



Robert Cunningham

October 28, 1924 - March 5, 2007

Robert G. Cunningham, 82, Bismarck, died March 5, 2007, at Medcenter One Hospital. A memorial service will be held at 10:30 am Saturday at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, with Rev. Thomas Kramer officiating. Burial will be held in St. Mary's Cemetery, Bismarck. A rosary and wake will be held at 7:00 pm Friday at Eastgate Funeral Service, Bismarck. There will be no visitation, as cremation has taken place. Robert was born on October 28, 1924, at LaMoure, ND, the son of George and Myrtle Larson Cunningham of Grand Rapids, ND. He grew to manhood on the family farm along the banks of the James River east of Grand Rapids. He had a life-long love for the farm. After graduating from LaMoure High School in 1944, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was honorably discharged in 1946 at Fort Snelling, after which he returned to the family farm. In 1947, he moved with his family to Washburn where he met and married Marilyn Wahl. They moved to Minneapolis while Robert attended school. Together they began their life living in small North Dakota towns while Robert was employed as an Agent/Telegrapher for the Northern Pacific Railroad, which brought them to Driscoll in 1959. In 1969 he was appointed Postmaster at Driscoll, ND, where he served until in retirement in September of 1990. In 1997 they moved to Bismarck to make their home. While living in Driscoll, Robert was active in community affairs. He served as correspondent for the Order of Railroad Telegrapher's Magazine for several years and was elected vice-president and president of the ND Chapter of the National Association of Postmasters. In addition, he was very active in the

Driscoll Men's Club where he served as secretary for many years was elected vice-president and president. He was a member of the Amvets, American Legion, and Elks Lodge 1199. Robert had a wonderful gift for entertaining others with his many stories and jokes. Whenever he was with company, laughter filled the room. He enjoyed visiting his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and loved sending them valentines and small gifts. In 1999 he wrote a book, chronicling his family history and presented a copy to each of his children and grandchildren, who greatly appreciated the time and effort he spent leaving them with a history of the Cunningham family. He also authored the book, "Pearls of the Prairie, Life in Small Dakota Towns", which was published in 2002. Robert is survived by his wife of 57 years, Marilyn, Bismarck; two sons, Robert Gregory Keney, Bismarck, and George W. Joni, Aliso Viejo, CA; three daughters, Stephanie Kelly Aguirre, Jacksonville, OR, Susan Jim Edwards, Aurora, CO, and Judy Ron Kalainov, Steele, ND; one brother, Douglas Elaine Cunningham of Apex, NC; two sisters-in-law, Juleen Cunningham of Bismarck, ND, and Kay Cunningham of Houston, TX; 12 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren. Robert was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Genevieve Richards; and two brothers, Philip and David. Robert will be dearly missed but never forgotten. Memorial donations may be made to St. Bernard Mission School in Ft. Yates, or God's Child Project in Bismarck.

Tribute Wall

DL

“ we are so sorry to hear of bob's passing-i remember as a kid going to the post office and bob teasing us or he always had a story or joke for us. the family is in our thoughts and prayers

deb geist leingang - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ We are sorry for your loss. Having just lost my father I know the feelings of sadness that you are experiencing. Uncle Robert was always a person that was very instrumental in bringing happiness and joy to all that he came into contact with. His contagious humor and outlooks will be missed but never forgotten. our prayers our with you during this time of transition. John/Kay Cunningham

John/Kay Cunningham - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

WS

“ Marilyn and family, Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Robert always mentioned his experiences working on the Sauer farm when he was a young man. I have many stories to remember because of him. God bless you and your family.

Wesley & Sharon Sauer - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ Robert Cunningham

Luke & Alice Lucas - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MC

“*Marilyn and Family, I am truly sorry. The one thing that stands out in my mind besides Robert's infectious laugh are the stories that were spun during family reunions. As far back as I can remember sitting on the floor at Grandpa Phillip's house on Porter Ave listening to stories about Washburn, Driscoll, Steele and the interesting characters they met along the way. And his laugh, it seems that's all he did when we would get together. The boat load of funny stories whether it was a lendarary tale from the Wasburn days or a recent trip to the mall in Bismarck, laughing was sure to ensue. Coming from a generation where most of my friends have never met or never had an opprotunity to meet their grandparent's brothers and sisters, I consider myself blessed that I could have a drink and slice of pizza with my Great Uncle, exchange stories and just laugh. I will truly miss him.*

Michael T. Cunningham - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DL

“*Robert Cunningham*

deb geist leingang - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MM

“*Dearest Cunninghams, I am so sorry that you all have lost a great man with Bob's passing. My thoughts are with you as begin healing. Mark Mazaheri*

Mark Mazaheri - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ To Bob's Family,I was very sad to hear of Bob's passing, and send deep sympathy to you all. Bob and I worked alot of years together at the Driscoll Post Office, we really had a good time. We sure enjoyed playing pranks on each other, I can still hear Bob's laugh! The memories I have of Bob are such good ones, I will miss him too. You are all in our prayers and thoughts.Suzette

Suzette Berg - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ Dear Marilyn and Family,I never had the pleasure of meeting Bob, but I heard a lot of stories about him from George. He sounded like a very wonderful person who had a lot to share with family and friends. The loss of someone so dear is more difficult than can be put into words, but you and your family are in my thoughts at this difficult time. Please accept my condolences in the loss of a very loved man.

