

Robert J. Murray (Bob), aged 82, passed away peacefully at his home in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, on April 15, 2025, under the compassionate care of St. Croix Hospice, with his wife, Mary Jo closely tending to him.

Bob was born August 11, 1942, the son of John and Gertrude Murray in Superior, Wisconsin. He graduated from Cathedral High School in Superior in 1960. Bob honed his skills as a master plumber, having started in his father's plumbing shop. He proudly served in the Wisconsin Army National Guard from 1962 to 1979 reflecting his dedication and commitment to both community and country.

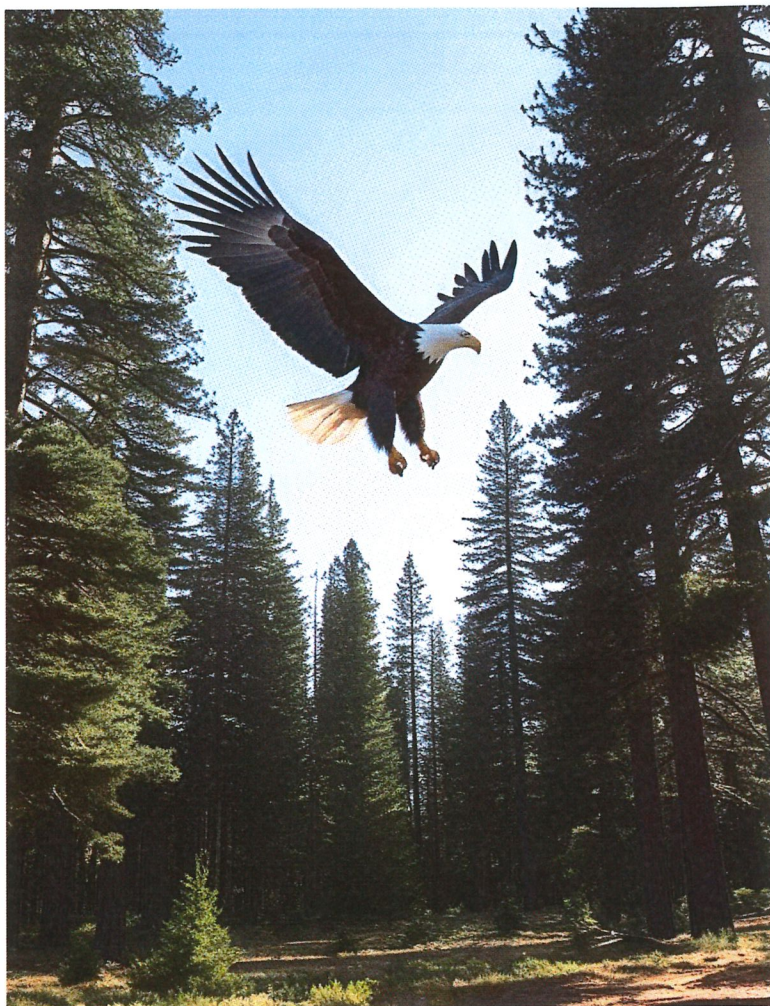
Bob married the love of his life, Mary Jo Ratai, on October 19, 1968, at St. John's Catholic Church in Virginia, Minnesota.

After working in various plumbing shops in Superior he moved on to a pipefitter position at Blandin Paper Company where he worked until retirement in 2003. The family had made the move to a serene country home near Pengilly in 1977 raising three daughters amongst the white pines and horse pastures.

Bob hand built a garage/workshop with lumber logged off the property there and started a side business "Pine Acres, Ent." Bob always enjoyed building and working on all kinds of projects and was truly a jack-of-all-trades. His shop was his "happy place."

Preceded in death by his mother Gertrude Murray; father John Murray; infant son; daughter Teresa Rajala and son-in-law Nik Rajala; brother Tom Murray (Barb); niece Wendy Kaarto and in-laws, Joe and Klara Ratai.

Survived by his loving wife Mary Jo; daughters: Amanda Spiller and Jaime (Mathew) Sexton; grandchildren: Cameron Spiller, Joe Spiller, Jonathan (Lane) Sexton and Grant Sexton; sister Nancy Marelo, and three nephews, Scott Kaarto, and Ryan and Eric Murray.



God Only Takes the Best

*God saw that he was getting tired,
and a cure was not to be.*

*So he put His arms around him and whispered,
"Come with Me."*

*With tearful eyes we watched him suffer
and saw him fade away.*

*Although we loved him dearly,
we could not make him stay.*

*A golden heart stopped beating,
hard working hands to rest.*

*God broke our hearts to prove to us,
He only takes the best.*

***In Loving Memory of
Robert J. (Bob) Murray***

Born August 11, 1942 in Superior, Wisconsin
Died April 15, 2025 in Grand Rapids, Minnesota

MEMORIAL MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

Monday, August 4, 2025 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Mary Immaculate Catholic Church
Coleraine, Minnesota

Father Babu Mandagiri - Officiating
Deacon Richard Johnston

MUSIC

Ann Johnston—Organist

"Amazing Grace" "Seek Ye First" "Be Not Afraid"

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

HONORARY URN BEARERS

~Bob's Grandchildren~

Cameron Spiller, Joe Spiller

Jonathan Lane & Grant Sexton

INURNMENT

Itasca-Calvary Cemetery
Grand Rapids, Minnesota

The family of Bob deeply appreciates your heartfelt expressions of sympathy and your comforting presence with them today. Your support during this difficult time means a great deal to them.

Arrangements are by Rowe Funeral Home & Cremation Services