



## Robert Dale Shields

June 16, 1942 - July 4, 2024

Shields, Robert Dale, 82, passed away unexpectedly July 4. Survived by life partner Mary Visneski, brother Jeff (Leslie), sisters Vicky (Craig Mevissen) and Stephanie Kampa (Bob) and nine nephews & nieces: Zach Shields, Luke Shields, Joe Kampa, Bridget Harrington, Anne Baryenbruch, Caitlin Brown, Robert Mevissen, Andy Kampa, Grace Mevissen. Visitation Thursday July 11, 10:00. Service 11:00 @ Washburn-McReavy, Edina Chapel, 5000 West 50th Street & Hwy 100, Edina, MN.

Robert Shields (fondly known as "Bob" or "Bobby") was born on June 16, 1942 in Abilene, Texas where his father Robert Sr. (also Bob) was stationed before being sent to the front. Bobby's mother Imelda, affectionately known as "Wink," decided to bring him to her hometown of Holdingford, Minnesota where she could raise him with family living there. Those childhood Holdingford memories with extended family were some of Bobby's most cherished.

The young family then settled in the Minneapolis area, where Bobby became a big brother to siblings Jeff, Vicky and Stephanie. Majority of those young

years were spent on Jersey Ave. with a neighborhood life rich with biking, yard games, ball in the street, team games at Bronx Park and lifelong friendships. Outside of the "school of life," Bobby's formal education included the Basilica of St. Mary's, the first graduating class from Benilde High School and Dunwoody College of Technology for drafting.

Bobby's career spanned his many interests including positions at Master Addresser, property management with cousins Mark and Kathy, and security worker for various businesses in the downtown area. Bobby also kept busy following all the Minnesota professional teams, and lived out some of that passion for sports by coaching basketball and baseball and organizing several seasons of softball at Aquila Park fields.

The most important thread throughout Bobby's life was his family and friends. He and his lifelong partner, Mary Visneski, embraced their love for an abundance of family with nine nieces and nephews on Bobby's side and six children and grandchildren on Mary's side.

Bobby was playful. Always the "fun uncle" treating the nieces and nephews to experiences that showed his sense of humor and child-at-heart attitude, keeping everyone wondering what he would dream up next. Bob was gentle, modest, generous and kind. And above all: faithful. He always showed up for those around him (and often early at that!). We only wish we had more time to enjoy life with Bobby, but we are extremely grateful for the memories and stories we were lucky to have with him. Please feel free to add your own

memories or stories to the website tribute wall.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, we ask you to consider a donation to Benilde-St. Margaret's in Bobby's name.

# Cemetery Details

## Grandview Park Cemetery

6901 Maloney Avenue  
Hopkins, MN 55343

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Edina Chapel  
5000 West 50th & Highway 100  
Edina, MN 55436

## Chapel Service

JUL 11. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel  
5000 West 50th & Highway 100  
Edina, MN 55436

## Graveside Service

JUL 11. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Grandview Park Cemetery  
6901 Maloney Avenue  
Hopkins, MN 55343



# Tribute Wall

“My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive with passion, compassion, humor and style”. Maya Angelou

*My mum called the other morning and told me about her recent reflection on Bobby's life. The beauty of story-telling is that each of us can layer and build our individual perspectives, collectively, to create rich and multidimensional memories. It also highlights how each of us can take away different experiences from the same event. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Grace Mevissen. I am the youngest Shields cousin and, arguably by some, Bobby's favorite niece. Thank you for taking time this morning to celebrate Uncle Bobby's beautiful life. I can attest that Bobby lived a life in which he not only thrived, but ensured that his loved ones did too. That's something I strive to emulate in my life too.*

*As the proclaimed "fun aunt," I am learning about the importance of creating magic moments for my nieces and nephews. I know I can speak for all the cousins when I say that our core childhood memories are filled with fun adventures that were concocted, planned AND most importantly paid for by Uncle Bobby. [As you heard from Father Gillespie], everything from Lady of the Lake boat rides to roller coaster escapades, our childhood was flush with special memories that were possible because of Uncle Bobby. I mean, who in their right mind would agree to go on a Disney trip with five children under the age of 10? Uncle Bobby. Bobby had the gift of not only showing up, but truly being present and keeping our needs at the center of his efforts.*

*Growing up when asked the questions, "What is your favorite restaurant?" I would answer without hesitation, "Old Spaghetti Factory!" For those of you who know me, you know there isn't a carb I don't love. But the restaurant was more than just delicious food. It was a catalyst to an enchanting evening that included a limousine ride around town searching for the most dazzling Christmas lights. As we got older, the limo rides were traded for bowling shoes at Park Tavern. Bobby continued to shower the*

*people in his community with unconditional love. The cousins were able to connect in the limo or on the lanes in ways that we wouldn't have otherwise.*

