



Robert W. "Bob" McNeill

March 22, 1928 - November 11, 2023

Dodgeville – Robert “Bob” McNeill, age 95, of Dodgeville passed away peacefully at CrestRidge Assisted Living on Saturday, November 11, 2023. Bob was born on March 22, 1928 to William “Wick” and Dorothy McNeill and lived on the family farm in Waldwick. He liked tinkering with all things mechanical as a child. He attended the one room Prairie School and was in the top two in a class of two. He won a Blue Ribbon at the Iowa County Fair for a calf which gave him the idea of naming the Blue Ribbon 4-H Club. He was proud of that and it is still going strong today. He later attended Hollandale School where he played baseball and was Captain of the Basketball team. He was later inducted into the Pecatonica Hall of Fame. There he also met the love of his life, a pretty brown-eyed Swiss girl named Helen. She was the President and Junior Prom Queen and selected Bob to be her Prom King. This was the best offer Bob had his whole life. Bob then spent some time at Coyne Electrical School in Chicago. When he returned they were married June 24, 1947. The two started Bob’s Electric a week later. Many special friendships were born here as well as a family.

The business moved to Dodgeville in 1960. Bob became involved in many community endeavors. He enjoyed being President of the Chamber of Commerce in 1964 when Dodgeville won the single class WIAA basketball tournament. He was a charter Lion’s Club member and received the prestigious Melvin Jones and other awards. Bob co-chaired the major fund

raiser for MHIC (Upland Hills Health today) believing in the need for quality medical care for the area. He was on the Strong's Bank (BMO) and Hollandale School Boards. Bob loved the annual fishing trips to Canada and was known as Ranger Mac to his buddies. It was here the idea floated to honor the farming community. Hence, Farmer's Appreciation Day was born. Bob also thoroughly enjoyed card playing with his buddies, calling themselves the Rusty Zipper Club. The annual deer hunt to the cabin with his family was always special to him.

Bob enjoyed his time golfing at Dodge-Point Country Club. In fact he golfed well into his 90's and was able to shoot his age. He was an avid sports fan cheering on his Dodgers, Bucks, Brewers, Packers and Badgers. Bob and Helen both loved to travel. They went to dozens of countries but his six trips to Helen's Switzerland was his favorite. Her family there referred to him as der Grosse Bob (Big Bob) which he got a kick out of. He was also proud of his Irish-Cornish-Scottish heritage.

Besides community service, Bob was best known for his humor. This broke down any barriers of language or status. He treated everybody the same, if they were a CEO or a person down on their luck. It was said many times that Bob was the funniest person they ever knew. He was a walking Rolodex of humor.

Along with Helen, Bob had a great love for his family. It was never a dull moment with him around. He liked to tell many family members, caretakers, and others privately that they were his favorite. He played many favorites causing much good-hearted banter of who the real favorite was. Bob thoroughly enjoyed his last eight months at CrestRidge Assisted Living.

To know Bob was to love him. We will miss him dearly.

Bob is survived by his four children; Gloria Bradley, Terry (Laura) McNeill, Robert S. (Mary Kay) McNeill all of Dodgeville, and Jo Ann McNeill of Bradenton, FL.; his nine grandchildren, Jeff (Jenn) Bradley, Brian (Karen) Bradley, Eric (Stacey) Bradley, Leah (Josh) McNeill Heller, Jenna (Pete) Moreau, Bobby McNeill, Macy (Tom) Turpin, Kristy (Matt) Staver, and Shawn (Mindy) Sauer; and 19 special great grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother Jim (Janet) McNeill, sister June (Jim) Paynter, sister-in-law Gloria Blaser; along with many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Helen, sister Jane Rishel, brother-in-law Adolph Blaser, and sons-in-law John Bradley and Richard Orienti.

A Memorial Service for Bob McNeill will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, November 17, 2023 at GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH in Dodgeville. Rev. Mark Williamson will officiate. Inurnment will be held in Middlebury Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday at the GORGEN-McGINLEY & AYERS FUNERAL HOME in Dodgeville and from 9:30 a.m. until time of services on Friday at the church.

There will be a luncheon immediately following the Memorial Service at RED ROOM.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorials be made to the Dodgeville Lion's Club, Grace Lutheran Church or a charity of your choice.

Cemetery Details

Middlebury Cemetery

2548 County Highway H
Barneveld, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 16. 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 17. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Grace Lutheran Church
1105 North Bequette Street
Dodgeville, WI 53533

Memorial Service

NOV 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

Grace Lutheran Church
1105 North Bequette Street
Dodgeville, WI 53533

Tribute Wall

CP

“ Beginning in 1975 we bought most if not all of our appliances from Bpb's Electric. It has always been a pleasure to do business with Bob and the crew, he will truly be missed by many. Sincerest condolences to his family and friends.

Cathy Palzkill - December 28, 2023 at 03:50 PM

DW

“ Our condolences from the Walz family. Sorry for your loss.

Dee and Gari Walz - November 17, 2023 at 09:06 PM

BW

“ I have very fond memories of deer hunting at the McNeill farm. With Bob, Jim, Terry, and Bob in the mid 80's. Great family!
Bob Wagner

Bob Wagner - November 17, 2023 at 10:15 AM

RR

“ Uncle Bob was a great man with a quick wit and an even quicker smile. May memories of happy times give comfort for the grief of his passing.



