



## Robert J. Brinker

July 14, 1949 - June 3, 2015

Bob Brinker, 65, of Sterling Heights passed away suddenly on Wednesday June, 3, 2015. Born on July 14, 1949 in West Branch, Michigan, Bob was a 30-year employee of General Motors Tech Center as a master plumber/pipe fitter. He held the positions of vice president and veteran chair for the UAW Local 160. He was also a member of the UAW Region 1 veteran's council and the Great Lakes National Cemetery. As a proud US Army Vietnam war veteran, Bob is survived by his wife Judy (Ficek); son Robbie (Kathy); daughters Teri Lynne and Kelly; grandsons Joey Brinker and Eric Hodge; sisters Char (the late Manny) Muns, Cathy (Charlie) Berger, Patty (John) Kimball and Sue (Harry) Schroeder; and brothers Rick (Cathe) and Dan (Paulette). He was "Favorite Uncle Bob" to many nieces and nephews. Bob is predeceased by his parents Bob and Mariette as well as his sister Nancy. Visitation will be held at Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Rd (3 blks east of Van Dyke) in Utica on Sunday 2-8pm and Monday 2-8pm. The funeral service will be held Tuesday at 10 am at the funeral home. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, send donations to Vets Returning Home, 17955 11 Mile Rd, Roseville, MI 48066. Bob will be inurned at Great Lakes National Cemetery in a private ceremony at a later date. Share a memory at [www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Detroit Wilbert Cremation Services, LLC

44481 Groesbeck Hwy.  
Clinton Township, MI 48036

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 7. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
utica@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Visitation

JUN 8. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
utica@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Funeral Services

---

JUN 9. 10:00 AM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
utica@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

# Tribute Wall

LP

“Bob will be greatly missed by the Veterans Affinity Group in Warren Michigan. We share in your loss.

*“Going Home”*

*When God calls  
His children home,  
His angels come  
to take them by the hand,  
leading them along  
a shining path into a place  
of peace and light.*

*Home at last  
they see the Lord open His arms,  
welcoming them with a smile  
into the everlasting joy and peace  
that is His love.*

*As the Lord welcomes  
your loved one home  
to perfect peace,  
may He also comfort you  
and lead you through your sorrow.*

---

**Lisa Pennick-Taylor** - June 17, 2015 at 07:44 AM

WA

“ To the family of Robert Brinker: Please accept my sincere sympathy for the loss of your loved one. While we don't know one another, experiencing the devastation of losing a loved one is something we all face in our lives. The Bible promises a time when "death will be no more" (Rev 21:3.4) and assures us that God hears our prayers (Ps 55:22). I hope this brings you some peace during this difficult time.

---

**wanda** - June 11, 2015 at 07:32 AM

PN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



---

**Patti Neal** - June 10, 2015 at 10:15 AM

PN

1993 - The first year Bob and Judy were Santa and Mrs. Claus at Local 160 Breakfast with Santa.

---

**Patti Neal** - June 10, 2015 at 10:17 AM

NP

“ My condolences to all the Brinker family. I met Bob through Rick Brinker at golf outings in various states. Bob was sure enough genuine in the short times I spent with him and always had something good to say. I think about Bob, Rob, and Earl every time golf is brought up as I shot my best game with Bob. Funny how the memory works but he will always be remembered by me.

*Rick, you Kathy have been in Robin and my thoughts continuous. You know we love you buddy.*

*Nick Pipes*

---

**Nick Pipes** - June 09, 2015 at 08:43 AM

TF

“ Thinking of you all today during this difficult time. We will miss him so much and will never forget the happy memories with him. Best Santa Ever!

---

**The Evans Family** - June 09, 2015 at 05:41 AM

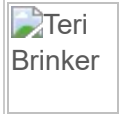
CC

“ Our condolences to the Brinker family. We are the owners of the 1967 Camaro Bob bought. My husband is also a Vietnam Vet. Jack & Carol Craig, Bakersfield, Ca



---

**Carol Craig** - June 08, 2015 at 05:00 PM



*That is soooo awesome, I loved that car!! My dad would be so proud of what you have done with it, it looks amazing!! Thank you for you condolences!! His daughter Teri Lynne*

**Teri Brinker** - June 09, 2015 at 12:13 AM



*He would love this. The perfect tribute. Thank you so much for sharing this! His daughter Kelly*

**Kelly Brinker** - June 09, 2015 at 06:09 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert J. Brinker.*



June 08, 2015 at 03:33 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert J. Brinker.*



June 08, 2015 at 11:18 AM

PN

“ To the Brinker family I am so sorry for your loss - Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal.