*A couple of years ago Bobby invited me to a Twins game. A special date just the two of us. After picking him up at his place Downtown, we made our way to the game. It wasn't too long into the game that Bobby turned to me with a big grin on his face. What I didn't realize was it was Dollar Dog Night and we were going to get our money's worth. If you knew Bobby, you knew that he loved a good deal. Reflecting back on that night, I can't help but think about his joy. It was so contagious. I had already eaten and still found myself scarfing down hot dogs while cheering on the Twins. This same childlike joy appeared on Bobby's face just a few weeks ago as we celebrated his birthday with root beer floats. From reminiscing about his trips to Duluth with Mary to indulging in dollar dogs, Bobby shared a joy for BOTH life's big AND small moments.*

*As I think about Bobby's legacy I can't help but see these values and characteristics in my siblings and cousins. Bobby has planted a seed in each of us that continues to grow and flourish in our own communities. I can't wait for him to see how our chapters continue to unfold from the foundation he paved. Thank you again for helping us celebrate Bobby.*

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**Grace** - July 13, 2024 at 03:48 PM

JE

“ *My Brother Bobby-by Jeff, 9 years younger*

*Was diagnosed with polio at a young age. Braces/Crutches, but never a word of complaint*

*Wanted to do everything-played first base in pickup baseball games due to limited range, but boy, could he launch a ball when batting!*

*His friends affectionately called him Baby Huey, and then Hugo*

*Walked a mile with me to go sledding by the Institute of Arts*

*Helped me learn to ride a bike*

*Shared a room growing up. He had his own TV and a private phone line, a VERY big deal*

*Watched Three Stooges and Roller Derby-The San Francisco Bay Area Bombers on Sunday mornings after church*

*Bobby was academically challenged, but we were all very proud of his graduation from Benilde*

*Believe it or not, paid me for good grades!*

*Helped me learn how to drive-showed me how to handle a car in a very slippery snow covered parking lot at IHM school/church after coaching Holy Family grade school basketball. He also coached baseball for Holy Family 7th and 8th graders.*

*Organized adult softball teams at Aquila for our neighbors and friends, getting sponsorships, etc.*

*Bought a dark green very fast 1969 Roadrunner, complete with beep-beep horn. Even let me take it on a couple of dates. Boy, did my head swell as my friends took in the car I was driving.*

*Invited my friends and schoolmates to play pickup basketball on Sunday nights at the apartment building where he lived with cousin Mark.*

*Helped me get two jobs in college, one delivering flowers and another at a sporting goods shop.*

*Truly adopted my two boys, Zach and Luke, and began to answer to the call of “Uncle Bobby”*

*While he shrank a bit in height as he got older, I teased him about it, but he was and will always be my big brother*

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Jeff - July 12, 2024 at 06:41 AM

KK

*What a great brother*

Kathleen Kokotovich - July 12, 2024 at 03:49 PM

KK

*What a great brother*

Kathleen Kokotovich - July 12, 2024 at 03:50 PM

KK

*I met you in the office a few weekends ago*

Kathleen Kokotovich - July 12, 2024 at 03:52 PM

KY

“ *As a fellow attendant, he and I always had delightful conversations in our shift swaps. I remember how he would always playfully scold me about how late I was to the shift and tease me on other little things in life. In a sense, Bob filled in the shoes of a grandpa I never had. His passing is unfortunate and I will miss him dearly. I am blessed to have met Bob and the abundance of life he carried with him.*

Kong Yang - July 11, 2024 at 12:05 AM

JG

“ *To Bobby's family and all who knew him, He was a real good guy and a tough competitor. The basketball games I played against him were some of the most intense battles under the basket I ever played. My wife and I send our condolences to all of you. John and Janet Gracyk*

John Gracyk - July 10, 2024 at 11:58 PM

CA

“ Bob was such a wonderful man and partner to my mom for 30 years.  
He was always kind, respectful and loving to my mom.  
They saw each other almost everyday and if not, talked on the phone.  
He was also kind and caring to myself and my kids also.  
Every time we saw each other there were smiles, and talks about how myself and my kids were and of course sports!  
I still can't say enough what an amazing love he had for my mom and she for him.

*He will truly be missed.*

*Crystal(Kids Nick, Michael, Nova, Sophia and Jazz.)*

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**Crystal Arth** - July 10, 2024 at 01:52 PM

LH

“ When Bob was at the Crossings he would welcome you to come in and visit. I so enjoyed our conversations. I will miss him. Lucinda Hochsprung

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**Lucinda Hochsprung** - July 10, 2024 at 10:49 AM

LJ

“ Bob will be missed at the Crossings! He greeted my small dog and I every weekend morning. Bob always had a smile on his face and he is already missed. Sending strength to his family as they mourn this profound loss.

