



## Robert Cotner

May 6, 1933 - March 22, 2017

Robert A. (Bob) Cotner peacefully passed away at his home Wednesday, February 1, 2017.

He was the beloved son of Alvin and Myrtle Goetz Cotner, born May 6, 1933 in Cape Girardeau.

He attended May Green School, Central High School, and Southeast Missouri State University, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Business and a Master's degree in Psychology. He suffered the loss of his father when he was only 14 years of age and began work at Finney's drug store to assist his mother in sustaining the home and family endeavors. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and served as a medic in the Korean War. He worked at Finney's Drug Store until graduating from the university and then began a successful career in pharmaceutical sales for Pfizer. He later became a valued employee of the State of Missouri, as a Disability Determinations officer, from which he retired at the age of 62. Bob had an amazing memory and enjoyed telling tales of his years in the sales industry and as a state employee, sharing many fond memories of those that he met.

He was a skilled and avid outdoorsman and spent much of his time with dear friends and family fishing for crappie at lakes in the surrounding area as well as hunting ducks and deer or anything in season. He enjoyed many trips to

Canada to hunt and fish as well as to the “squirrel woods” with a special group of friends he considered family. He became a skilled ball player at a young age and his favorite time of year was baseball season and summer, where he umpired many local games of baseball and softball and was a life-long Saint Louis Cardinals fan. He also enjoyed playing in poker tournaments, participating in shooting matches and competition hunts, as well as smoking his pipes and cigars while following the stock market. For years he was a dedicated member of the local Amvets, Eagles, and American Legion.

He is survived by his beloved daughter, Jennifer Cotner, who helped him live his life out at his home. He is also survived by other family near and dear to him, including Jennifer’s step-father and mother, Art and Nancy Mattingly, Ty Andrews, Tony Benkovich, Ruth/Burch Neel, the Brabson girls, Harriet Holly and family, Dr, Dan Cotner and family, the Diebold’s, Darrell Brown, Jo Schneier, and many others, including his granddogs, Bubb, Sonny, and Buck.

He was preceded in his death by his father, mother, and a brother, John, who died at birth. Also preceding him in his death were his mother’s siblings, Ada Randol and Alma Harris, whom Bob helped to care for after the deaths of their husbands, as well his mother’s brother, Colonel Robert Goetz, of West Point Military Academy.

Family and friends will gather to celebrate his life on Sunday, April 2, 2017 which is opening day for the Cardinals, his favorite day of the year. The celebration will take place at Crain Funeral Home in Cape Girardeau. The celebration will begin at 2 pm.

In honor of his memory, contributions to the Missouri Department of Conservation or the Humane Society of Southeast Missouri would be a way to ensure his kind, humble spirit lives on. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

Crain Funeral Home in Cape Girardeau is in charge of arrangements.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Cotner*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *Mr Cotner was one of the kindest, most giving men I've ever known. I'm so sorry to hear of his passing. I worked with him for many years at the DDS office too. He was so funny and had so many great stories. After he retired, he would always ask how Pam and the other girls were doing whenever I would see him out and about in town. He so enjoyed his fishing trips with his buddies. I will miss him and I send my prayers to his family.*



Carla Young - February 04, 2017 at 09:06 AM



*He made so many friends and good memories in that office; thank you for remembering him and celebrating his life and spirit.*

jennifer cotner - February 07, 2017 at 01:26 PM



“ *Bob was such a good man. To the Gene and Mary Diebold family he will always hold a special place in our hearts. The many hunting trips with my Dad and my brothers were special. He graced many of our homes for Holidays when he could. He was family to us. I hope him and Dad are hunting in Heaven.  
Gale Ledure (Gene and Mary's daughter)*

Gael Ledure - February 02, 2017 at 12:10 PM

JC

*He loved you all so much; thank you for being a part of his life and celebrating him.*

jennifer cotner - February 07, 2017 at 01:24 PM

PG

“ *So sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Cotner. I worked with him for many years at the Disability Determinations office. He was always full of life. Loved it when he got all excited about something and would do a little jig by bending one leg and lifting it up off the ground, raising both arms and twisting! One day there was a mouse in one of the offices, he had me shut the door and he grabbed a broom and he had those little legs running around and around that office trying to take care of that mouse with the broom. No, he was not successful. He was a wonderful man and made coming to work so much more enjoyable! He certainly loved his mother who would call the office often and ask for "Sonny Bob" and his daughter Jennifer who he was so proud of. Pam Goodin*



Pam Goodin - February 02, 2017 at 09:31 AM

JC

*He was an awesome guy and could be so funny. He sure thought a lot of you, Pam. Thank you for remembering him.*

jennifer cotner - February 07, 2017 at 01:28 PM

DD

*I was so sad to hear of Bob's passing! I had just talked with him a few days before Christmas. I can't hardly remember a time in my life since childhood that he was not part of the family! I worked with him at Disability Determinations after I graduated. He was truly one of a kind. I smile just thinking about him because he was just such a character. I know Dad is there to greet him and they are up to only God knows what right now! He will be deeply missed! Donna Diebold-Joplin*

Donna Diebold-Joplin - February 08, 2017 at 09:20 AM

DS

*I worked with Bob at Disability Determinations for almost 4 years (1975 - 1979). Even though we have not kept in touch over the years, there are things that will happen to remind me of that time and it usually always has something directly or indirectly to do with Bob. My time there was better because of him. Without a doubt, he will be missed by all who knew him, but the memories will always remain.*

*Dawn Raney Sample*

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**dawn sample** - February 08, 2017 at 02:05 PM