*UAW Local 160 has lost a an important part of our family. Truly a champion for our membership, Veterans, kids in fact anyone. Bob was a gentle and kind soul.*

*I am so happy I got one last bear hug from him at our most recent Union meeting, just a few days before he passed away. Didn't know why at the time and I suppose neither did he - we held that hug a little longer than normal. On Thursday morning I knew why.*

*I loved the way Bob would say my name when he said hello. He always said my full name - not just my first name and he said it in a happy sing song way - that just makes you feel good.*

*Bob was so generous with his time to people and organizations. Bob and his family were Santa Claus and family to a couple generations of UAW 160 children. In 1993 The Women's Committee had someone else as Santa and Mrs. Claus but they were charging us \$200. Bob volunteered for free and it wasn't just Bob and Judy the whole family was there to help.*

*Bob gave to so much within Local 160, Region 1 and the community and our Country.*

*Thank you to Judy and family for sharing him with us.*

*So happy for my last Brinker - Bear Hug.*

*Patti Neal  
UAW Local 160*

---

**Patricia Neal** - June 08, 2015 at 09:27 AM



*Thank you Patti and your right, he always called you by both names!!! He was a truly great man and will be missed terribly!!!! His daughter Teri Lynne*

**Teri Brinker** - June 09, 2015 at 12:21 AM



*Teri - My dad is buried at Great Lakes and I will visit your Dad when I visit my Dad. It was a beautiful service brought me to tears a few times. And of course some laughs.*

**Patti Neal** - June 10, 2015 at 10:02 AM



*“ Our sincere condolences to the Brinker family. Was a great guy and made all of us apprentices feel welcome at the fab. My greatest memories are golfing with him and sharing tons of laughs. RIP brother. Till we meet again.*

*Robert "Wes" Mosqueda  
UAW Local 653*

**wes mosqueda** - June 08, 2015 at 06:46 AM



*“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert J. Brinker.*



June 08, 2015 at 06:42 AM

JK

“ How I miss my Brinkie ... But what would you have me do today? You wouldn't want for me or any of us to mope around but only wanted the best for everyone. And you included everyone; no one was unworthy of your kind regards.

*I've known you about 8 years at the tech center, and most recently got to know you a bit more as you inspected my furnace and water heater and then my new house. You wouldn't even let me pay you. I tried multiple times but was always brushed off ... I was learning more about you! You are a giver!!! Omg your are a living saint and I was so lucky to have met you.*

*I'll never forget when you told me a little about your tank commander days when that officer ordered you and the other 10 tanks to go back to a low area and do some more work ... But you and your buddy, I forget his name, could smell trouble down there and you told that officer to fly a kite and thirty seconds later bombs light up the area you were ordered to go to. That decision saved the lives of 40 of your men! And your own.*

*And you went on and came home and created a beautiful life for your budding family and friends. You came home and worked through the trauma of war times. You came home and turned yourself into as great of a human being as could be done. You are a living legend and saint Brinkie!*

*I miss you but your with me too. It's different knowing that your not here this morning. And your buddy Dan misses you. And everyone at the tech center misses you.*

*So have a great day today in whatever way that you choose! This is your day! This is your week! Teach us to be better people and especially to be givers instead of takers. One of your greatest lessons to me was that I too can be a Giver. I'll work at it Bobby! I have a lot to learn before I'm filled with the Light that beamed out of you every single day of your life.*

**Jerry Kitchen** - June 08, 2015 at 05:33 AM



Teri Brinker

*You are very lucky and must of been very special to my dad!! He didn't tell very many people about his war stories, not even us!! You have given me a gift of hearing one of my dads stories that I have never heard before and I thank you for that!!!*

**Teri Brinker** - June 09, 2015 at 12:25 AM

JK

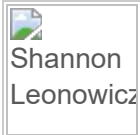
*Nice to read your reply Teri! You and your family were beautiful to meet on Tuesday ... My thoughts are with you*

**Jerry Kitchen** - June 10, 2015 at 06:19 AM

EP

“ *"Butch" a wonderful cousin in years gone by*

**E M Powers** - June 07, 2015 at 09:18 PM



Shannon Leonowicz

“ *I can still hear him say "hey kiddo" , like he did everyday at work passing by , such a great person and he will be missed by all!*