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**Lauren Jackson** - July 09, 2024 at 04:50 PM

NJ

“ although bob and i weren't biologically related, he was always family. i'm one of mary visneski's grandchildren. bob had always been around. he cared about everyone around him so deeply. him and my granny were the reason i still believe in love, as i truly believe they were soulmates. bob was such a bright light in this world and he will be missed deeply.

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**nova jane** - July 09, 2024 at 04:32 PM

KK

*You were lucky to know him*

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**Kathleen Elizabeth Kokotovich** - July 13, 2024 at 06:40 PM

VM

“ I think Bob arrived not too long after I moved in in 2000. He was friendly and welcoming from the beginning. He often opened the door when he saw you enter which always felt very welcoming especially if your arms were full. He was uniformly pleasant and courteous. I was so glad he was able to return after he had been out for a while with a medical problem several years ago. When a birthday gathering was held for him when he reached 80 it was clear how many residents valued his service and reading all the other entries from residents on this site I realized how special he was to many of us. He will be missed. Virginia May

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**Virginia May** - July 09, 2024 at 03:28 PM

NG

“ Bob was a very special person and he will be deeply missed. My condolences to the family!  
Natasha G., resident at the Crossings

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**Natasha Guenova** - July 09, 2024 at 02:39 PM

ET

“ I met Bob 11 years ago. He’s kind, funny, and pleasant. I’ll miss our friendly weekend banter in The Crossings lobby.

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**E.J. Tso** - July 09, 2024 at 02:11 PM

CR

“ Bob's warm smile and reliable presence were a comfort at the Crossings. One very cold January day he saved, if not my life, then my fingers and toes, when he liberated me from a locked balcony. However ridiculous the pickle one might find themselves in, Bob's smile and the twinkle in his eye, made me feel he was laughing with me. He will be missed.

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**Carol Racine** - July 09, 2024 at 02:02 PM

HT

“ Bob was a great guy that I always had a word or two with on Saturday or Sunday morning. He liked his muscle car and always had some insight on what was going on downtown. He’ll be missed here at the Crossings. Condolences to his family. Hank Thilmony

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**Hank Thilmony** - July 09, 2024 at 01:43 PM

TA

“ Bob was more than just a desk attendant; he was a cherished member of The Crossings community. His friendly demeanor, reliability, and unwavering commitment have left a lasting impact on all who knew him. For over three decades, he welcomed residents and visitors alike with a warm smile and a helpful hand, embodying the spirit of our community. He will be greatly missed by everyone at The Crossings.

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**The Crossings Homeowners Association** - July 08, 2024 at 10:33 PM

TA

“ *The Crossings Homeowners Association planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Dale Shields.*

**The Crossings Homeowners Association** - July 08, 2024 at 10:20 PM

TA

“ *The Crossings Homeowners Association purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Robert Dale Shields.*



**The Crossings Homeowners Association** - July 08, 2024 at 10:20 PM

MW

“ *Bob was Our (kathy and Mark best friend from the time we were 5 years old WE now live in CA.....Rest in peace*

**Mark Winkler** - July 08, 2024 at 12:14 PM

MV

*Bob has shown how short life is. We had a fantastic on Wednesday. And died on Thursday. A kind, gentle, fair, man. I will miss him dearly .*

**Mary Visneski** - July 08, 2024 at 10:00 PM

KR

*Bob's constant presence will be missed. When I heard of his passing I recalled that I had just waved to him a few days before. I echo all who comment. 30 years at The Crossings! Keith and Jeannie*

**Keith Relyea** - July 09, 2024 at 06:49 PM

LL

*Louie and I worked with Bob for 10 years at The Crossings. There is no one that cared more for the home owners then Bob. We could always count on Bob to be there every Saturday and Sunday. We always got such good comments from people how Bob was so helpful and caring. We send love and prayers for Bob's family. Bob always talked about his time with family and was so proud of them.*

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**Louie and Myrt Liebig** - July 10, 2024 at 06:38 PM

JL

“*Joan L. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Dale Shields.*

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**Joan L.** - July 07, 2024 at 11:41 PM

DT

“*I enjoyed seeing Bob each weekend when he worked at the Crossings. He seemed to enjoy his job and appreciated the sweet treats I would drop off to him. “Are you trying to make me fat?!” My condolences to Mary and his family.*

*Denise and Morris*

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**denise Tirimacco** - July 07, 2024 at 06:40 PM

KK

*I always consulted bob on the baseball game. He truly was a genuine, kind, humble, funny and a joy to talk to. What a great loss and shock. You are in my sympathy thoughts and prayers. Kathy*

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**Kathleen Elizabeth Kokotovich** - July 09, 2024 at 02:15 PM