



# Mr. Robert Mayo O'Brien

AUG 2, 1947 - JAN 13, 2018



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## **Mr. Robert Mayo O'Brien**

AUG 2, 1947 - JAN 13, 2018

**M**r. Robert (Bobby) Mayo O'Brien, 70, passed away unexpectedly, Saturday, January 13, 2018, at Sanctuary at McAuley, where he was receiving rehab services following an illness. Bob had courageously fought Parkinson's disease. Bob was born August 2, 1947, in Ludington, MI., to Thomas and Vera (Reynolds) O'Brien. He was a proud 1965 grad of Muskegon Heights School, attended MCC, Ferris State, & Northern Michigan University, receiving his bachelor of science degree in Physical & Health Education, and Business. Bob and Eileen (Clarke) O'Brien were married October 14, 1967. They were blessed with three wonderful children, Elizabeth, Brandon, and Jeff. Bob loved all that was music, and sports. He was active in both his high school and college choirs, and sang lead for many years with the Muskegon Shoreline Chorus. Bob even sang during brain surgery 10 yrs. ago, as the surgeon placed his deep brain stimulator for Parkinson's. He was an avid golfer, runner, cyclist, and swimmer. He and his Wisconsin buddy, Larry, would try to out plan each other to see how many sports they could play in one day! Bob wore many hats in his lifespan: golf caddie, mug washer at A&W, usher/manager at the Regent Theater, sales at Reid Tool Supply, part time teacher, Baker Business College, mental health worker, restaurant manager, Nursing Home Director, Pharmaceutical rep, and teacher. He retired from Muskegon Heights Public Schools in 2007 due to his Parkinson's disease. So often former students would remark, "I remember when you taught us the "Cha Cha Slide" in gym class," or "You were my adult ed. teacher!" He truly enjoyed every job he had, especially teaching. Bob also volunteered as a peewee football and soccer coach, scout leader, PTO president, cancer educator, and local NAMI president, just to name a few. Bob was preceded in death by his parents, brother Christopher, son Brandon, and brothers-in law, Kevin and Patrick Clarke, and Ed Batka. Bob was so dearly loved, and will be deeply missed by Eileen, his wife of 50 years; daughter, Elizabeth, and her son Conor, of Kalamazoo; son Jeff, of



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Muskegon; brothers Tommy (Wink) of Homosassa Springs, FL, Denny (Cheryl) of Kalamazoo, MI, and Mark of Grand Rapids, MI; sisters-in-law, and brothers-in law, Cathy Mathieu & John Hyde, Margie Batka, Ed & Margie Clarke, and Rose & Doug Jolman, his cousins, the Reynolds', Orr, and O'Brien Clans, and many nieces and nephews, and their children. We want to thank our families, our great neighbors, Bob's dedicated doctors and therapists, our friends, and the Fruitport Fire Dept., who got to know Bob well, picking him up when he was down. In lieu of flowers, please consider The Michigan Parkinson's Foundation, in care of "The Lillian and Ruben Gold Fund, for Nursing Home Education." A MEMORIAL SERVICE will be held 11:00 AM Friday, March 16, 2018, at The Lee Chapel, 6291 S. Harvey St. 231-798-1100. VISITATION will be one hour prior to the service (10-11:00 AM). Share memories with Bob's family at his online guestbook at [www.sytsemafh.com](http://www.sytsemafh.com).




