



Robert "Bob" Stephan

October 25, 2020

It is with a broken heart, deep sadness and sorrow that the family of Robert "Bob" Stephan announce his peaceful passing, surrounded by family and love on Sunday October 25, 2020 at the age of 66 years, in Sarasota, Florida.

He will forever be lovingly remembered by his partner Marie Mago, brother's William (Sally Nolan), Michael (Carol) and Jeffery Stephan. The Rosi family; Charlotte Rosi, Peter Rosi, and Bob's brothers Peter, Dave (Lorie) and Tim Rosi (Kelly) and sisters, Angela (Tim Buete) and Barbara (James Helms) Rosi along with many nieces and nephews.

Bob would have wanted his furry friend and pet Angora rabbit Thumper mentioned. Thumper has been with Bob and Marie these last few years and Bob loved him so.

Bob was predeceased by his parents, Robert and Dolores Stephan, grandparents Angela and Joseph Kot and nephew Benjamin Rosi. Born in Des Plaines, Il in 1954 on the first day of Spring. Bob was the oldest of 4 boys. Growing up in Glenview, Illinois those early years were all about staying outside in the summer all day playing in the neighborhood, pickup games in the front yard, and family vacations in Florida and California.

He spent a lot of time visiting his parent's local restaurant, The Intimate Wick,

where his grandmother worked and fed him lunch on a regular basis and the family motel, the Lantern Motel.

After his parents passed away, Bob at age 12, and his younger 3 brothers moved into Oak Park, IL to join families with the Rosi family. The Stephan and Rosi families united and ultimately totaled 9 children. Bob was grateful and always loved the combined family.

Bob's extended family was Marie Mago's family, originally from Melrose Park, IL. The Mago family; Marie's parents Frank (deceased) and Josephine Mago, brothers Frank (Sue), Don (Bonnie), Lou (Maria) and sisters Joanne (Bob Deprizio), Barb (Joe Hansen) and all their children, who all loved Bob.

Marie's mother Josephine Mago, and sister Barb were especially close with Bob. He lovingly referred to Mrs. Mago as "Trixie". Only Bob could get away with that. He spent many a wonderful Holiday in Marco Island, FL with the entire Mago family and on their return for their Chicago vacations, he and Marie would stay with the Mago family in Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

Bob finished up grade school at Oliver Wendall Holmes School in Oak Park, attended San Rafael military Academy in California and then graduated from Oak Park River Forest High School in 1972.

In the neighborhood pick-up basketball games at Holmes, he was known for his game and his fade away jump shot. He loved playing baseball and softball. He made many lifelong friends in his years in Oak Park and was a good and loyal friend throughout his life. Bob had many 50 plus year friendships, which tells you a lot about him right there.

Early on Bob loved to travel and especially loved warm weather and palm trees. He started to travel right out of High School, starting with trips to Florida, Colorado and California. He continued to travel throughout his life. He loved

the island life in Boca Grande, Florida, the surf in Ocean Beach, California and the beach community in Siesta Key, Florida. He ultimately settled in Siesta Key, FL where he has lived for the last 18 years.

Bob was the pioneer for the Siesta Key, Sarasota FL area among friends and family and since his arrival, many of his friends have visited and then relocated to the Siesta Key, Sarasota FL area. That continues today as more and more people are relocating to the area who have a connection to Bob. He always led the way on fun and living in a place of beauty.

Bob was that very rare individual who was the full package. He was handsome, had a magnetic personality, a big and loving heart and a million-dollar smile that lit up the room. He was the life of the party and he made friends easily.

Part of the measure of a person is how friends and family describe you over your lifetime. Just some of the many tributes to Bob include, “he loved everyone”, “he had that million-dollar smile”, “Bob never held a grudge”, “he was a free spirit”, “easy going and lived large”, “the biggest and most loving heart”, “he was a lover not a fighter”, “he was the social director”. How many times has it been said, “What a great guy”, too many to count!

Bob lived his life the way he wanted to, period. He knew what he wanted and once he made up his mind, he could not be influenced. He lived for the moment and did not worry about the future. He lived large and enjoyed his life. He lived many years in the years he lived.

Everyone who knew Bob said he was a natural born Social Director. Whenever friends or family were coming to town to visit him and Marie, he would have the entire length of your stay planned with the best restaurants, the most fun drinking establishments, and the best bands to dance to. In fact,

even when he could not make it himself, he would still arrange the entire get together, make the reservations, call all his friends and family and then call several times over the evening after the party started to make sure everyone was having a great time. He would do this even from out of state.

He loved music and from the first time he saw live music, that began a lifelong love affair. He was always searching locally for live music wherever he lived. Just about every weekend it seemed, he would get people together to go dance and party to some great rock and roll dance bands. I should mention, every girl wanted to dance with him.

Whether he was hosting the party or a guest, Bob was always the life of the party. Getting together with friends and family was what he loved to do, it is what made him tick.

He was great in the kitchen or on the grill and as friends and family can attest to, Bob always put on the greatest spread of food. He would turn any occasion into a great meal and a party. Some of his favorites were beef tenderloin, filet rare, lobster, king crab legs, stone crab claws, scallops, shrimp cocktail with his homemade cocktail sauce and mashed potatoes like grandma used to make. He would call Sally regularly to talk and discuss recipes.

When he went out to eat, he loved fine dining with a water view, the closer to the water the better. It was a white tablecloth restaurant or nothing. This he picked up from his parents, Bob and Dolores who were restaurateurs. As one of his great friends said, "Bob was a bon vivant who loved to hold dinner parties and serve exquisite, elaborate meals".

He worked as a waiter for many of the years he lived in Florida. In his black and whites with his cummerbund about his waist, sweat gathered on his forehead and his rosy cheeks, easy and graceful he would work his tables. After he retired from being a waiter, Bob worked at building maintenance and light remodeling jobs.

