



## Robert Joseph Pokowski

March 22, 1924 - October 2, 2021

Robert Joseph Pokowski Sr., age 97, of Royal Oak, passed away October 2, 2021 in Lynnville, TN.

Beloved husband of the late Helen, to whom he was married 64 years. Loving father of Jan Pokowski, Tom (Deb), John, Carol, Betty, Tina (Mark) Lovell, Robert II (Dunia), and Therese Sullivan. Proud grandfather of eight and great-grandfather of seven.

Robert was a decorated WW II veteran who served on the USS Marcus Island as a Navy signalman and survived kamikaze warfare at sea in the Philippines.

Son of Polish immigrants, he grew up in Hamtramck, spoke Polish as a second language, held the culture's strong values and work ethic. He visited Poland in 2013.

"Bob" owned and operated Veterans Supply Wholesale Distributing in Hamtramck for fifty years.

He was an avid, dedicated and skilled bowler who created the original St. Dennis Parish Bowling Leagues and participated in three teams until age 95.

After 96 years in Michigan, Bob spent the last year enjoying the scenic rural

hills of Tennessee, happily living with his daughter Tina and husband Mark.

Visitation will be Monday, October 11, from 2 - 8 p.m. at Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 705 W. 11 Mile Rd. (4 blocks east of Woodward), Royal Oak. Funeral Mass will take place Tuesday, October 12, at 11:00 a.m. (10:30 visitation) at St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church, 28353 Herbert St., Madison Heights. Inurnment to take place at a later date at the Great Lakes National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you please consider a memorial contribution to the Michigan WW II Legacy Memorial: <https://michiganww2memorial.org/donate-now-1>.

Share a memory at [www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com](http://www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **11**. 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/>

## Funeral Mass

OCT **12**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church  
28353 Herbert Street  
Madison Heights, MI 48071

# Tribute Wall

JT

“ As a young chubby adolescent, I usually walked to the store (Vet Supply) for a ride home with Walter after hanging out with my friends from St. Lads. Bob was always there, cheering me on, being sweet and supportive. He always joked with the mongoose trick that jumped out at you from its box! There was no Vet Supply without Bob. His positive personality was just like his picture we see above. Bob is still with everybody, in thoughts, imagination, prayers, and I'll bet he's watching. So everybody, stay positive and be good.  
*Judith Borucki Tintinalli*

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**judith tintinalli** - October 12, 2021 at 11:08 AM

TI

*Thank you Judy*

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**tina** - October 13, 2021 at 08:31 AM

ML

“ Bob was partners with my father, Walter Borucki, in their Hamtramck, MI business Veterans Supply and Distributing Co Inc, for nearly 50 years. He was a wonderful, kind, and giving man who was always smiling and had a kind word for everyone. As my dad's daughter, I worked part-time for the business for 14 years and enjoyed interacting with Bob daily as he was fun to work with. I remember going to the Pokowski home in Royal Oak with my parents, interacting with them, their children and their dog Missy. I also remember going to Bob's mother's apartment, and having fun times there, too. Her birds nest cookies were fabulous and something I'll never forget. My sister, Judith (Judy) Tintinalli, MD, now living in North Carolina, has many loving memories of Bob and how kind he was to her.

*I loved the Christmas cards my husband and I received each year until a couple years ago. One was so beautiful, I had it framed. I was stunned to hear of his passing last week and my condolences to his entire family. I know I will always remember him in my thoughts and prayers. I am sure he is happy to be reunited with his wife, my dad and mom, his mother, and other relatives who have passed before him. He was very lucky to have such a long and rich life.*

*Mary LePage (nee Borucki)*

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Mary LePage - October 11, 2021 at 04:43 PM



“ Tranquil Seas was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph Pokowski.



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October 10, 2021 at 06:06 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph Pokowski.*



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October 10, 2021 at 10:54 AM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph Pokowski.*



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October 10, 2021 at 07:53 AM



“ *Doug Pumphrey purchased the Lovely One Spat hiphyllum Plant for the family of Robert Joseph Pokowski.*



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**Doug Pumphrey** - October 09, 2021 at 04:59 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph Pokowski.*



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October 09, 2021 at 02:13 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph Pokowski.*



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October 07, 2021 at 04:20 PM



“ *Bob Pokowski was quite the character! My husband and I shared a cruise with him and his son John. Even in his 90s he was up for anything and enjoyed life. He claimed he knew my mother from Hamtramck, as he made the rounds with all the pretty girls. Pray for us Bob. We all need it. Frank and Elaine Yager.*

