends, and after a short courtship, they were married in 1983 and had three children. He was a doting

husband and devoted father. He coached and refereed countless games for his children's sports teams and had an immeasurable influence on their lives. In 2007, Nabeel and Cheryl moved to Florida, where they spent nearly two decades together and shared many adventures. They lived in their home in Deerfield Beach before returning to Michigan in the summer of 2024 after receiving Nabeel's cancer diagnosis.

Nabeel found joy in finding solutions to problems in his own way—from the way he made home repairs to the way he valiantly battled cancer. A true conversationalist, he could talk about nearly everything. He had a sharp sense of humor, strong opinions, and love for debate. Nabeel loved to cook and share meals with his family. He was an avid baseball fan, with a special memory of attending the Detroit Tigers' 1968 World Series with his uncle. Later, as a father and grandfather, he would look forward to sharing his love of Detroit sports with his family.

Throughout his illness, Nabeel faced each challenge with quiet strength and perseverance, and had a deep appreciation for the time he had with family.

He is survived by his wife, Cheryl Ann Babbie; his children, Sarah (Trevor) Francis, Matthew Babbie, and Kristin (Matthew) Kelterborn; and his grandchildren, Lincoln, Daphne, Charlie, Louis, and Penelope. He is also survived by his mother, Firyal, his sisters, Neda and Nahla, and many cherished uncles, aunts, and cousins.

Visitation Monday 2-8 pm with memory sharing 6:30 pm at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W. 11 Mile Rd. (4 blks E. of Woodward), Royal Oak. Funeral Tuesday, in-state 10:30 am until time of Mass 11:00 am at National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica, Royal Oak. Nabeel will be laid to rest at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the following organizations in honor of Nabeel's continuing fight against cancer: American Cancer Society - Esophageal Cancer, Cancer Research Institute, and Michigan Nurses Foundation; and to the Chaldean American Ladies of Charity.

Cemetery Details

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

25800 W. 10 Mile Road
10 Mile Road @ Beech Road
Southfield, MI 48033

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 5. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 541-7000
royal@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Sharing of Memories

MAY 5. 6:30 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 541-7000
royal@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Funeral Mass

MAY 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica
2100 W. 12 Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48073

Burial

MAY 6. 1:00 PM (ET)

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery
25800 W. 10 Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48033

Tribute Wall



“ *Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors created a Webcast in memory of Nabeel Manuel Babbie*



Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors - May 04, 2025 at 05:24 PM

MB

“ Way back in the day, long before Nabeel had a wife and family and was an old man, when we were teenagers, he was one of my best friends ever. He was from the neighborhood and though we didn't go to the same schools, we played on the same city football and baseball teams.

Nabeel hung out a lot with me, Lee Weisman, Robert Greenspan and a few others. When we were teens, we'd all get into a car and drive around Oakland County, looking for a cool place to park, drink and smoke weed.

At one point Babbie (we called him Babbie or Nabeel, no one called him "Bill") had a GTO with a 442 engine and it could fit four or five of us teens inside, so we partied in there a lot. I remember hanging out at pinball arcades with him and playing basketball on his home court.

Nabeel was born two weeks after I was, so I was close to him in a lot of ways spiritually. For five or six years, I saw him almost every day. He was a best friend.

The summer after our junior year, when we were 17, we drove his Mustang across country to visit Greenspan in California, after Robert's family had moved out there.

Nabeel went home by himself at summer's end. I spent the next 41 years in California and Nabeel went to school for journalism. Ironically , I've spent almost 40 years as a journalist.

I love you, Nabeel, and I wish your family had more time to be with you. You were an honorable man and I've never forgotten our friendship. Let's be teens together again in our next life!

Marty Bachman - January 25 at 08:52 PM

LW

Yes Marty we sure had some great times with Nabeel. He was such an easy going guy that got along with everybody. If you couldn't get along with him there was something seriously wrong with you. He had a heart of gold with the Sweetest of Souls and would do anything to help you out no matter how hard or difficult it was. The last time I saw him I was in Chicago partying on St Patrick's Day walking down State Street by Rush and someone grabbed my shoulder from behind and without thinking because I was drunk I turned around swinging at who grabbed me. Good thing I missed. It turned out it was Nabeel. I was shocked 😳 We had a Fantastic Evening partying and I will always remember and cherish that last evening together. RIP My Brother 🙏 You will always be remembered and loved 🤔

Lee Weisman - January 26 at 01:25 AM

KH

It is with intense sadness that I learned of the passing of one of my oldest friends Nabeel Babbie.

Nabeel was one of those people who would honestly do anything to help out another. We shared so many memories together and I was overcome with grief when I learned that he had tried to reach out to me after all these years through facebook via his daughter Sarah.

Unfortunately the facebook new chats section has been overtaken by young girls attempting to attract people to their various websites for what I assume to be some kind of monetary support that I hardly look at it anymore. Which has prompted me to place my email address (holland123@comcast.net) on facebook for easy connection.

