



Robert J. Merges

May 24, 1941 - November 4, 2020

Delmar-Robert J. Merges, 79, entered Eternal Life Wednesday, November 4, 2020. Born in Albany, Bob was the son of Frank J. and Ann Clark Merges.

Bob was the third of five sons in Frank and Ann's family. He shared many fond memories of growing up with his brothers near Hackett Blvd in Albany, NY and their adventures in the neighborhood. These early adventures led to a lifelong interest in science and the natural world. After meeting his dear wife, JoAnn Lillibridge, Bob graduated from Siena College and Texas A&M and went on to teach science for 35 years. He was very active in the North Colonie Teachers Association during his 31 years at Shaker Junior High School. Later in his career he held a seasonal, scientific testing position for NYS DOT.

After retiring, Bob volunteered with several local service organizations, including the Sister Maureen Joyce Center Food Pantry and Bethlehem Seniors Transportation.

Bob enjoyed photography throughout his life, particularly during his many visits to the National Parks with JoAnn. He also took up woodworking and made treasured gifts for family members.

He was the beloved husband of 55 years of JoAnn Lillibridge Merges; dear father of Kevin Merges (Amy), Mary Ann Merges, Daniel Merges, and Elizabeth Christine Malone; cherished grandfather of Hannah and David Merges, Ruth and Malachy Snow; brother of Bruce Merges (Barbara), Richard Merges (Barbara), Paul Merges (late Barbara) and Frank Merges (Renee); many nieces, nephews, cousins and former students survive.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Bob's family Tuesday, November 10, 2020 8:30 am to 10:00 am at McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 North Allen Street, Albany, NY 12206. Please only enter the funeral home from the rear parking lot doorway; masks and social distancing are required; and 40 visitors at a time will be allowed in the funeral home.

Funeral services will follow the visitation Tuesday at 10:30 am at Blessed Sacrament Church, 607 Central Ave. (Father John Bradley Way), Albany, NY 12206 where his Memorial Funeral Mass will be celebrated. Please only enter the church from the Hunter Ave. Parking Lot; masks and social distancing are required; 150 visitors at a time will be allowed in the church.

Those wishing to remember Bob in a special way may send a contribution to either the Sister Maureen Joyce Center Food Pantry, Capital City Rescue Mission, Friends of Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, or the charity of your choice.

To leave a message for the family, please visit www.McveighFuneralHome.co

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Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **10**. 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc.
208 N Allen St
Albany, NY 12206
(518) 489-0188
info@mcveighfuneralhome.com
<http://www.McveighFuneralHome.com>

Service

NOV **10**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Blessed Sacrament Church
607 Central Ave (Father John Bradley Way)
Albany, NY 12206
(518) 489-0188
info@mcveighfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert J. Merges*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *We had the privilege to work with Bob at the food pantry and knew him for several years up at Shaker. An outstanding gentleman was he. He always gave 100 plus percent. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family. Lou and Kathy Buff*

Lou and Kathy Buff - November 12, 2020 at 06:51 PM



“ *To Frank and family, We were saddened to read about your brothers passing. Please know our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this sad time. Jean & Andy Lavigne*

Jean & Andy Lavigne - November 11, 2020 at 10:47 AM



“ *Mr. Merges was one of my junior high science teachers. He and his partner Mr. Buff were fun to watch together. Mr. Merges was so enthusiastic about teaching and sharing his knowledge. (even if some kids could not match his enthusiasm). He was a good man and he will be missed.*

John Burns - November 09, 2020 at 08:40 PM

MH

“ Dear Kevin and Amy and family, We were so sad to learn of the loss of your father. Our thoughts are with you and the family.
With sympathy,
Mark & Melanie

Mark Harris - November 09, 2020 at 05:35 PM

FZ

“ Dear JoAnn and the kids: What a good and noble man...I remember his speaking up for what is rightand always a pleasure to be with...at home...and even in church. The kids were fun to be with...wry humor...and good Albany High people....know of my prayer uplifting you with Heaven's peace and joy....(Fr.) Tom Zelker

Fr Tom Zelker - November 09, 2020 at 12:16 PM

SS

“ To the Merges Family,
I worked with Bob at Shaker Junior High School. As he was closing in on retirement, I was just getting started. I cannot express how appreciative I am of the time that I was able to work with Bob. He was a kind person who was always willing to help out the "new kid". I enjoyed talking to him about his family and all of the adventures that you shared. I am so fortunate to have learned so much from such a great teacher. Once Bob retired from teaching and began working at the DOT, my husband would run into him on his lunchtime walks. He would always say hello and chat. There are people in your life that you meet who leave a lasting impression, Bob Merges was one of those people. I am so sorry for your loss and I hope that your happy memories bring you comfort at this difficult time.
With sympathy,
Sarah Strouse

