



Robert G. Birrenkott

October 24, 1940 - November 22, 2024

Ridgeway / Madison – Robert G. Birrenkott, age 84, passed away on Friday, November 22, 2024 after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Bob was born on October 24, 1940, to Verner J. and Eleanore A. (Marking) Birrenkott of Cottage Grove, Wi. Bob loved that he grew up on a Farm, was named WI FFA (Future Farmer of America) “1958 Star Farmer”. He Graduated: Cottage Grove Grade School; Sun Prairie High School 1958 grad, and Mount Senario College.

He married Rochelle A. Dischler on May 19, 1962. He will always be remembered for his friendly smile (email address: smilealways), warm greetings, patriotism, and dedication to Community/Church. He was honored to serve in the AF/WI Air Nat. Guard for 6 years (1960-1966) and be a vet on Badger Honor Flight. Bob was proud to serve on the City of Madison Police Dept. for 33 yrs: March 19, 1962, until retiring 1/31/1995. During that time, he served as Officer, Investigator, Trainer, SWAT Leader on the Emergency Response Team, and Police Supervisor (25 yrs.). During this time, he received numerous recognitions including 2 Community Service Awards, one from the City of Madison and the other from the Dane County Optimists.

After retiring, Bob worked 10 years as a Carpenter for his son, Russ, who owns Birrenkott Construction & Maintenance. Bob volunteered with the Four

Lakes (Now Glacier Edge) Council Boy Scouts since 1972, in numerous positions including Webelos Leader, Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, O.A. Vigil member, Dist. and Council Training chairman, Roundtable Commissioner, Council Commissioner, Silver Fox coordinator, and Wood Badge Scoutmaster. He received many awards during this time including the highest award of Silver Beaver. His sons earned Eagle Scout and His daughter received her Gold Award in Girl Scouts. He was extremely proud of his family and loved them very much and his grandchildren could always bring a special twinkle to his eyes. He belonged to the Ridgeway American Legion Post 257 also the Knights of Columbus Ridgeway/Barneveld Council 10905 and receiving Council Knight of the Year in 2001 & 2019, Family of the year 2007 and Madison Diocesan Family of the Month September 2005 & Jan 2012, and was in 2010 awarded the highest award, Medallion Award by the State KC's. He served in numerous positions in KC Council & was Grand Knight from July 2004-June 2008 then became District 52 Deputy July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2014. He is also member of 4th Degree; KC Assembly 2320, Twice Faithful Navigator, Honor Guard member etc, and Area10 Coordinator. Bob served on St. Bridget's Parish Council from 2005 to 2008 & Chair of Merger in late 2000's. Bob was one of the main volunteers in remodeling the Rectory, Church Basement & Kitchen at St. Bridget Catholic Church in Ridgeway, WI. His favorite past time was Square and Round Dancing and enjoying wildlife on their Country land. Bob wished to thank all his Relatives and friends who made life ENJOYABLE, especially at the end! Diagnosed with Prostate Cancer in 2009 & Multiple Myeloma (Bone marrow Cancer) 2018.

Bob's survivors are his wife and best friend Rochelle, his three children, Roderick (Margaret) of Fitchburg, Russell (Dede) of Middleton and Roxanne (David) Aehl of Sauk City; five Grandchildren; Shane, Amanda, Jacob (Kaitlyn) Birrenkott, Brian Koehler and Alyssa Crain; his brothers-in-law; Robert (Alanna) Dischler and Kenneth (Bobette) Dischler; nieces; nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death were his parents; his sister Ruth (Husband David) Pertzborn; his brother Reuben (wife Maggie) Birrenkott and in-laws Herbert & Armeta (Wilhelm) Dischler

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 30, 2024 at ST. BRIDGET'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, 803 Main Street, Ridgeway WI with Father Rob Butz and Father Peter Auer concelebrating. Military Graveside Rites will be accorded by Ridgeway American Legion Post No. 257 following Mass. A lunch will follow.

Visitation will be from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Friday at the GORGEN-McGINLEY & AYERS FUNERAL HOME 400 Grace Street, Dodgeville WI, where a Knights of Columbus Rosary Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. Visitation will also be held from 9:30 a.m. until 10:50 a.m. on Saturday at the Church. Burial will be at the Resurrection Catholic Cemetery in Madison on Monday, December 2 at 11:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorials be made for Prostate Cancer Research at UW Carbone Cancer Center.

