

Robert "Bob" Reff, 82, of Fargo, ND, passed away peacefully on Thursday, August 27, 2026, surrounded by his family after a short battle with ALS.

Bob lived a full life and got a lot of things right. He served his country in Vietnam, earned a degree in electrical engineering from NDSU, built a successful telecommunications business, spent most of his life in Fargo, and enjoyed retirement between Lake Lida, Minnesota and Port Charlotte, Florida. But if you asked Bob what mattered most, it wouldn't have been any of those things. It was his family, his friends, and the memories they made together along the way.

He tackled life with equal parts preparation, common sense, and humor. Whether packing a vehicle for a family camping trip, building something with his own hands, playing golf, fixing what others might replace, or sharing one of his famous stories, he made ordinary moments memorable. He taught those around him the value of keeping your word, working hard, showing up on time, and not taking yourself too seriously.

Family was always at the center of Bob's life. Together, he and his wife built a life and home that family and friends naturally gathered around. Many of the best days were spent camping, enjoying the lake, soaking up the Florida sunshine, or sitting on the dock solving the world's problems one conversation at a time.

Bob also treasured the friendships he built over the years through the bowling group and card club. Whether camping, exploring new places, getting into a little mischief or simply recounting stories and laughs with lifelong friends, he believed life's best moments were meant to be shared.

He had the skill to make people feel welcomed, cared for, and right at home. We will remember his steady presence, humility, quick wit, practical wisdom and big heart. Even during the last difficult months of battling ALS, his thoughts were with the people he loved rather than himself.

Bob's legacy isn't found in titles or accomplishments. It's found in the beliefs he passed on, the traditions he created, the relationships he nurtured, and the family he and his wife built together. His are the kind of footprints that remain long after a person is gone.

He will be missed beyond measure and remembered with gratitude, laughter, and love.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Minnetta and Russell Reff; his brothers, Russell Reff and Jim Reff; and his sister, Carol Beilke.

He is survived by Diane, his wife of 57 years; their daughters, Kim (Pete) Wittmers, Robynn (Ron) Steffen, and Kari (Mike) Wild; nine grandchildren, Lake, Casey, Kine, Burke, Grace, Earth, Matt, Keyle, and Sonni; and many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends, all of whom held a special place in his heart.

IN LOVING MEMORY



BOB REFF

May 21, 1944 - August 27, 2026

HIS JOURNEY'S JUST BEGUN

Don't think of him as gone away,

his journey's just begun

Life holds so many facets,

this earth is only one.

Just think of him as resting

from the sorrows and the tears

In a place of warmth and comfort

where there are no days or years.

Think how he must be wishing

that we could know today

How nothing but our sadness,

can really pass away.

And think of him as living

in the hearts of those he touched

For nothing loved is ever lost

and he was loved so much.



**HANSON
RUNSVOLD**
Cremation • Burial

Remembering

BOB REFF

May 21, 1944 - August 27, 2026

Celebration of Life

Friday, September 4, 2026 - 10:00 AM

Hanson-Runsvold Funeral Home - Fargo, North Dakota

Rev. Corey Bjertness, *Officiant*

Elliot Sander, *Accompanist*

Congregational Hymns

"Borning Cry"

"This Little Light of Mine"

Recorded Music

"Somewhere Over the Rainbow" - Israel Kamakawiwo'ole

Honorary Pallbearers

Lake Wild - Casey Chiodo - Kine Wild

Burke Wittmers - Grace Steffen - Earth Wild

Matthew Steffen - Keyle Wittmers - Sonni Steffen

Military Honors

North Dakota Military Funeral Honors Team &

Fargo Memorial Honor Guard

Interment

Friday, September 4, 2026 - 12:00 PM

Fargo National Cemetery - Harwood, North Dakota

*All are invited to a reception following the burial at the
American Legion in Harwood.*

770 I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry

1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are
 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you
 3 "In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger

old. I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to
 on; you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to
 young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, com -

see your life un - fold. I was there when you were but a
 whom you now be - long. If you find some-one to share your
 plete what I've be - gun. When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es

child, with a faith to suit you well;
 time and you join your hearts as one,
 in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,

in a blaze of light you wan - dered off to
 I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from
 I'll be there as I have al - ways been with

find where de - mons dwell."
 dusk till ris - ing sun."
 just one more sur - prise." 4 "I was there to hear your

born - ing cry, I'll be there when you are old. I re -

joiced the day you were bap-tized, to see your life un - fold."

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Won't let Satan blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine.

Won't let Satan blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine.

Won't let Satan blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine,

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel, NO!, I'm gonna let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel, NO!, I'm gonna let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel, NO!, I'm gonna let it shine,

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Let it shine 'til Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it shine

Let it shine 'til Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it shine

Let it shine 'til Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it shine,

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.