Marge Goochey - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ Marilyn & family,I am sorry for your loss and my thoughts and prayers are with you.Amanda Nygaard & Family

Amanda Nygaard - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Our deepest and sincere sympathies and prayers go to Marilyn and Family. Robert was a fine man. His passing will be felt in our hearts forever. He was a good friend to my father, who was lucky enough to meet both he and Marilyn last year. I just wish I could have met him as well. We did pass emails back and forth loaded with funny stories, pictures and jokes. He always made us laugh. At least I was fortunate enough to do the email, as my father doesn't know how to use his computer. He will truly truly be missed.

Debra Fenno Hayes - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GW

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this very sad time. I always enjoyed visiting with him and we had interesting conversations. May the peace and love of the Lord help you in this time of grief. Gene

Gene West - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GD

“ Having met Robert and the Cunningham family thru George and our niece, Joni was and will always be a cherished acquaintance. I will always think of Robert as a 'Purposeful Man' in all that he did in his life. His values and many attributes are so apparent to us all in the Family he has left behind. Carry-on.

glenda&bubba daniels - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ Reading through Robert Cunningham's obituary made me feel even more sympathy for his family's loss. What a great gift to have such a giving person in your lives. His gift of storytelling was truly shared with all his family, and what a blessing that he put it in writing for all of you. I hope each of you rest with the comfort that he is telling all those wonderful stories in heaven, while watching over you. My deepest sympathy, Cynthia Griffith Taylor Bros., Inc.

Cynthia Griffith - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ Dearest Marilyn and family, May the memories you have of your loving husband and father comfort you. May the love that surrounds you from your family and friends, carry you through the sadness you all must feel. Like my dad Michael G.H. Cunningham once told me; Robert has a true gift; intelligence and an incredibly talent for telling intriguing and absolutely hilarious tales. With a few minutes time, Uncle Robert could turn any story into one where you'd find tears of laughter running down your cheeks and Robert's own infectious laugh in your ear. My dad was right. I am so grateful to have known my Uncle Robert...I will treasure his stories always, and I will miss him dearly. ~KMCA

Karen M. Cunningham-Anderson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ Marilyn and Family I am so sorry. I think, with Philip, David, and Gen we were more prepared. My family will all miss Robert, his distinctive laugh, his great appreciation of life, and the many wonderful stories what a terrible loss. It is so nice that Robert put so many of those stories to paper. There will be a large void that we can fill with memories. Memory is a way of holding onto the things you love, the things you are, the things you never want to lose. Hope to see you soon.

Patrick Cunningham - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ Just wanted the entire family to know that we are thinking of you. When Bob worked in the post office in Driscoll, I always admired his high school class ring-it was buffed to a high shine just from being worn. I decided that I wanted to have a ring like that too! So, when I got my class ring which is now 40 years old, right Steph? I wore it all the time hoping to get it as shiny as Bob's ring. I have worn my class ring since I got it and still wear it today. It has a very high gloss, but probably will never look as bright as Bob's ring. I can hear him laughing now! Take care all.

Thelma Lein-Whitman - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KL

“ We lived in Driscoll from 1976-1980 and Bob was our Postmaster. In 1985 I became Postmaster in Sterling and was Bob's Postmaster neighbor until he retired. He was always very knowledgeable and willing to help a new Postmaster. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Kathy Lang - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PE

“ Although Robert and I knew each other as young boys in LaMoure, he was a little older than I, so while we played together some, we were not close. After reading his book about small towns in ND, we became almost daily Email friends, reminiscing about our boyhoods, and what we are doing now. He was a wonderful story teller, with great wit and excellent memory of days gone by. He lived a hard but very interesting life. I will miss him greatly.

Philip Ellian - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *Extending our sincere sympathy.*

Michael Stinchfield - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ *We will miss Robert on the Good Neighbor trips. Was always a lot of fun to be around.*

Lee Roy & Donna Binder - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ *Dear Marilyn and Family, My prayers and thoughts are of you and family today. I just spoke to my mother and she told me about "Bob." I also remember Bob's laugh, the smile and twinkle in his eyes when visiting. It has been years since I have seen you or your family, but the memories never go away. Donnie Hockhalter*

Don Hockhalter - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ Grandma, I am sorry for what we all, especially you, are going through. I couldn't have been more blessed in my life, from childhood on, with a better Gramma and Grampa than you and Grampa Robert. I feel such a void not being able to be there that I don't think I will ever get over. I do, however, have a heart full of awesome memories, thank God!!!! A couple of things that always pop into my head are you and Grampa harmonizing to "Down by the Old Mill Stream" and "Put Another Nickel in the Nickelodeon" and me and Jenny in the back seat on the way to Driscoll singing our hearts out to every song we knew!! We wouldn't have known any of those songs if it weren't for you two teaching them to us. Thank You So Much For That..... Also, Grampa running as fast as he could with Jenny and I in the wheelbarrow and dumping us into the huge leaf pile he had raked in the fall, and I couldn't wait to get to Driscoll so I could play "Tiddy-Winkles"!!!! I have truly been blessed with the "Grampa Robert Laugh" and I will always cherish that. I Love You, Gramma!!!!!! Love You, Jackie

Jacquelyn Edwards-Riley - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ I remember going to the post office when I was growing up and talking with Bob. He was always telling jokes, laughing, he enjoyed life. Hardly ever a stern word. Bob was well liked!

Myron Swenning - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ Robert Cunningham

John, Deb, & Lucas Tibor - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM