



## Robert "Bob" Ray Ridgway

September 12, 1935 - October 15, 2023

Robert "Bob" Ray Ridgway passed away from cardiac arrest on October 15, 2023, at the age of 88, in Sarasota, FL. His battle with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) in recent years took its toll, but he would always welcome and greet his family and friends with a smile.

Born on September 12, 1935, he was the son of the late Clifton Ridgway and Vivian Ridgway (Burch). He is preceded in death by his parents and his brother Clifton Ridgway Jr.

Bob is survived by his High School sweetheart, Beverly (Granchi) Ridgway. They were married for 66 years. Together, they had four wonderful children: David married to Sandy; Paul, married to Jodie; Nicolette "Nicki", married to Tom Gawlowski; and Jon, married to Heather. Bob leaves behind 11 grandchildren, five great grandchildren and his brother George Burch, who is married to Joy.

Bob grew up in Canton, OH and was a swimmer at Lehman High School. He served in the Army as a paratrooper and was honorably discharged in 1956 with a rank of Sergeant. After the military, Bob worked as a Plant Manager for RCA, Electron, and Bundy Tubing. During the first part of his career, Bob and Beverly lived in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and Georgia, finally settling in Florida in the early 1990s. In 1992, Bob, and his eldest son opened a MAACO in

Sarasota, FL. After seven successful years, they sold the business, and he retired in 1999.

Bob was very active and enjoyed bowling, golfing, and playing bridge with friends. He was also an avid reader, traveler, and could always be found on football Saturdays watching his beloved Buckeyes.

A public memorial service at the Sarasota National Cemetery is scheduled for Thursday, October 19th at 1:30 p.m. Sarasota National Cemetery is located at 9810 State Rd 72, Sarasota, FL 34241.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be made to the American Heart Association.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

OCT **19**. 1:30 PM (ET)

Sarasota National Cemetery  
9810 State Rd 72  
Sarasota, FL 34241  
(941) 922-7200

# Tribute Wall

TS

“ Bob gave me my first opportunity in the business world and gave me the opportunity to advance. I worked for Bob at RCA in Marion, Indiana and when Bob left for Detroit, he gave me the opportunity to join him there at Lectron Products. Over the years we had lots of fun fishing and enjoying each other's company, especially during football and basketball season since he was a Buckeye and I was a Boilermaker. Our family spent lots of time at their home swimming and just being together. Bob was one of the true friends for life and will be sadly missed.

*Tom Steiner*

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**Thomas Steiner** - October 21, 2023 at 10:05 AM

DW

“ Bob and Bev Ridgway are two of the finest people you could ever hope to know. As a young boy in Marion Indiana, it didn't seem that a week went by when our families were not together. My parents spent countless hours playing cards with Bob and Bev while I and my sister played with David, Paul and Nicki (Jon was young when they left for Detroit). Later when I was a teenager looking for work, Bob and Bev took me into their home in Detroit and treated me like one of their kids, so that I could work at Lectron over the summer. Bev woke me up for work each day and made waffles on Sunday mornings and Bob provided the type of support and encouragement that meant a great deal to me coming from someone like Bob, who I respected greatly. I think the thing that I admired most about Bob was that he was authentic. He would tell you what he thought and you knew that he meant it. I can still hear Bev yelling “Robert” from the kitchen anytime he got overly excited about Ohio State football. And I still remember Bev's laugh that followed. I am so grateful for the time I spent with them.

Doug Wieten

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Doug Wieten - October 18, 2023 at 04:48 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert "Bob" Ray Ridgway.

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October 18, 2023 at 02:45 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Ray Ridgway.



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October 18, 2023 at 02:45 PM

DK

“ *Such a nice man. Always very kind to my family. My daughter, Heather, had a great father in law. Sorry for your loss.*

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**Diana Kick** - October 18, 2023 at 01:23 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Ray Ridgway.*



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October 18, 2023 at 11:28 AM