

Robert John Gacek, Sr.

96.5 Years Young

(or as Bob would say $45 \times 2 + 6$)

May 7, 1929 - November 16, 2025



Bob was born to John and Magdalene Gacek on May 7, 1929, the youngest of twelve children. He grew up in Northeast Minneapolis and attended Holy Cross Grade School and graduated from DeLaSalle High School in 1947. Bob continued his education at Dunwoody Industrial Institute pursuing his creative energies through the art of printing.



Bob met his childhood sweetheart, Mary Louise Johnston, on a church hayride, and the two were married at St. Bridget's Church on October 7, 1950. Together they raised

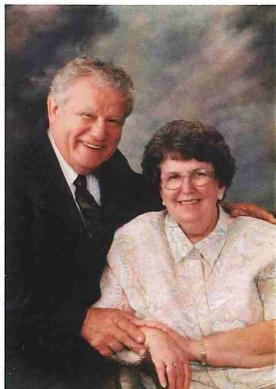


eight children in Robbinsdale and Crystal and proudly supported thirty-five continuous years of education at Sacred Heart School.

Bob and Louise built a family printing business thriving for 56 years – first Elwood Printing and later changed in name to Diversified Graphics. Bob also served in the Naval Reserves for six years, was a lifetime Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus and served as Scout Master for his many sons.

For 84 years Bob joyfully shared music with his accordion playing many venues throughout the Twin Cities including several at Sacred Heart where Bob was a devoted member for over 70 years. In the past two years Bob had the opportunity to preform weekly at Open Circle Day Center, at the US Air Force Base, at the IDS Crystal Court and played at the Lake Harriet Bandshell. And at 96, Bob had just finished recording his third CD 'Bob's Bash' the week before his music ended.

Bob dedicated his life to serving his family and others. He had a special love for the poor and passion for helping those in need. He spent a lifetime of selfless service to multiple organizations including Brother DePaul's House of Charity, Sharing and Caring Hands, Sister Jean's Cookie Cart, St. Paul Priory, Little Sisters of the Poor, Franciscan Brothers, Sister Laurice's Home for Unwed Mothers, Appalachian Christmas Drive and Healing Haiti.



The workshop was Bob's happy place—it was there that he crafted the beautiful woodworking pieces he lovingly shared with family and friends.

Bob lived simply and gratefully, treasuring the little joys of life. He especially loved time spent with his precious Louise—weekend drives, garage sales, antiquing, thrift stores,



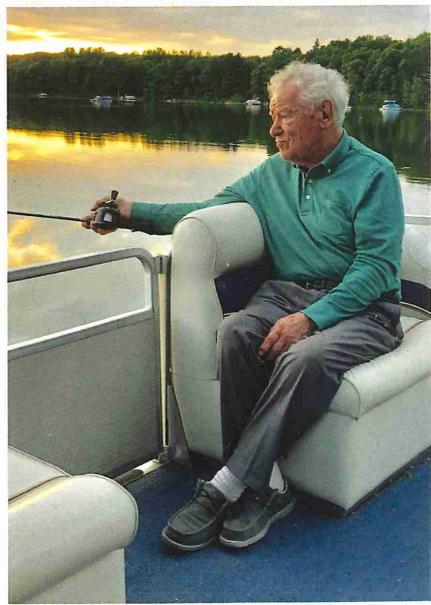
and summer days at their cabin in Wisconsin with loved ones. They traveled on mission trips to Fatima, Medjugorje, Guadalupe and Haiti. For enjoyment, they ventured to Europe, Poland, Switzerland, and Hawaii with family and friends. They visited all fifty states, with one of their most memorable adventures being an Alaskan cruise with forty-five family members and close friends.



Family time meant everything to Bob. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, great-great-grandfather, and a true friend to everyone God placed in his path. He will be remembered for his steadfast love, deep faith, unforgettable music and his lifelong commitment to serving others.

God gave us a true miracle bringing comfort and peace in dad's last moments when he opened his eyes and shared with us that his beautiful wife Louise was in the room. He told us that she was whispering to him: "Come to Me".

Although Bob's earthly journey may be complete, the light he shared will continue to shine—guiding us, inspiring us, and reminding us that a beautiful life never truly ends.