## Events

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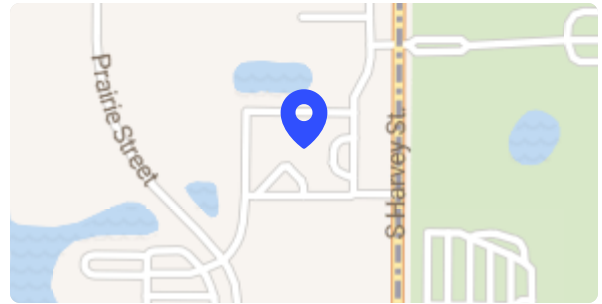
### Visitation

 **Friday**, March 16, 2018


 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET


 **Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The Lee Chapel**

6291 Harvey St., Norton Shores MI 49444



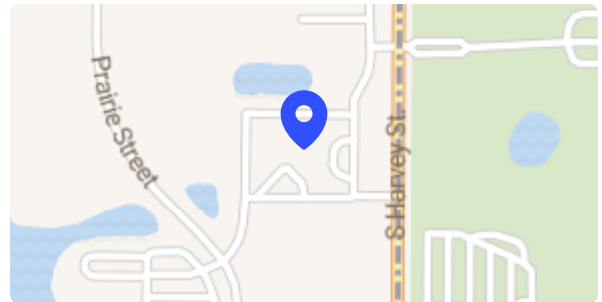
### Memorial Service

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## Tribute Wall

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GG

**Gene&Barbara Greenwood** lit a candle in honor of Robert .

Our Sympathy & Prayers to The O'Brien Family.

March 11 at 6:24 AM



DJ

**Douglas/Rosalie Mark Jolman** posted:

Bob loved music and song and I loved the times when we would just start singing together! When Bob's illness progressed, his spirit never died. I would say "How ya doing Bob?" and his reply was always up beat..."Great or good..ROSE! Love you my brother!

January 20 at 11:30 AM

CM

**Carol Maynard** posted:

Eileen and family so sorry for your loss Cherish the memories.Carol Maynard.

January 19 at 1:05 PM

LI

**Linda** posted:

Eileen with deepest sympathy. Sounds like Bob was one of a kind. I didn't know Bob very well but Im sure he will be greatly misses. Keeping you in my prayers.

January 19 at 10:52 AM

PW

**Phyllis Wahlberg** posted:

Eileen, how wonderful you were able to celebrate your golden anniversary last October. 50 years of memories. But you will certainly miss him and his charming qualities. My condolences. Thinking of you and your family at this difficult time.

January 19 at 5:14 AM



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JJ

**Jane Johnson** lit a candle in honor of Robert .

Eileen and the whole family. I am sorry for your loss. What a beautiful tribute to your husband, father, grandfather and even more. I never knew Bob but he sounds like he was a wonderful, gifted man who everyone loved. I am sure he will be greatly missed but his memories will bring lot's of joy. Jane Dileski Johnson



January 19 at 4:51 AM

HD

**Harold & Elizabeth Dehart** posted:

Elizabeth and I were very saddened to hear about the loss of Bob. We felt privileged to have known Bob, even for so short a time. Through his struggles he always kept a keen sense of his surroundings and those who were present. We felt included in his conversations and his family. We know how caring and loving Eileen has been and want her to know we hold her tight in our hearts, also knowing her precious memories will help her heal. We are available anytime for anything we might do. Lovingly, Harold & Elizabeth DeHart

January 18 at 6:42 PM

DE

**David E. Emery** posted:

Oh man-what a great guy. I have so many memories of all the times, we, as family's, hung around together. Bob was always the "sanest" of the bunch-the most practical and probably the smartest!! I sat with him and Tom at our last class reunion in 2015 and although he was having a lot of issues at that time-his sense of humor and twinkle in his eye never wavered. I tried to steal his dessert piece of cake and did I ever get the evil eye-followed by a big grin. He could not have asked for a more loving and supportive wife than Eileen-I am so sorry for her loss and your family as well. Dave/Starr Emery

January 18 at 5:30 PM

MC

**Margaret Clarke** January 20 at 7:01 AM

I remember when Bob's love cake of showed up at my son Ryan's graduation party. He had several pieces of the carrot cake that my baby sitter, Arlene, had made special for the party. Then 5 years later at my younger son, Devlin's graduation, I found him eating all the leftover crumbs! He said it was the best carrot cake he had ever eaten. I laughed and said I agreed with him.



# **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Robert by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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