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery - Madison

2705 Regent Street
Madison, WI 53705

Previous Events

Rosary Service

NOV 22. 7:00 PM (CT)

Gorgen-McGinley & Ayers Funeral Home
400 East Grace Street
Dodgeville, WI 53533
(608) 935-5222
gorgenfh@mhtc.net

Visitation

NOV 29. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Gorgen-McGinley & Ayers Funeral Home
400 East Grace Street
Dodgeville, WI 53533
(608) 935-5222
gorgenfh@mhtc.net

Visitation

NOV 30. 9:30 AM - 10:50 AM (CT)

St. Bridget's Catholic Church
803 Main Street
Ridgeway, WI 53582

Mass of Christian Burial

NOV 30. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Bridget's Catholic Church
803 Main Street
Ridgeway, WI 53582

Military Graveside Rites

NOV 30. 11:50 AM (CT)

St. Bridget's Catholic Church
803 Main Street
Ridgeway, WI 53582

Graveside Service

DEC 2. 11:00 AM (CT)

Resurrection Cemetery - Madison
2705 Regent Street
Madison, WI 53705

Tribute Wall

MH

“ My thoughts and prayers to the family of Robert. It was my honor to know Bob through Scouting, when I took Adult training (Wood Badge in 1991) Bob was our Scout Master. I always enjoyed seeing him over the last 30 years at our Council annual dinner's.
Michael T. Heitke Council Historian

Michael T Heitke - November 29, 2024 at 10:45 AM

RD

“ Sincere condolences to Rochelle and their children and families. I first knew Bob and Dick Homan from when I was at UW student and worked part time at Choles flower shop and they were MPD also working P.T. delivering there. Those were the 60s protest years and they encouraged me to apply at MPD sfter graduation. It worked out, and it was a true honor to serve on MPD with Bob. He was one of the most honorable, cheerful, professional people I ever met. He was full of life and wonderful activities and interests from professional police skills to the great outdoors to big time participation in national Boy Scouts Eagle scouts, Knights of Columbus and his faith, and many things in between. He cared very much about people and their safety and well being. It was an honor to know and work with him. May He rest in peace.

Richard Daley - November 28, 2024 at 02:15 PM

SP

“ My thoughts go out to the entire Birrenkott family for their loss. Bob was a wonderful scoutmaster to myself and many others in the 70's. His positive attitude, infectious laugh, endless patience and a willingness to share his knowledge in an effective and easy manor made him a great role model for young men. Bob has influenced my career as an educator and I think of him every time I spend time in the outdoors. Thanks! Bob!

Steve Palmiter

Steve Palmiter - November 28, 2024 at 10:48 AM

SC

“ I recently met Bob while working on the Ridgeway Veterans Memorial project. He always had a smile on his face and was so kind. I loved hearing his stories from the past almost as much as he loved sharing them. He & Rochelle volunteered at one of our events and it was so nice to meet his wife. Thinking of Rochelle, his families and all his many friends. God gained a special angel.

Shyanne Cushman - November 28, 2024 at 07:14 AM

SM

“ On behalf of the family of Ellen Schwartz and Richard Cowan, I'd like to extend my sympathies for your loss. Ellen and Rich only ever had wonderful things to say about their time serving the people of Madison as fellow officers on MPD. May the joy of having Bob in your lives always out weigh the sorrow of your loss.

Stacie Meyer, sister of Ellen Schwartz

Stacie Meyer - November 27, 2024 at 11:55 PM

KL

“ 4 files added to the album Bob Birrenkott.



Kathy Loy - November 27, 2024 at 03:43 PM

GH

“ I knew Bob during his years at the Madison Police Department, where he was a cheerful and friendly presence. A good guy.

George Hesselberg - November 27, 2024 at 09:35 AM

JW

“ Many great memories of Bob while growing up in the neighborhood, Boy Scouts and seeing him and Rochelle at St Bridgets Church. He always had a beaming smile, even when he wasn't feeling well. We also exchanged messages about our careers in law enforcement and had many good laughs. May he rest in peace and know we'll keep his watch! Elaine and I extend our prayers to Rochelle and your families.



Jon and Elaine Pepper. Hollandale WI - November 26, 2024 at 07:20 PM

BD

“ My deepest sympathies to the Birrenkott family. I knew Bob via Scouts. I was a very young District Executive when I first met Bob. I spent countless hours with him at Roundtables, Camp Caste Rock (EBSR now) and various camporees and trainings around the area. He was a great teacher and mentor and I learned so much from him. He made a big impact on all who met him. He always had a smile and a kind word. Although he has gone home, he has left an impact on many.