Bob absolutely loved Christmas time and was a fanatic about stringing up lights inside in every room of his house and outside on every available tree, bush and even the stairway. He always had a fresh cut Christmas tree that went floor to ceiling and was decorated to perfection. He had too many singing, dancing, animated Christmas decorations to list. His home was a Christmas wonderland every year. He loved driving in Siesta Key showing us all the Christmas lights during the annual Christmas light competition on the Key.

Bob loved the Chicago Cubs and when the cubs were playing, he would always answer the phone, "don't tell me the score, I have the game taped". He talked Cubs baseball with Mrs. Mago and many friends and family members over the years.

Horseshoes, pool and Polish Rummy were his games. He rarely lost at these games and if a wager were involved, it would usually end up in his pocket. Many people had to admit to defeat when playing Bob at those games. He loved playing cards and those who played with him knew they had better bring a bag of quarters for Polish Rummy.

He watched all his sports from his 75" TV. He always subscribed to more channels and always had the biggest TV of anyone we knew. Even way before big TV's became popular, he had the biggest TV around. Besides sports he liked the old TV shows like Gunsmoke, The Rifleman and in movies he liked westerns, especially Tombstone. Then there were the Hallmark movies. He watched them all through the Christmas season and would tell us his favorites so we could watch them too. He was a big softy.

He could have been a professional handicapper. He loved watching sports and was always up on baseball (his favorite) and football. He had many

friends he would bet with on various sporting games throughout the year and they would sometimes get frustrated, because he usually won.

Bob was larger than life. One of my favorite images of Bob is, picture this, Bob driving a red Chrysler LeBaron convertible with the top down, black interior, his dark hair blowing in the wind, wearing a big bright Hawaiian shirt, music emanating from the speakers and his million-dollar smile lighting the way as would drive up on Siesta Key.

Some of his favorite bands were Marshall Tucker Band back in the day, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Allman Brothers and Michael Bubl .

His favorite motorcycles were his Triumph and his Honda Gold Wing Motorcycles. He picked up his Goldwing from his brother Peter. He will be forever missed by his dear friends in the Chicagoland area, Southern California, Boca Grande FL and Siesta Key Fl.

Some great lessons Bob taught us was not to hold a grudge or to hold resentment for some perceived transgression. He really had love in his heart for all people. To Bob, life was too short to get caught up in the nonsense and the drama. He felt you should live your life as you see fit, and make sure your living the life you want to, to the best of your ability.

The only way to fill the big hole in our hearts is for Bob's big extended family with many brothers, sisters and dear friends to fill them with the memories and the many great Bob stories, over time. There are so many of them! He loved you all.

He will be forever loved and close to our hearts.

See you down the road Bob.

As Bob would say, "Who loves ya baby".

Vaya con dios

Tribute Wall

LP

“ I first met Marie Mago, at an office in San Diego, we were 2 hairdressers now forced to work in an office, we became fast close friends and had so much fun !!!! then I met Bob they lived in O B I started going over party with them great times, great people was 1998 I just moved to San Diego they were my first friends, then they got me in at their apts at beach, such great times !!!!! lived down hall was very sad when they moved to Florida ! but understood we lost touch all these years later I found their phone number called last night, when it wasn't a working number I started looking into it and was devastated to find they both have passed Loved them so!!!! Marie and I were very good friends and shared alot of laughs Bob always knocked at my door inviting me over for a fab dinner great cook!!!! My ❤️ will be heavy for a very long time



Lisa Placencia - October 28, 2021 at 11:14 PM

 Julie
Erickson

“ *My deepest condolences during this time of incredible loss.*

I fondly remember Bob from the Boca days. Every Sunday morning at Bob's place was a party! Eggs Benedict, mimosas, jazz, and horseshoes for anyone who wanted to join in. No invite or RSVP required; his door was always open and there was plenty for all.

In Boston, it was Sunday game days in front of an enormous TV followed by lobster and filet mignon cooked to perfection and smothered with Bearnaise. Bob was definitely an amazing host who loved to entertain!

His heart was always open to help any stray. He truly would give anyone the shirt off his back or the last quarter in his pocket. His generous spirit was legendary!

Bob was the most warm hearted, gregarious, fun-loving soul and will be remembered and missed by many, near and far.

Sending love and light to his family and friends ❤️

Julie Erickson - December 11, 2020 at 02:13 PM

BT

“ *To Robert Stephan's brothers: I am so sad to hear that you recently lost your brother! I only met him once many years ago when he was a child. I wish I had seen him all grown up. I'm sure that you all miss him so much!! Fred and Cathy sent me his obituary which was kind of them. My name is Beverly Stephan Toner, one of your cousins from Harry Stephan and his wife Phoebe. We visited you when we were traveling from Pittsburgh, Pa. once when I was 16. Please accept my deepest condolences. Love to you.. Bev*

Beverly Toner - November 20, 2020 at 11:13 AM

TR

“ Loved Bob's yearly phone calls when my Spartans were on another run toward the final four.

He and Mago worked with me and stayed in Lafayette around 1998. Bob would always repeat the saying I had for Mago " Mago your killing me" when we were restoring Apartments.

I will miss hearing and talking with both of them.

Bill thanks for the wonderful words for our brother.

Timothy Rosi - November 17, 2020 at 10:51 PM

JW

“ Well whoever wrote that perfect, memorable reflection of our sweet Bob was spot on. That was magnificent. As we reflect, treasure and hold him in our hearts, may we send love to the family from here on the island of Boca Grande. Respectfully, Bob will always be our family too. Sending peace and love, Jimbo and Joy

Joy Wyman - November 17, 2020 at 06:20 PM