



Robert Zimmerman

June 16, 1930 - November 13, 2017

Robert Zimmerman, born June 16, 1930 transitioned to his next big adventure on Monday, November 13, 2017 at the age of 87. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, friend and general comedian to all. Bob (Zim) attended Southeastern High School in Detroit, Michigan. He served our country as an Army soldier in the Korean War where he developed a passion for all things automobiles. His career at General Motors spanned 35 years. His love of motor sports, racing and mechanics was a part of his DNA until the very end; frequently asking anyone who would listen to take him out to the garage so he could work on things. His zeal for adventure and living life to the fullest was his trademark characteristic. Nothing was impossible for Bob. He took up downhill ski racing in his 60s and even launched a second career out of the basement of their Johnston Street home. Camping, bowling, golf, travel, computers, Zimmerizing everything and hanging out with his girlfriend of 75 years summarizes retirement for Bob. He is survived by his wife of 64 years (Marilyn Blair), 2 daughters, Roberta Flick (Dan) and Sandy McCarthy (Jim), 4 grandchildren, Emily Lock (Doug), Leah Flick, Meghan McCarthy and Jimmy McCarthy, and 2 great-grandchildren, Addison Lock and Easton Lock.

Private family graveside services will be held at Great Lakes National Veterans Cemetery.

Tribute Wall

KG

“ Dear Zimmerman Family, I want to share my first memory of Uncle Bob, it was when I first met all the Zimmerman's, Thanksgiving of 1985. Wow was that overwhelming :) but Uncle Bob's bright smile and inviting disposition made me feel welcome and at home. Who knows maybe it convinced me to marry John? I am so thankful for his wonderful legacy of love, joy, friendship and goodwill. He will be in my heart and sorely missed. Love, Karen Zimmerman

Karen Gutowsky-Zimmerman - November 28, 2017 at 12:46 PM

NI

“ One of my early memories is uncle Bob giving me a ride on the handle bars of his bike. How great it was having a uncle that was into cars and a "Hot Rodder". His influence on Me lasted my whole life. Even later in life we still went to the hot rod show together and the air shows. It was really special having uncle Bob there because he knew everything about the cars and airplanes. Attending the hot rod show and the air shows will never be the same without uncle Bob. I will miss him greatly. Nephew Nick.

Nick Wissinger III - November 25, 2017 at 05:45 PM

SH

“ We are so sad to hear that Uncle Bob went to heaven and we didn't get to spend time with him again for so long. He was such a special Uncle, and always had lots of fun stories to tell. Whenever we had problems with our cars (after Dad went to heaven) he was there with a solution. Over the years we spent many holidays and so many special occasions together. Family reunions, birthdays, weddings, and Christmas eves. I remember looking forward to all of them and spending time together as family.

Uncle Bob, we love you and pray that you are at peace. I'll bet you never thought that you would be an Angel. You are now, along with Mom, Dad, and Nancy. We'll miss you.

Love, Jose and Sharon

Sharon - November 22, 2017 at 05:47 PM

JW

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Jerry Worley - November 22, 2017 at 10:50 AM

EZ

“ Hello to my Aunt Marilyn and my cousins Roberta and Sandy. I am so sorry for your loss. My wife showed me the obituary in the paper and asked if it could be a relative. I looked at it and said this is my Uncle Bob. When my dad passed away many, many years ago, our families drifted apart for reasons unknown to me. To update you, my mother passed away in 2003 and my sister Diane a few years later, both from strokes. My sister LeeAnn passed away just a few months ago after a short battle with cancer. My sister Joanne lives in Kingsville Ontario. My brother John lives in the Dearborn area. My wife of 35 years, Bev and I live in Troy. We have a son, Nicholas who lives in Berkley and a daughter , Sally who lives in Chicago. I am very happy that all of you got to enjoy Uncle Bob for so many years and sad that I did not know him as an adult as he sounds like a very special man. It sounds like him and I would have had many things in common... automobiles, outdoors, zimmerize! I have been accused of zimmerizing things for years, I just never knew the proper term for it. Now that I do, it will be used frequently. I wish you all good health and God Bless Uncle Bob and all your family as you try to recover from this great loss.

Edward Zimmerman

Son of Richard and Clara Zimmerman

Edward Zimmerman - November 21, 2017 at 10:27 PM



Ohh, Edward, so sweet of you to write and good to hear from you and words about your family after probably at least 50 years! You have certainly experienced loss and sadness also. Mom was so pleased to hear from you. Thank you!

My memories of Uncle Richard, Aunt Clare, you and your siblings at your home in Clinton Township are all of fun times together. My husband, Dan Flick, and I live in Washington, MI with our youngest daughter, Leah. Our oldest daughter, Emily, and her husband, Doug, with our grandchildren, Addison & Easton, are nearby, too. My sister, Sandy, and her family live in the Indianapolis area and we get to see them quite a few times a year.