**Shannon Leonowicz** - June 07, 2015 at 08:33 PM

JO

“ *Still remember his black Chevy !! Joey*

**joey** - June 07, 2015 at 07:45 PM

CS

“ *Bob will be truly be missed by our entire family. We will never forget his loving and careing personality. Regardless of the situation Bob was always there to help everone. If someone needed something Bob didnt have to know them personally to help he always just did it. Throughout the years we grew to know Bob as a loyal friend, Santa, and to our children Uncle Bob.*

*Regardless of the time, day or night we always knew Bob was just a phone call away. Our prayers are with all of you during this sad and difficult time.*

*May God wrap His loving arms around all of Bob's family and friends as he spreads his wings and flys throught heavens light's.*

*Hugs*

*Chris and Jeri Shamoun*

---

**chris shamoun** - June 07, 2015 at 01:55 PM

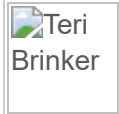
DM

“ *It has been a rare and great privilege for me to have worked with and spent time with Bob and his family. Bob was extremely intelligent, hard working, and fun to be around. He was an excellent teacher, athlete, mentor, and friend. He was very generous with his time and money for those in need.*

*I came to know how devoted Bob was to his family and how much he treasured them. Bob talked about his family every day and was proud of each and every one of them.*

---

**Dan Meldrum** - June 07, 2015 at 12:42 PM



*Thank you Dan!!! You have been so wonderful to us over the last couple days and to my dad always!! We are so grateful that my dad found and called you his friend. You and your wife are family to us and we just can't thank you enough!!*

Teri Brinker - June 09, 2015 at 12:29 AM

KM

*“ Bob was an excellent example of how to live a fully-engaged life with family, friends, community, and work. His life was too short in years, but he packed a lot of living into the years he had. He made a real difference to the world. It was a life well lived. We admired Bob for this.  
For us, his friendship was a real gift and he treated us like family. We will miss Bob greatly and offer our condolences to his family and to all who knew and loved him.*

Kathleen (Mrs. Dan Meldrum) - June 07, 2015 at 12:40 PM

BC

*“ My deepest condolences to the family. I'm truly thankful to have had Bob as a great neighbor & friend. Bob was always willing to help out and share his knowledge. I learned a lot from him and he will always be remembered in my thoughts.*

Bob Caporale - June 07, 2015 at 12:35 PM



*Thank you Bob!!!*

Teri Brinker - June 09, 2015 at 12:30 AM

PB

*“ to the family. i met bob at the tech center. he was a wonderful man. he was a fierce union person. bob, helped me out several times. so sorry to heard of his passing.*

patricia bellomo - June 07, 2015 at 10:10 AM

BZ

“ Bob was a great friend, a great plumber, and a Great Santa Claus.....R.I.P.....The GM Tech Center will miss your wit and your efforts for the Veterans....

Bill Ziemba - June 07, 2015 at 09:26 AM

JD

“ 1949 - 2015..... sometimes there are just not enough words.....to describe a dash. Jim "JD" DeGeorge

james degeorge - June 06, 2015 at 08:59 PM

JJ

“ Judy, Robbie, Teri, Kelly, Joey, Eric,

Words cannot express the sadness in Jane and my heart today. We are so sorry for your loss. Bob touched so many lives over a life time. His passing will be felt in our organization for many many years to come. Sorry we can not be there, but our prayers go out to you and your family. RIP My Friend.

Jim French, Jr.  
UAW Region 1 Veterans Council-Vice Chairman  
Great Lakes National Cemetery Advisory Council-Trustee

Jim French, Jr. - June 06, 2015 at 12:52 PM

 Teri Brinker

Thank You Jim!!! Thank you for being a great friend to my dad and our family!!

Teri Brinker - June 09, 2015 at 12:32 AM

LB

“ Bob was THE BEST! I first met him more than 35 years ago - playing softball. We were on many different teams together. I remember him bringing Robbie along to our games and practices. Throughout the next 35 years, he helped me and my family with plumbing issues. No matter what or when it happened - he would be there for us and we appreciated that more than you know. And after he finished the jobs, he would sit at our table and talk about his family - and how proud he was of each and every one of them and their accomplishments. It was so obvious - he treasured his family- you were his reason for living! Bob was so generous with his time - to us, his other clients/friends, his family, his job, the veterans, and those who knew him as Santa Claus. A better man doesn't exist on this earth! Bob will be sorely missed by so many - including us. You are ALL in our prayers. Please let us know what we can do to help you at this sorrowful time. Most sincerely, Gary Boehmer and his family

---

**Linda Boehmer** - June 06, 2015 at 09:39 AM

 Teri Brinker

Thank you Mr Boehmer!! You and my dad have been friends forever!! We truly appreciate that as well as you and your family!!!