Rebecca Rishel - November 16, 2023 at 07:24 PM

KC

“ The Clough family sends their condolences! He will be missed!

Karen Clough - November 15, 2023 at 07:15 PM

SN

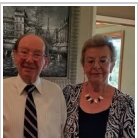
“ Bob made many trips to our home in Jonesdale both from his business in Hollandale and in Dodgeville. He did all the electric work there, during one he explained that his mother was a Jacka, so we were related. Such a pleasant surprise! His daughter June is also related to us through the Paynters. This is such a great loss.

Sue Persinger Nordby - November 15, 2023 at 03:14 PM

AD

“ It is hard to put into words the many thoughts and feelings I have about Bob. He was a friend, a Freemason Brother, a business man who sold me a fair share of appliances, and a patient. He would say I knew him "Inside and Out". I suppose I did. I would stop at the store just to socialize. He always greeted me by turning his hind end towards me. Anyone watching had to wonder...words were never spoken at that point, but I always knew what he meant by it (I don't think he would mind telling people I was his colonoscopist). Through the years of knowing him and the family, we felt like extended family. Bob was a true constant all the years we worked in Dodgeville. Learning of his passing has brought a sad and sobering reminder of all the time gone by. But there is also a glowing comfort knowing he was a person who lived a full life and had many loving family members and friends the entire way through. Who could ask for more? I really am thankful Bob was my friend, too. Deepest condolences to the McNeill family, your parents were truly kind and golden hearted. I will remember them, always.

Adam Dachman - November 15, 2023 at 02:51 PM



“ I love Bob so much, the last time I saw him he hugged and kissed me and said, you are my FIRST favorite .

Gloria Blaser - November 14, 2023 at 06:13 PM

VH

“ Bob & my father, Vernon Hanson, were tremendous friends. Hollandale ties for sure. Bob commonly addressed me as "Little Linc" ref. to my Blanchardville uncle Lincoln Barber. Not only a great family man & business owner, but a joker as well.

Von A Hanson - November 14, 2023 at 12:59 PM

DO

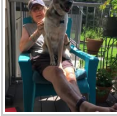
“ I was a teenager working on Bob's parent's farm in the summer. They were very nice, and Bob would stop by now and then. He always had a story or joke to tell along with a little teasing. I didn't know him except from the family farm, so I didn't realize his daughter was in my class in school until some time had passed. He was always kind, and thoughtful. He's definitely one of a kind, and will be missed by anyone who had the privilege of meeting him. My sympathies to his family. You were very lucky to have him with you for so long.

David Ogletree - November 13, 2023 at 10:58 PM

JB

“ Probably one of the nicest, funniest guys I ever knew. Such a wonderful family and Bob & Helen were so proud of their family which they certainly should have been as they are all such wonderful people like their Mom & Dad. Bob was very instrumental in making Dodgeville a great community & so dedicated to his business & the many clubs he belonged to. There may never be another man like him & we are just so happy to call him our friend. RIP BOB God Bless Kris & Jeff Borne.

Jeff Borne - November 13, 2023 at 05:49 PM



He was a great man. As my favorite Cousin, I always felt he was an inspiration to me. If I was having a bad day, I always felt better after our visits. After moving back home from CO, I had the honor of playing golf within and his buddies (even though he beat me). Now you can spend the afterlife life with Helen. Peace

Jon Jacka - November 14, 2023 at 04:13 PM

PF

I remember in 1968 after my dad purchased his new home in Dodgeville, Bob approached my father and questioned hm why he did not purchase his new appliances from his business. Ever since that day my father and this Bob McNeil were not good friends. Sorry, Bob, that is no way to treat a new neighbor or a new resident in Dodgeville who did more for Dodgeville than you ever did. Maybe Bob McNeil should have allocated more time on the golf course at Dodge Point vs. giving my family a hard time about not doing business with him or his retail store. Patrick Franzen

Patrick J Franzen - January 04, 2025 at 11:25 PM



“ *Bob will be greatly missed He always made Us feel good to be around and always made me feel like a big smile, that is just the way he always made me feel and I just loved that guy
All my heart goes out to the family and friends of a great man Bob McNeill
Tom Bedtka*

Thomas Bedtka - November 13, 2023 at 01:54 PM

BF

“ Bob was a great person and a outstanding business man! Whenever we went to look at a appliance, Bob was very knowledgeable when it came to appliances and he always helped with making sure we were satisfied with the appliance we bought! Bob will be deeply missed!



*The Fawcetts
Barb, Greg, Kyle & Tyler*

Barb Fawcett - November 13, 2023 at 01:20 PM

SB

“ So sorry for the loss, I will always remember how he made us smile and laugh. just a great guy!

Sandie and Troy Brick-Margelofsky - November 12, 2023 at 08:38 PM

RM

“ Sending my sympathy to all of you in the loss of a truly unique, swell guy. Dick/I enjoyed doing business with Bob over the years and he always had a joke or two for us, good visits, fun memories I still pull up at times and smile all over again. Rosalie May

Rosalie May - November 12, 2023 at 06:59 PM

AK

“ Angella Kujawa lit a candle in memory of Robert W. "Bob" McNeill



angella kujawa - November 12, 2023 at 06:45 PM