



## Robert "Rob" J. Lawrence

January 6, 1946 - February 28, 2024

Robert "Rob" John Lawrence, age 78, of Brimley, Michigan, died at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on February 28, 2024. He was born on January 6, 1946, in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, to Robert "Bud" and Constance "Connie" (Moran) Lawrence.

Rob grew up in Brimley and graduated from Brimley High School with the Class of 1964. He met Kay Mackie in 1965 when the two were set up on a blind date for Kay's senior prom. For their first date, Rob took Kay flying since he had earned his pilot's license when he was seventeen years old. They married on December 27, 1967, in Sault Ste. Marie. After graduation, Rob worked on lake freighters for a year before attending Lake Superior State University, where he graduated from the ROTC program in 1970. He enlisted in the United States Army and served before being honorably discharged as a Captain. Rob then went to work for the United States Customs Service, where he was a Supervisory Inspector and worked there for thirty years before retiring in 2001. After retiring, he worked as a driver for the Western Great Lakes Pilots Association.

Rob loved being outdoors and on the water. He built his own airplane, which he was very proud of, and enjoyed air sledding with his father. He also liked boating, sailing, flying model airplanes, watching tv, and spoiling his beloved cat, Leo. He was a neighborhood handyman, always willing to lend a hand to

friends and neighbors in need. Rob was a huge history buff and could list the date of just about any event in history if you asked him. His best quality was his sense of humor and his ability to always make everyone around him laugh, inherited from grandparents in Vaudeville. Above all else, Rob had a strong Christian faith and loved his church, the First Congregational Church in Brimley.

Rob is survived by his wife, Kay Lawrence, of Brimley; sons, Rob (Nikki) Lawrence of Highlands Ranch, Colorado, and Tom Lawrence of Boston, Massachusetts; daughter Kayce (John) Carey of Larchmont, New York; daughter-in-law, Amanda Lawrence of Petoskey, Michigan; grandchildren, Andrew, Alex, Alyse, and Evan; sister, Jan (Dave) Trotter of Gladstone, Michigan; brother and sister-in-law, James (Janet) Mackie of Brimley; as well as many nieces and nephews who will all miss him dearly.

Rob was preceded in death by son, James Lawrence; parents Bud and Connie; father and mother-in-law, Jim and Doris Mackie; and brothers-in-law, Larry Schultz and Rich Marlowe.

Memorial Contributions can be made in Rob's name to the Chippewa County Animal Shelter, 3660 S. Mackinac Trail, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

A Celebration of Life is being planned for this summer.

Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at [www.familylifefh.com](http://www.familylifefh.com).

# Tribute Wall

BW

“ *What beautiful memories are indelibly imbedded in our hearts. Rob had a kind heart and was always willing to help in some way in the neighbourhood. My family were so fortunate to grow up knowing and interacting with the Lawrence family. hugs and deepest sympathy Kay to you and the children and grandchildren----Love Bernice and Francis Whale and Michael and Michelle Glew*

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**Bernice Whalen** - April 09, 2024 at 02:27 PM

JS

“ *Rob and Kaye were always very supportive of me in my first marriage and in my second. I always admired Rob's adventurous spirit and his love of life. Rob would do anything for you. I will miss him and know that he had a positive affect on all those he interacted with. Rest in peace Rob. You will be missed, Jane Syme, Ivoryton, Ct*

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**jane syme** - March 09, 2024 at 09:32 AM

MH

*What a sweet couple Rob and Kay You have been to our community. Robs friendly smile and kindness will always be remembered til we all meet at Jesus feet. God Bless you and your precious wife and family . Mary Hamilton*

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**Mary Hamilton** - March 12, 2024 at 11:03 PM



“ Amazing Grace 44" Sonnet was purchased for the family of Robert "Rob" J. Lawrence.



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March 07, 2024 at 10:15 PM



“ Dear Kay, I am SO sorry for your loss! Please accept my sincere sympathy for your great loss. You have your wonderful family to support you, and that is so good ... I had the same thing.

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**Marian MacLeod** - March 07, 2024 at 09:29 AM



“ Just read of "Robin's" passing. Accept my condolences, Kay. Although everyone called him Rob, he'll always be Robin to me, & the shy boy who got on the school bus w/his sister Janet. Hard to see the old friends leaving us.



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**Sharon Kennedy** - March 05, 2024 at 03:23 PM



“ Kay, I'm so very sorry to learn of your husband's passing. My deepest sympathy to you and your family. Trudy Baker Salo

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**Trudy Salo** - March 05, 2024 at 01:22 PM

RJ

“ Kay and family, my thoughts go out to you at this time. Bob was a good guy, always enjoyed catching up with him at our Sault High reunions. Bob Johnston

Robert Johnston - March 05, 2024 at 08:34 AM

DB

“ Oh, Kay, I just heard. Robs jokes always lightened the conversation...he and Terry could keep us all laughing! I pray you will feel Gods arms around you as you navigate the tasks ahead. With Love, Deb Baxter

Deb Baxter - March 04, 2024 at 09:44 PM

VZ

“ Kay So sorry to hear of Rob's passing. Sending prayers to you and your whole family. Vivienne

Vivienne Zaug - March 04, 2024 at 04:52 PM

PM

“ Kay - so many good memories, kayaking with you both when Bill and I visited you, and good conversations around the bonfires. Love an prayers and hugs to you and your family. Pam

Pamela Moore - March 04, 2024 at 04:11 PM

RL

“ Rob was a wonderful friend for over 40 years. He always had a good story to tell. He would come. Help at a drop of a hat. He was more like a brother than a friend. We all love him very much. He was a wonderful father. He treated my children like his kids. We are so blessed to have him in our family of friends. He and Dave are back together.

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**Roxanna Strickland Livermore** - March 04, 2024 at 01:37 PM

JH

*Kay and Jim and Janet, condolences on your loss. We heard about Rob's death from our church at Dollar Settlement. Janet and Chris Hess*

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**Janet Hess** - March 07, 2024 at 08:38 PM