



Robert J. Engel

June 2, 1930 - January 27, 2017

Robert J. Engel, 86, of South Bend, IN and Bonita Springs, FL, passed away on Friday, January 27, 2017. He was born June 2, 1930 in South Bend, the son of Clarence V. and Clara (née Fritz) Engel.

Mr. Engel was a member of St. Peters United Church of Christ where he served as part time organist. He was a member of the Elks Lodge in South Bend and Loyal Order of Moose in Elkhart, IN. He was a charter member and founder of the Guys & Dolls Dance Club and a former member of the Shoe & Slipper Dance Club.

Bob had a love of music all of his life. He started playing piano at the age of 6 and had a beautiful soprano voice, performing in church, school and radio. In high school he took up the string bass for the concert band and orchestra. He became the drum major for the marching band at Central High School, where he graduated in 1948. As an accomplished organist, he served as organist and choir director of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, as organist at Hilltop Lutheran Church and part time organist at Redeemer Lutheran Church. Bob also had a love of theatre and directed many plays as youth director at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Along with his wife, Shirley, he taught ballroom dancing for over 25 years for the South Bend Recreation Department and privately for many clubs and

organizations in the area. They also taught ballroom dancing for the Bonita Springs Recreation Department.

Bob retired from various office positions, having served as secretary and bookkeeper for the law firm of Hahn & Nafe for many years. He had been the Past President of the American Institute of Banking, South Bend Chapter.

After retirement, he and Shirley spent their winters in Bonita Springs, FL, where he became the secretary for the Forest Creek Villas Condominium Association board of directors.

He is survived by the love of his life and wife of 66 years, Shirley C. (née Weissfuss) Engel; his beloved daughter, Kathleen Engel of South Bend, IN; granddaughters, Lisa Walorski and Julie (Robert) Visser; son-in-law, Gary Walorski; and three great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his daughter, Maureen Walorski; and his brother, Charles W. Engel.

A Funeral service will be held Thursday, February 2, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home, 28300 Tamiami Trail South, Bonita Springs. Friends are invited to call at the funeral home from 2:00 p.m. until the time of the service.

Services and burial will take place in South Bend at a later date and will be announced.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Peters United Church of Christ, Organ and Music Fund, 915 N Ironwood Dr., South Bend, IN 46615.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Highland Cemetery

South Bend, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 2. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home
28300 Tamiami Trail So.
Bonita Springs, FL 34134
(239) 992-4982
bonitafhbill@comcast.net

Funeral Service

FEB 2. 3:00 PM (ET)

Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home
28300 Tamiami Trail So.
Bonita Springs, FL 34134
(239) 992-4982
bonitafhbill@comcast.net

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert J. Engel*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *To the Engel family. We are so sorry for your loss. Bob was such a great man !! I always enjoyed our time together during the S.B. Central alumni band years. He was a fantastic drum major!! Always so kind and generous of his time. He will be sorely missed.*

Bob and Judy Gruener

judy gruener - February 02, 2017 at 02:25 PM



“ *Dear Shirley, Bill and I are thinking of you at this difficult time and you are in our prayers. We enjoyed our dinners out with both of you each week. Bob was a great person. We will look forward to seeing you back on South Bend so please give us a call when you get back. We loved Bob alot and we love you very much.*

*Sincerely,
Bill and Marie Crull*

Bill an Marie Crull, friends - February 01, 2017 at 08:15 AM

LW

“ Dear Shirley,

Sending our love and prayers to you and our Engel family at this sad time. I loved Bob and have so many great memories of our times together with both of you at family gatherings and some great parties you had! He was a special man and we shared a love for sacred music and praising God in music. I will miss seeing him and getting my "smooch" on Sunday mornings when he was able to come to church. Love you and pray God's comfort for you at this very difficult time.

Lori and Dean

Lori Wiseman - January 31, 2017 at 02:07 PM

JN

“ Shirley, our condolences and our thoughts and prayers are with you. We have wonderful memories of our times with Bob and I know you have many more. A great dancer and wonderful friend!

Love, John and Joanne Nickelson

john & joanne nickelson - January 31, 2017 at 09:36 AM

TC

“ Shirley, it's Tobey, your Rockne neighbor with all the dogs. Bob Kaniewski just called to tell me the sad news. I'm so sorry for your loss. So very sorry.

Tobey Chappell - January 31, 2017 at 08:53 AM

CN

“ Dear Shirley, Bob would always make a point of commenting on our choir and thanking us for our music. I so appreciated his compliments. It was a joy to see the two of you together. It was obvious that you loved each other so much and I can't think of a more beautiful couple! Bob was such a sharp dresser. I loved his style. May the many beautiful memories of your life together help you, Shirley. May the love you had for each other ease your grief. Fred and I extend our deepest sympathy and we want you to know we are thinking of you at this difficult time. Sincerely, Cheryl Nix

Cheryl Nix - January 29, 2017 at 06:49 PM

CH

“ Dear Shirley and family. You are in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. May you find comfort in God's love for us and your loving memories of Bob. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Christine Horning - January 29, 2017 at 05:20 PM