---

**Teri Brinker** - June 09, 2015 at 12:34 AM

EF

“ Don't know where to start. He was my best friend; always ready to pull me out of a jam, and there were many. He took me under his wing and there I stayed for thirty years. He put my families needs plumbing, heating, cooling house inspections anything we needed he was there. He helped me so much. My children used to call him Bob the builder. Golf vacations, we had many and always a great time. I owe a lifetime of gratitude to him, He was always ready to make my problems go away. I will miss him always. One Great Person and a true friend to many.

---

**Earl Ferree** - June 06, 2015 at 12:30 AM



Shannon  
Leonowicz

*'I saw him that day working on a door at work, and he said the same thing he said to me everyday, "hey kiddo" ... So sad:(*

**Shannon Leonowicz** - June 07, 2015 at 08:32 PM



Teri  
Brinker

*Earl, you know Dad loved you more than anything!!! We all do!! Your our Earl!!! Xoxo*

**Teri Brinker** - June 09, 2015 at 12:35 AM



JJ

*“ My deepest condolences to your family. I remember your dad from my visits to your house while at my Grandma's. I remember his smile and working outside!! I know my Grandparents would have been so sad to hear this news as well, but he joins them in heaven now. Prayers to Mrs. Brinker, and the Brinker family during this difficult time. - Jennifer Jesse (Mr. & Mrs. Boron - grandparents & neighbors)*

**Jennifer Jesse** - June 05, 2015 at 11:02 PM



Teri  
Brinker

*Thank you Jennifer, brings back so many memories of playing at your grandparents house!! Hopefully they are neighbors again!! I loved your grandparents!! I would see your grandma outside all the time before she passed away and she would always update me on how well you were doing. She was like a grandma to me too!!! Xoxo*

**Teri Brinker** - June 09, 2015 at 12:38 AM

VC

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with each of the Brinkers at the loss of Bob. He was loved and admired by family and friends. His loss will surely be felt by many. May you each find comfort, strength and peace as you grieve and celebrate his life. Keep all of the special memories you have of your dad, husband, uncle, brother-in-law, brother, and grandpa (and Santa) in your heart and mind where he will remain forever. Know that he was welcomed home into the loving arms of our Savior and that he will rest eternally. God bless. XOXOXO Vicki and Al Chaffman*

---

**Vicki Toquinto Chaffman** - June 05, 2015 at 09:46 PM



“ *Our deepest sympathy, we are so sorry and so saddened. All of you are in our thoughts and prayers. Bob was awesome and we loved everything about him. Hugs, Paul, Darlene and Paul.*

---

**Darlene Vigneau** - June 05, 2015 at 06:56 PM



*Thank you Darlene and Paul!! We love you guys!!!!!!!*

---

**Teri Brinker** - June 09, 2015 at 12:38 AM

DD

“ *God must have needed a Santa Claus in heaven so he called Bob home, take comfort in knowing he is in Gods loving care, and we will all be reunited one day.*

*Love, Dan & Kim Deon*

---

**daniel deon** - June 05, 2015 at 06:33 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert J. Brinker.*



---

June 05, 2015 at 06:13 PM



“ *Words, however kind, can't mend your heartache, but those who care and share your loss wish you comfort and peace of mind.*



---

**John Brown** - June 05, 2015 at 05:22 PM



*Yes he gave more than he received, in twenty some years I never heard a harsh word he always encourage and inspire.*

---

**John Brown** - June 08, 2015 at 04:47 AM



“ *Heartfelt sympathies to all the Brinkers. I know that Bob was deeply loved and will be missed. I hope that you can find comfort knowing that one day you will all be reunited. For now may God bless, keep, protect and bring you peace. much love, pam and Gary xoxox*

---

**pam menso** - June 05, 2015 at 03:24 PM

JR

“ *My dear Brother-In-Law - You will be missed.  
Rest in Peace. Love You! Joyce*



---


**joyce rund** - June 05, 2015 at 01:52 PM

PA

“ *No one can prepare you for a loss; it comes like a swift wind. But take comfort in knowing that he is now resting in the arms of our Lord. Our deepest condolences to you and your family. With love  
Bill & Paula (Berger) Flowers and family*

---

**Paula** - June 05, 2015 at 01:46 PM

 Lillian  
Hardy

“ *Lillian Hardy lit a candle in memory of Robert  
J. Brinker*



---

**Lillian Hardy** - June 05, 2015 at 11:55 AM