Funny to hear that you now have a word to describe your enthusiasm to Zimmer-ize things that don't seem to need improvement either! Sounds like you got those genes from Dad. :)

Roberta Flick - November 22, 2017 at 12:16 PM

DN

“ Mark and I remember meeting you in Orange Beach, AL, when you camped near the Phoenix condos. Dan and Roberta took us to meet you at your camper. Fun! Have heard so much about you over the years. You will be missed. God Bless. Mark and Debbi Nyholm

Deborsh Nyholm - November 19, 2017 at 05:34 PM

PO

“ Bob, you've gone to what is called "a better place", but you'll never be forgotten.

Living 2 doors away from you for 50plus years leave unforgettable memories and thoughts of some of your favorite habits--like walking over sitting down on the deck or knocking on the door-wall and waiting for a visit and a J.D.!

The years we enjoyed you as a special friend was a "treat" sent from the Man above.

A visit with Bob---never a dull moment

*Love and thoughts to you Marilyn, girls & rest of family,
Jackie & Norb*

Poltorak's - November 19, 2017 at 02:15 PM



“ *It's been incredible reading everyone's tribute and recount of memories of my Dad. He absolutely had a full and adventurous life. He was the consummate fun and funny guy. But the most significant moment I will remember happened in the last months of my Dad's life. I'm grateful for the dementia that so crippled his mind of things of the past, that it allowed room for things eternal. I believe in my heart that in the end, Dad opened his mind to the love, grace and peace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. I'm confident that for the first time, Dad is now experiencing freedom and joy like he never knew on earth. He is with the saints that have gone before him, and more than likely, already zipping around heaven in a Zimmer-ized red mini cooper. Can't wait to see you again Dad. I love you more, Sandy*

Sandy McCarthy - November 19, 2017 at 12:16 PM

JZ

“ So many memories, but one that I will never forget. Uncle Bob bought a brand new red 59' Corvette and he and my Aunt Marilyn stopped by the house, 'Hey Johnny, jump in, let's go for a ride'. Can't even remember where I sat because it was only a two seater but it was so much fun. Many fond moments growing up with Uncle Bob at family gatherings. His energy and enthusiasm for life will surely be missed. God Bless his soul.

John R (Johnny Z)

John Zimmerman - November 18, 2017 at 06:09 PM



Ha - he probably put you in the trunk where Berta and me used to ride (this 2 seater was our family car). LOL Today, Child Protective Services would be called.

Sandy McCarthy - November 19, 2017 at 12:21 PM

RF

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Roberta L Flick - November 18, 2017 at 04:02 PM

FC

“ I remember when they moved out here in Macomb he and Marilyn went to Adarary's and I would go meet them at times and loved talking to him, always a fun time. When it was time to pay he would say I don't let my girlfriends pay. So much about Bob was in the positive and always enjoyed his company. I will keep in touch with Marilyn, she has been s great friend and one I could always count on. Stay strong my friend we will get together soon. 😭
🥺

Fara Chirco - November 18, 2017 at 02:02 PM

MZ

“ WOW!! My boyfriend of 75 years and my loving husband for 64 of them. So many memories that will not be forgotten. I am just happy God came and took his hand and said it's time to stop the pain and the discomfort. He has a place for you with your parents and friends waiting to play golf with you.

Yes, I will cry because I will miss you, but I want to celebrate your life, and it was a good one. You left me with two loving daughters and two caring son-in-laws, not to mention our grandchildren and great-grandchildren, not to say they aren't all great.

I will always remember a couple of weeks ago when I went to see you, you took my hand and looked at me said, "Do you know how much I love you?" Yes, is the answer, and I will cherish that moment as long as I live. I'll be fine, Dolly. Roberta and Sandy have been wonderful and so many friends, old and the ones here at the Rose. Until I join you for the good times, you are always in my heart and on my mind.

I love you.

Marilyn Zimmerman - November 18, 2017 at 01:42 PM

JW

“ Bob - Words are so lame at a time like this. You were one of a kind. Though we only made your acquaintance "later" in our lives, these last 15 years have been among the most memorable. We always knew we were going to have a good time when we were all together. Thank you Bob and Marilyn too for being so much a part of our lives. The word irreplaceable comes to mind. Till we meet again, we remain your dear friends. Jerry and Kathie Worley

Jerry and Kathie Worley - November 18, 2017 at 01:25 PM

RF

“ 23 files added to the album New Album Name



Roberta L Flick - November 17, 2017 at 11:27 PM

RF

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Roberta L Flick - November 17, 2017 at 07:37 AM

K(

“ I have known Mr Zimmerman my whole life. My parents owned a home next door to them. I have so many many fond memories of him. His race cars , their corn roast parties , his daily cocktail hour that whenever I was visiting my mom he never failed to invite me over. I always felt part of the family. Both him and his lovely wife Marilyn were a big part of the Johnston street clan ...even though they moved away they still are a big part of the Johnston street family ...a family that will never be the same without his smiling face. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Marilyn , their daughters Roberta and Sandy and all their families at this time of great loss Rest In Peace Mr Zinnemann.