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**Elaine Yager** - October 07, 2021 at 02:31 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy to John and the entire Pokowski family. Little did I know when I met John over 30 years ago we would discover that that my Dad was a frequent customer of Bob's at Veterans Supply for many years. I can only imagine the conversations they had with both of them having served in WWII. Dad always said how much he enjoyed visiting with Bob. Getting his maintenance company supplies was one thing but, even more important, was the comradarie they shared. I met Bob on several occasions (most recently at John's retirement party) and marveled at his vigor and youthful appearance. I admired his love of travel (especially with his faithful travel companion John) and his zest for life. He certainly lived life to the fullest and now he reaps the rewards of a good and faithful life. Have a little visit with my parents, Bob. You all are loved dearly and we carry your memory with us until we meet again.*

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**Judy Ward** - October 07, 2021 at 09:07 AM

KP

“ Oh! The Memories we have! I was blessed to get Uncle Bob as an Uncle when I married Ken. My fondest memory is that of convincing him to fly out of Columbus for his Honor Flight. I bugged him for quite a while to fill out papers to apply. When he and John came to my Dad's funeral November, 2010 I was so touched. However, then I asked Uncle Bob where his application papers were. He immediately pulled them out from behind his back and handed them to me. He KNEW I would be asking. May, 2011 he came down and went on the flight with John as his guardian and a total miracle happened shortly before his flight when Ken got to go as well with another veteran--when a guardian fell ill. The entire trip they felt Stanley with them. At the end of a very long day, everyone was tired but Bob wanted to go "out to eat." He was full of excitement from the day! The next morning all of us heard noises at 6:30 a.m. Uncle Bob was up, showered, and made his bed. I ordered him back to bed and those orders were ignored. LOL!! Then when he told John that he couldn't sleep, John said did it ever occur to you to just lie there and rest. It was hilarious but Uncle Bob was up and so we all had to get up. He asked me to pinch him more than once and asked me if "Yesterday was a Dream!" He then became a Huge Proponent of all eligible veterans to go on Their Honor Flight. There are so very many memories! We were so very Blessed to have Uncle Bob and Aunt Helen. I remember he called her "Mother." They are together again for eternity with Stanley and Elinor and so very many others. LOVE NEVER ENDS and there really is No Death. We just shed our physical bodies but remain around Our Loved Ones to guard and protect them. We can only imagine the Reunion on The Other Side and look forward to being with them when our work, too. has been completed. Love, Ken & Pat

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Ken & Pat P - October 07, 2021 at 08:10 AM

LN

“ *Condolences to the entire family. We always enjoyed uncle Bob's visits to us here in Florida; initially with Aunt Helen and later with John. Uncle Bob was my confirmation sponsor.*  
*Larry Nadrowski*

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**Larry Nadrowski** - October 06, 2021 at 12:51 PM

RP

“ *Do widzenia*

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**Ron pikor** - October 06, 2021 at 08:13 AM

TM

*Cousin Ron. We would say this to him every night when we tucked him in bed! xo tina*

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**tmjlovell** - October 06, 2021 at 12:26 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph Pokowski.*



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October 04, 2021 at 02:23 PM

CT

“ *I only met you once but it was so amazing, I'm sure, for both of us and that's what matters.*  
*Love Chris*



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**Chris Tichy** - October 04, 2021 at 02:01 PM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph Pokowski.*



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October 04, 2021 at 01:57 PM



“ *I'm so saddened for your loss. I've never actually gotten to meet Mr. Bob but for the last 22 years I've gotten to 'know' and love him through Tina. I am so grateful to him for his service during the war and for also for raising one of the kindest, most compassionate and generous friends I've ever had, Tina. My love and prayers are with you all.*

*Love,  
Julie Carroll*

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**Julie Carroll** - October 04, 2021 at 10:29 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**tmjlovell** - October 04, 2021 at 09:31 AM

TM

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



tmjlovell - October 04, 2021 at 08:50 AM

JP

“ A plaque at the Mt Soledad National Veterans Memorial in LaJolla CA honors the service of this beautiful man as part of America's "greatest generation". A humble man of strong values and kind and generous spirit.



Jan Pokowski - October 03, 2021 at 09:08 PM

JP

“ Dad spent his last year in Mark and Tina's home in TN, where this photo was taken. He enjoyed his time and care there and loved them for making it possible.  
God blessed us with him and has now called him home.



Jan Pokowski - October 03, 2021 at 08:11 PM