Sarah Strouse - November 09, 2020 at 11:20 AM



“ *Jody sorry to hear of you loss. Carole Coyne*

Carole Coyne - November 09, 2020 at 09:19 AM

“*My Uncle Bob: My earliest memories of my Uncle Bob are from the years when Aunt JoAnne was still his girlfriend, at least as I recall it. An early thought was: Anyone with a girl friend who makes cheesecake like Aunt Jody was ok by me. They were always at the family gatherings at 33 Marwood Street, and Bob I remember could often be found at the family sweatshop, Towne Marine. Kind, gentle, soft-spoken, that was how he seemed to me. He gave as well as took in the back and forth with his 4 brothers. But he had a fundamental decency and concern that you could spot right away. I remember one time, maybe I was around 11 or 12, trying to park a little tractor we had in the boat yard. I was backing the little trailer I used to collect trash in the yard, and not having much success. It was cold and rainy, I was frustrated; and then Uncle Bob came along. He looked tired too – working and school, maybe Kevin by that time; and of course we both had the same demanding boss I am not surprised he looked tired now that I think about it. But he sized up my situation, very gently offered to “show me a little trick”, and put everything right.*

These were also the years when the war in Vietnam was heating up. The Merges family had one in uniform (Frank), one opposed to the whole thing (Bob), and three caught in the middle. Arguments there were, but none that broke them apart. Bob argued with passion and belief, but was never harsh, that I can remember. (His brothers might recall differently!) No one ever said it, but what I picked up from listening was that politics are one thing, family is another. And there was no doubt which was more important. When I look at it now, a lot of Bob and Jody’s efforts and interests in those years (working with prisoners, supporting the Chavez cause with ag workers, etc.) were really an attempt to extend the love and care of family outward, toward other people. In their quiet dedication to doing good, and their love for each other, Bob and Jody were an inspiration.

When Bob and family came back from Texas A&M, he brought back two things I remember well. (Maybe he brought back Mary, too, but

there were a lot of new Merges babies in those years so forgive me if I've forgotten the precise details.) One was a box full of beautiful photos (in the old carousel slide projector) of National Parks; and one was a big pile of rocks he had gathered in the course of his study of Geology. The photos I think were the first time I remember seeing someone I knew at these famous, priceless places: Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Rocky Mountains, Yosemite, etc. (Again I may be running multiple trips into one memory here.) I think those photos planted the seed in my mind that maybe I could visit those places too sometime. As I did, over the years, I would always think back with a smile to Bob's travelogues (with commentary from my Aunt). As for the rocks, Bob was equally passionate about them but I never really caught the geology bug. I did think rock gathering was a great excuse to drive around in a cool VW bus or camper van, though. In fact I got one myself some years later.

When I started High School in Latham, I soon found out about another side of my Uncle. Many of the kids in my high school had gone to the Junior High where Bob taught – Shaker Junior High. Since Bob and I had the same name, I quickly got used to people asking “Are you related to Mr. Merges the science teacher?” And when I said yes, he is my uncle, I inevitably heard back “He was great, I really liked him, he was my favorite (or one of my favorite) Junior High teachers.” I came to see that Bob cared about every kid. Though not all were his favorites (Junior High!), he wanted the best for each one. That was his way.

Off all the plans wrecked and opportunities lost due to the Covid virus, none make me sadder than the cancellation of our all-family gathering scheduled for last summer. I feel this especially now. May Bob's memory be a blessing.

Rob Merges - November 08, 2020 at 03:37 PM

JF

“ Joann, So sorry to hear about Bob. What a great man! You and your family are in our prayers.
Judy and Eric Fioravanti

Judy Fioravanti - November 08, 2020 at 10:03 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Robert J. Merges.



November 06, 2020 at 10:44 PM

KB

“ Joann , so sorry for your loss. Thinking of you at this time. Kathy (Koch) Bertram

Kathy Bertram - November 06, 2020 at 04:47 PM

DF

“ Dear Jody, so sorry to hear about Bob, know that my thoughts and prayers are with you. God bless you and your family. 🙏🥲

Diane Forenzo - November 06, 2020 at 10:10 AM