Kathy Little (Carter) - November 16, 2017 at 09:25 PM

J(

“ Judy Polisena (Carter) lit a candle in memory of Robert Zimmerman



Judy Polisena (Carter) - November 16, 2017 at 04:46 PM

J(

“ I don't have a Johnston memory that does not include you Bob, you will be missed by everyone. You were definitely part of my family. Sending my love to Marilyn, Roberta and Sandy!
Love Judy Polisena (Carter)

Judy Polisena (Carter) - November 16, 2017 at 04:45 PM

LC

“ I miss having you and Marilyn in the swing having a cocktail every day at 4:00, walking at the mall, our dinners at New York Deli, and so many other things. You were great neighbors, nobody can ever replace you.

Rest In Peace Bob.

Love,

Lu

Lucille Carter - November 16, 2017 at 04:30 PM

E(

“ Grandpa, I am so thankful of all the memories I have with you and Grandma. The trips we took in the motor home, camping at Port Crescent, and our week visit while mom and Dad golfed--swinging on the swing while eating ice cream, a trip to Z's penny candy, you brushing out our hair and blow drying it while we watched 'Annie'--I think you always liked that movie deep down--I can still hear your groan when we wanted to watch that movie for the 100th time. Those were some of the fondest memories. Christmas at the house on Johnston was always one of my favorite times of the year--the smell of something delicious cooking and there always being shrimp with cocktail sauce that was created by you and a jar of horseradish. You have instilled in us how to be creative and 'zimmerize' something to make it the way it should have been made in the first place, how to be a hard worker and play hard--biking, swimming, gardening, skiing. Grandpa you were a wonderful man and I thank you for the 33 years of memories I have with you. We love you Grandpa.

Emily Lock (Granddaughter) - November 16, 2017 at 02:50 PM

PM

“ Unfortunately not every child grows up in a neighborhood like we had on Johnston Street, where every child had a dozen mothers, and all the fathers were there to help in any way needed. Truly, the lines between friend and family were very blurred. I have no memory of a time before my family knew the Zimmermans, and we all leaned on each other. So many things are swirling in my mind right now, times that our families spent together....talking over the fence, sharing and celebrating happy times, consoling and aiding in times of need, and the parties--Bob and Marilyn knew how to host some great parties!! I look back on those days wistfully, knowing that we will never know times like that again. I envision that Bob is in Heaven, working on a car, and probably good entirely arguing with my dad about the best way to do something; and they are both shaking their heads at the other one, knowing all the while that, if push comes to shove, they would do anything for each other. Our love and condolences to the Zimmerman family. We hope that very soon, the pain of grief will give way to happy memories of a life well lived, and a husband, father and friend well loved.

Patti and Mike McGillen - November 16, 2017 at 02:26 PM

RF

“ Your gifts to us, Dad, have been many, but I am particularly grateful for those that have been genetically-passed to me ; your love and enthusiasm to ski, golf, camping with family, to be in or near the water. Those are from you. Your talent in swimming, those gifts are with Addison and Easton. 😊

your work ethic. You modeled to us the personal reward for a full day’s work. And I would not be a court reporter today, had you not introduced this profession over 40 years ago by sharing your court transcripts of GM testimony with me.

your unparalleled interest in cars. Yep, that was from you, too. Not many new car designs get by me without notice either. My first car was arranged by you with the help of Tom Bodner in 1976, the cream Olds Omega. Your voice will continue in my head when I hear my wipers screech or a tire shake...“When are you going to get that looked at?”

I am especially grateful, though, Dad, for the time during the last eight months that I’ve been able to spend visiting with you and your new buddies at Regency...stories of your time in Korea, racing at Waterford, Johnston street families and corn roasts and luaus, Port Crescent memories. Not since the days before buying my car when you drove me back and forth to work at the hospital have we had this much time together. These are the memories of you I will live with forever.

There will be items I’ll observe in the coming years, Dad, and think of the ways you could somehow “Zimmer-ize” something that was just fine as it was, and think of you. We’ll be sure that Mom sees millions of lights on trees at Christmas for you, and we’ll think of you.

I am now confident that you are with “Jim’s friend”, Jesus, Dad. Maybe He will somehow get you that license to pilot a “Golden Girl” of the Flying Squadron!

I am proud to say that my name is Roberta, the daughter of Robert Zimmerman.

I love you, Dad.

Roberta L Flick - November 16, 2017 at 09:04 AM