



## Robert Benjamin

July 31, 1950 - April 8, 2020

Robert Bruce Benjamin, 69, died at his home in Alanson, Michigan on April 8, 2020.

Rob was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan on July 31, 1950 to Edmund and Nadiema (Vigeant) Benjamin. He inherited his considerable musical abilities from his father, a trumpet player, and his mother, a trained lyric soprano. He attended Sault Area High School and was employed for many years at Harrah's Casino in Lake Tahoe before moving back to Michigan in 2001. Rob was a self-taught musician and will be remembered as being part of a local band Renaissance Fair. Several members of this group moved to California where they played for fun and profit for many years. Rob's main instrument was the electric bass, but he also loved finger picking the acoustic guitar and had a natural ability for vocal harmonies. In addition to Renaissance Fair, Rob traveled with several road bands, one of which was Larry Slatter and the Executives, Friends of Mind, and locally as a duo Dave and Rob. While living in the Petoskey area, he liked to play at open-mic nights and encourage younger musicians. Any trips home where he could meet up with old friends always included at least one jam session. Rob loved animals. He had several cats throughout his life and volunteered at the Little Traverse Bay Humane Society walking dogs.

Rob was preceded in death by his parents and is survived by his sister and brother-in-law Jessica and David Stanaway of Sault Ste. Marie, and his nephew, Jeffrey (Diana) Stanaway of Hendersonville, TN.

A gathering for friends and family will be held at a later date.

# Tribute Wall

JA

“ Rob was our check out guy at D/W in Petoskey. He had befriended my 9 year old daughter Lyla who he called his " Brown eyed girl" every time he saw her. Over the course of a year they got very close and Lyla would make sure to go out of her way to run up to rob anytime we were in the store to say hi and they would chat about what ever while my wife and I would shop. Rob would always have a little gift for her during the holidays and Lyla would always make sure to paint a that'll you card for each one. Coins was kinda their thing together as Lyla likes to collect and Rob would gift her ones from time to time. When she told him that she had resesntly gotten a ukulele it was the very next day Rob had a how to play book for her as a gift. It didn't matter how busy that store was or how long of a line, we would always wait to go through Robs line so those to could interact. It was very endearing and very special to our little girl. I only found out yesterday of Robs passing as I was chatting with another employee at the store. I'd noticed he hadn't been around for awhile but do to the situations lately I didn't think to much of it as most of the regular older employees hadn't been at work. My wife and I are devistated by his passing. Lylas birthday is Sunday and we are going to wait till after to break the news to her as it's a hard birthday for a little girl to go through with the times being what they are. Our deepest sympathies go out to the family of Rob that we never personally knew you Rob was a very enjoyable part of our day-to-day lives

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**Jason** - May 07, 2020 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ Rob will be missed,His Kindness ,willing to help someone with his knowledge on many subjects.I feel fortunit to have crossed paths in life with his good soul and smile....Rest in peace friend

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**Rob Luhellier** - May 04, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ So sorry to hear of Rob's passing, just caught up with him at Sault High class of '69 reunion last summer. Rob and I were almost inseparable during our years at Garfield Elementary School, lots of fond memories of classic WW1 "Dog Fight" games being played at Rob's house. Although we didn't stay in contact after high school, Rob always had special place in my heart from those early years... I will miss him!

JOHN SANDIE - May 03, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BE

“ I worked with Robert at the Harbor Springs IGA and D&W. Robert had a great smile and always brightened my day. He usually had a joke for me and made me laugh. I will miss him.



Becky - April 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ I was so, so sorry to hear of Robert's passing. I saw him regularly at the IGA in Harbor and later at D&W in Petoskey--he was always a bright spot in my day. I don't know that he realized how much brighter the world was with him in it, but he will be missed.

Alison - April 24, 2020 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ "The song is ended, but the melody lingers on..."  
-Irving Berlin  
Thank for sharing your passion for music here on earth, Robert, and always asking about the French Horn.



Erin Broughman - April 23, 2020 at 12:00 AM