Becky Duffy - November 26, 2024 at 10:58 AM

BF

“ On behalf of the Badger Honor Flight Board and all our volunteers, we extend our deepest condolences to you all, the family of Robert Birrenkott. We are forever grateful for Roberts's service to our great country. What an honor it was for us to take him on his well-deserved trip of a lifetime. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Badger Honor Flight - November 26, 2024 at 10:34 AM

GB

“ He faithfully helped celebrate the annual Masses honoring Fr Samuel Mazzuchelli at St Patrick's Church, Benton.

Gerald Berning - November 25, 2024 at 01:02 PM

SH

“ Our most sincere condolences to the entire Birrenkott family. Mr. B was a good friend to my Dad, and mentor to Spencer and me. He was a truly great person that gave so much to so many. I can think of lots of ways he influenced my life through scouting adventures, encouragement, teaching and appreciation of the outdoors,...lots of great memories. I hope he and your family take pride in the difference he made in helping others grow and making the world a better place. Thank you and may the many memories provide comfort at this most difficult time. Scott and all of the Hicks' family

Scott Hicks - November 24, 2024 at 02:08 PM

DK

“ My sympathies to the Birrenkott family. Bob was such a joy to have around.
All my love to you to you Rochelle.
Diane Kilian

Diane Kilian - November 24, 2024 at 08:38 AM

MR

“ Bob will be missed by all who had the opportunity to meet and work with him. His brothers and sisters wearing the blue,honor him.

Michael Matteson, MPD Retired - November 23, 2024 at 11:56 PM

JM

“ Best Uncle ever, loved being a part of family meetings to allow him, Aunt Rochelle and Aunt Ruth share memories from their childhoods a younger years. He will always be that forever best husband, best dad, best brother, best uncle and most all best friend to everyone he met.
Smile Always, Love you always - Jean Mohr Family

Jean A. Mohr - November 23, 2024 at 09:53 PM



Our condolences to Aunt Rochelle, Rod, Margaret, Russ, DeDe, Roxanne, Dave, grandkids. What I admired most about Uncle Bob was his strong faith. Because of that faith, he was able to face the challenges in life with that smile we will always remember. Pat & Anna Czesnakowicz

Pat Czesnakowicz - November 24, 2024 at 09:19 AM



“ Best Uncle anyone could ever ask for! Always took an interest in our lives, would welcome us in, call us for updates and attend every function he possibly could. . He was the best story teller. They say when an older person passes on it's like a library burning down as so much history is lost. Bob covered many miles and decades filled w many historical changes. ❤️ Karen B

Karen Birrenkott - November 23, 2024 at 09:40 PM

RB

“ Bob was a great person. I remember him in a lot of ways. One memory was when he came to a Scout Roundtable but had not had the time to change out of his Police uniform. Being there with a gun changed my focus and approach to him. He was still the great guy, but the police uniform reflected a totally different image from a Scout uniform. Another memory was when I saw him on Campus Drive while we were both driving. He looked at me and reached under his dash for the police light, then smiled and put it away. He was so great as a Scout leader and a friend. He will be missed.

Ronald Berman - November 23, 2024 at 05:15 PM

LD

Uncle Bob was everybody's favorite Uncle. Family first. Always loved his family stories and hug and interest in you as a human personally.

Many hugs back at you Uncle Bob. I wish I could have whisper in your ear what an amazing person on earth you were and I know you will look up our Jacob in heaven.

Linda Damm - November 23, 2024 at 09:19 PM

LT

Bob was the Best of All things! Smiles, personality, fun, great traveler, great Square and Round Dancers, he was a true friend! 🙏❤️

Leta Thomas - November 24, 2024 at 02:00 PM

BK

Bob was my mother, Rita (Marking) Kelly first cousin. In the times I was with Bob at reunions and such he was always great to talk with. I learned a few things or at least confirmed things about the family. It was great to communicate with Bob about the family and things in Medison. I will miss you Bob! My sympathies to all who knew him.

Bill Kelly - November 24, 2024 at 04:54 PM

SR

Rod, My most sincere sympathies to you and your mom on your dad's passing. He was an exceptional man of character. And he helped build that character in the youth he served in many capacities. You were fortunate to have him as a father, mentor and friend. He was ALWAYS pleasant, generous, fun and caring when I interacted with him.a man who exemplified love for all. Blessings and prayers.

Steve Rudolph - November 27, 2024 at 01:48 PM

KL

We will miss Bob's smile and the mentoring he did with Joe over the years. A true image of God's disciple in all of his endeavors mentoring to all with his knowledge, kindness, and sense of humor. Rest in peace Bob and all you did for the Knights of Columbus whether with your Council or your Assembly. Prayers to you Rochelle and all the family.

Kathy Loy - November 27, 2024 at 03:56 PM