CELEBRATION MASS AND CHRISTIAN BURIAL OF ROBERT JOHN GACEK

PRELUDE	On Eagles Wings Precious Lord, Take My Hand
ENTRANCE HYMN	Amazing Grace
PROCESSION OF ROSES	Generations of Grandchildren
FIRST READING	Romans 14: 7-9, 10c-12 Robert Gacek, Jr.
RESPONSORIAL PSALM	Psalm 23 Shepherd Me, O God
SECOND READING	Revelations 21: 1-5a, 6b-7 Jonathan Gacek
GOSPEL	John 14: 1-6
HOMILY	
PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL	Thomas Gacek
OFFERTORY HYMN	Hail Mary, Gentle Woman
PRESENTATION OF ROSES	Sharon Brueske, Paulette Carroll, Laurene DeMuth
PRESENTATION OF GIFTS	Jeffrey Gacek, Sharon Brueske, Steven Gacek
COMMUNION HYMNS	I am the Bread of Life Let There Be Peace on Earth
THE LIFE, LOVE AND LEGACY OF BOB GACEK	Laurene DeMuth, Paulette Carroll
CLOSING SONGS	Serdeczna Matko How Great Thou Art
CANTOR	Bette Wolf
PALLBEARERS – Bob's Children	
	Robert Gacek Jr., Thomas Gacek, Jeffrey Gacek, Sharon Brueske, Paulette Carroll, Laurene DeMuth, Steven Gacek, Jonathan Gacek
ALTER SERVERS	Christopher Gacek, Evan Carroll
CELEBRANTS	
	Fr. Paul Shovelain (St. John the Baptist Catholic Church)



Our Loving Father,

There was strength within your gentle hands
and love and faith in every stride.

A servant's heart, a joyful soul,
with the Lord forever as your guide.

Your love for Mom was steadfast—
a treasure deep and true.

A partnership of grace and loyalty
that taught us how to love like You.

You loved to bring God's light to all,
lifting every weary heart;
giving freely, loving deeply,
always doing your gracious part.

You sprinkled joy and kindness
everywhere your journey went,
and your beautiful accordion music
was a blessing heaven-sent.

Your music filled each gathering
with laughter, life, and cheer;
its lively tunes still dance within
the memories we hold dear.

And now your legacy lives on in us,
your faith, your love, your grace—
a faithful man, a loving dad,
now sheltered in God's warm embrace.



*We love you, Dad.
Forever in our hearts,
Robert Jr., Thomas, Jeffrey,
Sharon, Paulette, Laurie,
Steven, Jonathan*



ROBERT GACEK'S LEGACY OF LOVE

Devoted Husband of Mary Louise

(September 12, 1931 - October 13, 2012)

Married October 7, 1950

ROBERT JR. & CAROL ESTOCKO

Rebecca & John LaQue
Brianna, Jack

(Brian)

Christopher & Karena
Blaise, Lucia, Josaphine,
Monica, Joachim, George

Katie & Corey Poppe
Theodore, Noah

⊕

THOMAS & SHELLEY

Sarah & Jason Svien
Mary, Lydia, Owen

Andrew & Ann
Maddie, Jane

Laura & Kevin Pankratz
Lucas, Cassidy, Zachary, Alice

Geoff Allard

Brian & Jackie Allard
Boston, Marshall, Asher,
Tyler Pelkola

⊕

JEFFREY & JULIE

Jeffrey Shannon
Carl Djovan & Alli Fils-Aime
Zayde, Djovie

SHARON & BILL BRUESKE

Dan & Lindsey
Emma, Joshua, Jackson, Genevieve

Kevin & Megan
James, Benjamin, Louise

Joey & Kate (fiancee)

⊕

PAULETTE & CRAIG CARROLL

Jeremy & Krista
Macy, Cole, Izzy, Jack

Lindsay
Autumn (*Ma'Laja*)
Auriella, Audrianna

Justin & Julie
Everly, Willow

Melissa & Mike Kopet
Michael, Samuel, Benjamin,
Jacob, Zachary

Evan & Caeli
Charlotte

⊕

LAURENE & TIM DEMUTH

Peter & Tiffany
Amelia, Lillian, Hattie

Scott & Autumn
Dacian, Leo

Kristina
Nick

STEVEN & LISA

Alaina & Matt Rukavina
Julia

⊕

JONATHAN

Vivian & Connor (fiancee)
Ivy