



## Robert "Bob" Rowden

May 9, 1950 - March 16, 2023

IN MEMORY OF:  
ROBERT "BOB" ROWDEN

Serving Location:  
CRAIN FUNERAL HOME – MURPHYSBORO  
1421 Walnut Street, Murphysboro, Illinois

Robert "Bob" Rowden of Murphysboro passed away March 16, 2023 at his home, at the age of 72.

He was born in Murphysboro to the late Charlie and Mildred (Cripps) Rowden on May 9, 1950.

Bob graduated from Murphysboro High School in 1968 and went on to earn a bachelor's degree from S.I.U. in business in 1972. He traveled and spent his time working various jobs. His brother Gary ran Rowden Auto and expanded his business with the purchase of tow trucks. Bob joined his brother and helped with tow runs and selling auto parts for several years. Bob was a very hardworking man and helped his family on their farm for many years.

In his spare time Bob enjoyed gardening, spending time on Kincaid Lake, hunting deer and morel mushrooms, and spending time with his family.

Bob is survived by his children, Justin Rowden and Heather Prather (Bo); grandsons, Rhett and Renly Prather; siblings, Tim Rowden (Anna); Butch Rowden (Wanda); Gary Rowden (Suellyn); Brenda Krpata (Charlie); Priscilla Grotheer (Kurt); numerous nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

In addition to his parents, Bob was also preceded in death by his sister, Debbie Hoppenstedt and her husband, Jim.

Bob will be cremated in accordance to his wishes.

A Celebration of Life will be on May 27, 2023 at 11:00 AM at the Murphysboro Event Center.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Crain Funeral Home-Downtown Murphysboro.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAY 27. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Murphysboro Event Center  
1329 Walnut Street  
Murphysboro  
Murphysboro, IL 62966

# Tribute Wall



“ Robert "Bob" Rowden

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ My family bought our first house that was located next to Bob and Peggy's house down on Shoal Creek Rd. Bob was the man who introduced me to gardening. He would plant a huge vegetable garden between our houses that he generously shared. He was always sharing the seeds and introducing me to new things to grow. I have fond memories of those days and was sad to learn of his passing. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Lori Reed - May 31, 2023 at 09:26 AM



Lori - Thank you for sharing those great memories. I have fond memories of spending lots of time out in that garden with my Dad. He definitely was at peace when he was out there. I hope to continue his garden and get it up and going again soon.

Justin Rowden - March 24, 2025 at 11:37 PM



“ Bobby was aa junior ,when I was a freshman . We worked on a few cars together. He was a cool upperclassmen. My sister Sue and my Wife Jayne were in the same class. I remember that he had a 1962 impala that he put a gigantic motor in . It was fast and beautiful. Bobby was always good to me. I am praying for comfort and peace for the family.

Mike Pierson - April 29, 2023 at 12:57 AM

JR

*I would have loved to have seen that Impala. I wish there were pictures. I smiled when I read the part about putting a big motor in it. I don't remember him mentioning an Impala specifically, but he used to always say he wishes he still had many of his previous cars. I do too.*

Justin Rowden - March 24, 2025 at 11:43 PM

MB

*I lived with Bob for thirty years. We laughed all time. He was the sweetest man I have ever known 💕 We shared gardening and his mom and dad forever. His family excepted me like a daughter and Mildred was my favorite friend. But Bob was my life partner and as far as forever. I love 💕 you Bob*

Marsha Berkowitz - July 01, 2025 at 01:05 PM



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



March 26, 2023 at 09:23 PM

RH

“ *I transferred from Longfellow School to Lincoln School in the 5th grade. My first few weeks were pretty tough trying to fit in. Bob (we knew him as Bobby back then) was a year ahead of me and the most popular boy in his 6th grade class. He sort of took me under his wing and we became very good friends. His friendship to me made the transition to a new school so much easier, because kids must have figured that if Bobby Rowden thought I was ok, then perhaps I was. I remember him fondly.  
Bob (back then, Bobby) Holliday*

Robert Holliday - March 24, 2023 at 12:18 PM

SM

“ Sue (Pierson) Matz

*"Bobby", Lynn (Marshall) Pierson and I were the only students in our first grade and 1st semester 2nd grade at Worthen School (tornado of 57). He was also a neighbor. He was always very nice, helpful, and kind all through our school years. I haven't lived in Murphyboro for a long time but I have always had fond memories of Bob. My heart goes out to his family and all the Rowden's.*

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**Sue (Pierson) Matz** - March 23, 2023 at 08:07 PM

AH

“ Sorry to hear we were neighbors and played together allot when we was young, good guy

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**Anita(Thomas) Harris** - March 23, 2023 at 09:31 AM

JT

“ My Condolences to the Rowden family, Bobby an I were good friends, we grew up together an loved hunting and camping in our younger days, will miss him. Sorry to hear, The Taylor family

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**James Taylor** - March 22, 2023 at 06:37 PM

CW

“ Gary & Rowden Family

*I was so sorry to read of Bobby's passing. We all had some fun times growing up out in the country. Kids today don't know what they missed! I often think about all you "kids" & wondering where you are; didn't realize Bob was working with you. Give my love to the rest of the family. My prayers are with you all.*

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**Carol (Watkins) Wehmeyer** - March 22, 2023 at 02:29 PM

AJ

“ I have many memories of Uncle Bob he was so helpful to me and my family. I loved his jokes and sense of humor. He was always generous to everyone. He was always giving people what he grew in his garden.

I loved his

Spaghetti squash and Morrell mushrooms that he would cook himself .He made Illinois such a great place to visit .

My kids will always remember hanging out

Bob .

They loved riding the tractors feeding animals and the practical jokes . Bob always made us laugh and smile I was blessed to be his niece . My heart is broken .



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**Amy Hoppenstedt Jackson** - March 21, 2023 at 09:47 PM

RH

“ Praying for all his remaining Family. Sure he'll be missed. But God knows the future for all of us. Praying also for Charlie and his Wife Wanda. Denny and I Love you.

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**Ruby Helms** - March 21, 2023 at 04:32 PM

SN

“ Gary, Suellyn, and family, so sorry for your loss. Bob was a good guy, he and Gary towed Mike out of many predicaments. Thoughts and prayers. Suzie Naegele

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**Suzie Naegele** - March 21, 2023 at 03:59 PM