



Robert "Bob" G. Baltzell

September 17, 1936 - July 11, 2024

Robert "Bob" G. Baltzell, age 87, of Kearney, died on Thursday, July 11, 2024 at his home in Kearney. Burial and graveside services will be on Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at 12:30 p.m. at the Kearney Cemetery. A memorial service will follow at 2:00 p.m. at the E-Free Church in Kearney, NE. Pastor John Fowler will officiate. Visitation will be from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 15, 2024 at Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral Home in Kearney. Memorials are suggested to Kearney E-Free Church. Please visit www.hlmkfuneral.com to leave a tribute or message of condolence. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney are in charge of arrangements.

Bob was born on September 17, 1936 in North Platte, NE to Robert W. and Bernice G. (Wilson) Baltzell. He grew up on a farm near Paxton, NE with his younger brother Clark. He attended country school until the 5th grade when the family moved to North Platte. Bob played drums in the North Platte High School Band and graduated in 1954. He then attended junior college in McCook, NE.

He married Judy Panzer on April 29, 1956 in McCook, NE. He was hired as an insurance adjuster in 1957 and worked in several Kansas towns. He was later transferred to Columbus, NE and finally, in 1970, to Kearney, where he would eventually retire after 41 years of insurance adjusting. Bob and Judy faithfully attended Kearney E-Free Church for 54 years.

Bob was a proud father to four children. His four granddaughters and three great-grandchildren brought joy to his life.

Bob enjoyed golfing, family camping trips, hunting and the Orchard Fishing Group, which he organized and enjoyed for many years. He was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan and liked watching any Husker athletic event. Bob loved a good card game and continued playing weekly with his buddies until his death.

Bob is survived by his wife, Judy; his brother, Clark Baltzell of Columbus, Ohio, his children Greg (Nancy) Baltzell of Kearney, Brenda (Bill) Roach of Elkhorn, Bruce Baltzell of Kearney, and Kelli Baltzell of Omaha; granddaughters, Kelsi (Dan) Miller, McKenzie Baltzell, Erika (Alex) Farrell, and Spencer Roach; three great-grandchildren, Cohen and Elliot Farrell and Witten Miller.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents.

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 15. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl
2421 Avenue A
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 237-2259
<https://www.hlmkfuneral.com>

Graveside Service

JUL 16. 12:30 PM (CT)

Kearney Cemetery
4400 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847

Memorial Service

JUL 16. 2:00 PM (CT)

Kearney E- Free Church
4010 7th Ave.
Kearney, NE 68845

Tribute Wall

TN

“ My parents, Mark and Liz Boettcher,(Columbus, NE) were good friends of Bob and Judy. I remember spending a lot of time at their house. Very sorry to hear of Bob’s passing. He always made me laugh!

Al and I babysat the Baltzell kids when we were going to college in Kearney.

With sympathy,

Tanya Boettcher Niedbalski

Columbus, NE

Tanya Boettcher Niedbalski - August 08, 2024 at 07:15 PM

KR

“ Judy and family,
I am so sorry for your loss at this time.
Prayers of blessing and comfort of peace and
great memories. It's the love of Jesus' name.



Kimberly Rebman - July 16, 2024 at 06:28 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" G. Baltzell.



July 15, 2024 at 10:05 PM

LS

“ Love, The Squad planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert "Bob" G. Baltzell.

Love, The Squad - July 15, 2024 at 10:05 PM

MM

“ Bruce & Kelli, So sorry to here of your fathers passing. Prayer for you all.
Mary Molina



MARY J Molina - July 15, 2024 at 03:02 PM

MH

“ 2 files added to the album Fisherman's Group-Bob B. Chartered Member



Mike Herring - July 15, 2024 at 12:45 PM

MH

“ From Mike Herring...

I experienced so much sadness when Kelli called saying our beloved Bob had passed. There are so many memories of our families living next door and of the West 36th St. "family" we all shared.

Certainly, Merle & Bob were inseparable. They golfed, fished, & enjoyed their cocktails together. Even during the week when they traveled for work out west, they would coordinate getting together for an enjoyable meal. It must have been just too long since they had seen each other the past Sunday. You would have thought that Judi & Margie would have been jealous!

My specific memory was when Bob came to help when Merle had his heart attack right after they played 18 holes of golf that morning. Who would have thought that Bob would outlast Merle by 31 years.

Bob also got me my first career in insurance with GAB Business Services after I graduated from Wesleyan. He must have had some real clout with the higher ups to give this "kid" a shot. I have to thank Bob for getting me started in a great career 43 years later.

I just know Merle & Bob are back together again. We love & will miss you, Bob.

Mike Herring - July 15, 2024 at 12:39 PM

LV

“ *My condolences to Bob's family. Sorry to learn of his passing. May he Rest in Peace.*

Larry Voss, Class of 54

Larry D Voss - July 14, 2024 at 06:30 PM

RN

“ Condolences to Judy and Family so sorry to hear of the death of Bob. He was the best man for Chuck and Rae Kelso’s wedding in June 1998. Kept in contact most of the years, both raising our families! Time flies by very fast, was not in contact our last golden years! Bob was a dear friend of Chuck for many years living in Paxton, Nebraska. RIP

Rae Nicholson SCW, AZ

Rae Nicholson - July 13, 2024 at 05:25 PM

CK

“ Chuck and Monica Kelso purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Robert "Bob" G. Baltzell.



Chuck and Monica Kelso - July 13, 2024 at 02:16 PM

BT

“ Bruce very sorry to hear of your fathers passing, we are thinking of you.

Brian and Jackie Thompson - July 12, 2024 at 03:20 PM