I first met Nabeel through mutual friends Lee Weisman and Steve Lovinger. The year was about 1975-76. We quickly became good friends. Early on I saw the genuine goodness that resided inside Nabeel. He was a sort of gentile giant, in such a way that precluded him from ever speaking or acting out with ill will towards anyone. I would go over to Nabeel's house after school and we would hang out and talk about the future and Ms Babbie (Nabeel's awesome mom) would ALWAYS come upstairs to say hello and typically she would entice me with food "are you hungry?", "you look hungry Kevin, let me fix you something to eat". And yes, there was always something delicious afoot at Nabeel's house, she is/was very capable in the kitchen. (I am also very saddened to learn of her Alzheimers diagnosis). This was my first introduction to Middle Eastern food and it was truly delightful. Nabeel loved 60's and 70's rock music and his absolute favorite musical group at that time was Dire Straits. We would especially listen to their first few albums over and over. To this day when I hear Dire Straits I immediately think of Nabeel. In those days Nabeel was also very protective over his next younger sister Neda. She was very cute and good lord if anyone even looked at her wrongly they would suffer the Babbie wrath. Nabeel did not get angry very often but when he did... look out, he was a bull.

The Summer after we graduated He and I embarked on a bicycle tour around Lake Huron. We started off in Port Huron and rode all the way to Sault St. Marie Ontario where we were picked up by another friend Dan Parker. That ride took us about 3 or 4 weeks. That is a memory that I shared with Nabeel that I will cherish forever. We both started College together at Wayne State where he studied Journalism and I studied business Admin. Nabeel's dream was to be a sports writer. He loved sports, loved to talk sports, loved sports statistics and everything about it. He also wanted to write a book. I remember at the time he had actually started to write one but I am not sure what ever came with that. He was a very good wordsmith. We (Nabeel, Lee, Steve, Dean Ferrari and I) even slept outside one very cold winter night at Olympia stadium to score tickets to a Red Wings playoff game. He was a huge Detroit sports fan.

We would sometimes carpool down to school and Yes I would

invariably ride in his White GTO. However, This was not just a run of the mill GTO. This car was a '71 or '72 Pontiac Le Mans GTO SS with a 4 barreled 442cc engine under the factory scooped hood. That car was one of only something like 500 made. It was so rare that his insurance company would not fully cover it for damage. Nabeel and I would often go out bar hopping on a Saturday night especially to the dance clubs of the time, (a little known fact is that we both Loved to dance). Nabeel was actually a very good dancer and was quite light on his feet especially for being a rather big guy. It was one of these Saturday nights that he and I had just left a dance club on Woodward in Royal Oak and as we were heading to our favorite after hour restaurant the “

Kevin Hollander - January 28 at 11:39 AM

KK

“ Kristin Kelterborn lit a candle in memory of Nabeel Manuel Babbie



Kristin Kelterborn - May 27, 2025 at 07:28 PM

MA

“ Bill was one of the most hard working and caring individuals I had the honor working with at Cintas. You will truly be missed.



Michael Arjoon - May 17, 2025 at 11:02 PM

KR

“ *Kristin lit a candle in memory of Nabeel Manuel Babbie*



Kristin - May 15, 2025 at 11:40 PM

ZL

“ *Zhanna Leynzon lit a candle in memory of Nabeel Manuel Babbie*



Zhanna Leynzon - May 09, 2025 at 11:29 AM

JE

“ *Bill was a great man. I only got to know him through Cintas, but he was great example of a strong work ethic and a great example of how to be a service professional. No matter how long of a day, or how early of a start, Bill was always a positive force in our route room.
He will truly be missed by his Cintas family.*

Jason Edwards - May 08, 2025 at 08:25 AM

MM

“ *It was an honor and privilege to get to know Bill over the years. He blessed us all with his positive spirit and warm personality. It was impossible to have a conversation with Bill and not walk away in a great mood. He just had that effect on people. He'll surely be missed by all of us at the Fort Lauderdale operation, but we are truly grateful for having the opportunity to know him.*

Michael McVay - May 07, 2025 at 09:00 AM



Thank you for the kind words, Michael. Our father was a very special man.

Sarah Francis - May 07, 2025 at 10:10 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Nabeel Manuel Babbie.

May 05, 2025 at 05:13 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Nabeel Manuel Babbie.



May 05, 2025 at 10:42 AM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Sarah Francis - May 04, 2025 at 04:58 PM



“ Laura and Brandon purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Nabeel Manuel Babbie.



Laura and Brandon - May 04, 2025 at 03:41 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Nabeel Manuel Babbie.*



May 04, 2025 at 01:39 PM



“ *Our deepest and most sincere condolences. May you find comfort in the love and memories you shared.*



Megan & Julie - May 04, 2025 at 11:23 AM



“ *3 files added to the album Nabeel and Family*



Paul Kassab - May 02, 2025 at 02:51 PM



Bill was an amazing man and Cintas business partner. He was always smiling, whether it was 5a or 5p! He took care of every customer with the same care and respect as if they were family. I enjoyed working alongside Bill for the last 10 years. Thoughts, prayers and condolences to your family! He will be missed!

Zach Aukland - May 04, 2025 at 04:04 PM

SL

Bill was a great Cintas partner. He truly loved his customers and was very hard-working individual. I had the pleasure working with him on a day-to-day basis for many years! May he rest in peace! He was an Angel on earth.

Sophia Luaces

SOPHIA LUACES - May 05, 2025 at 03:26 PM

FC

I met Bill when I transferred from New York and had my route ride with him. I knew from that day I could always count on him for support or guidance. Bill will truly be missed at Cintas.

Franklin Cruz

Franklin Cruz - May 05, 2025 at 03:42 PM

WT

Bill will forever hold a special place in my heart. He was the kind of partner you wanted to be around because he was always happy and wore a smile every day to work. He was an all-around great guy and will be missed by many.

Wendy Turpin - May 06, 2025 at 10:23 AM