



Robert W. Luken

September 7, 1945 - March 29, 2025

Robert William Luken, age 79 of Highland, IL, died Saturday, March 29, 2025, at Cedarhurst of Highland in Highland, IL.

He was born on Friday, September 7, 1945, in Alton, IL, the son of Ralph and Helen (nee Fravle) Luken.

On October 14, 2008, he has his first date with his life partner, Charlotte O'Rourke, who survives.

He was a member of Knights of Columbus - Alton, IL before transferring to the Knights of Columbus #1580 - Highland, IL, Rotary - Alton, IL and St. Paul Catholic Church.

Robert was born and raised in Alton, IL. He attended Culver Military Academy in Culver, Indiana. He went on to Brown University and the University of Chicago earning a master's degree in Financing & Accounting. He worked for his father before starting his own company, Luken Investments, in 1970. Robert retired in 2023. Robert loved to travel all over the world. He enjoyed a yearly trip to Europe. He has donated 100's of items to SUI-E.

Survivors include:

Life Partner - Charlotte Ray O'Rourke, Highland, IL

Brother - Ralph Luken, Belfast, ME
Sister - Barbara Hinson, Godfrey, IL
Other - Angelia Vantrease, Personal Secretary, Alton, IL
Niece - Rebecca (Michael) Slatin, St. Louis, MO
Nephew - Andrew (Rebecca) Schubert, St. Louis, MO
Nephew - Robert (Valerie) Schubert, Alton, IL
Life Partner's Son - Brian O'Rourke, Summerfield, IL
Life Partner's Son - Sean (Katie) O'Rourke, Saint Peters, MO
Life Partner's Son - Kelly O'Rourke
Life Partner's Grandchild - Kyle (Significant Other Kylie Olliges) O'Rourke,
Highland, IL
Life Partner's Grandchild - Colin O'Rourke, Saint Peters, MO
Life Partner's Grandchild - Landon O'Rourke

He was preceded in death by:

Father - Ralph William Luken

Mother - Helen Sadie Luken

Arrangements are being handled by Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in
Highland, IL.

Visitation will be held from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM on Monday, April 14, 2025, at
Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 AM on Monday, April 14, 2025, at St. Paul
Catholic Church in Highland, IL, with Fr. Mariadas Chatla, St. Paul Catholic
Church, Highland, IL, officiating.

Interment will be at Saint Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Highland, IL.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Peter & Paul - Alton, IL or SUI-E

Museum.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **14.** 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home - Highland
1501 9th Street
P.O. Box 187
Highland, IL 62249
(618) 654-2133
info@spengel-boulanger.com

Funeral Mass

APR **14.** 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul Catholic Church
1412 9th St
Highland, IL 62249
(618) 654-2339

Tribute Wall

CM

“ Robert was a dear man, a solid Catholic and classmate (beginning 66 years ago). So generous, and so humble ... may he rest in the Peace of the Lord.

Christopher Manion - April 14, 2025 at 02:19 PM

MD

I knew him during my trip on Train moving from to Warsaw and each other keeping get in touch through email and in 2000 I met him in New Jersey elethabth mall , he was a earl good friend .

Maan darbas - June 15, 2025 at 05:36 AM

SB

“ I first met Robert (Bob) about forty years ago on a trip to the monasteries of Paul and Anthony in the Eastern Desert in Egypt. Since then we have maintained our friendship and contacts by mail and in meetings on trips together to places like Guatemala, Spain, and a few times in Israel. He was always very friendly, generous, and helpful. My condolences to Charlotte, his life companion, Skip and Barbara, and all the family and friends.

Shmuel Burmil, Israel. April 14, 2025

Shmuel Burmil - April 14, 2025 at 06:24 AM



BF

“ Benoit LEMARIE - France. purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Robert W. Luken.

Benoit LEMARIE - France. - April 13, 2025 at 06:34 PM



CL

“ Constance L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert W. Luken.

Constance L. - April 13, 2025 at 04:58 PM

JG

“ I called Robert and told him that Paul Simon was going to be in St. Louis and that I had an extra ticket and wondered if he would be interested in going with me, I was a little surprised about the amount of enthusiasm he showed in his acceptance, but not as surprised as Robert was when Paul Simon stepped on stage not wearing a bow tie, but carrying a guitar. Robert was more political than musical.

Julian Gorski - April 12, 2025 at 04:44 PM

JC

“ Robert was cherished by everyone for his sense of humor, love for the community, and his unwavering desire to help others. His loyalty to his city, state, country and friends was unmatched. Those of us who were fortunate enough to know Robert and call him a close friend will miss him dearly. Rest in peace, my friend.

Congressman Jerry Costello (Ret.).

Jerry Costello - April 10, 2025 at 10:24 AM

LT

“ Talking with Bob was always a highlight of any day.

Larry Taliana - April 10, 2025 at 09:41 AM

LC

“ *Larry Taliana and Hon. Barbara Crowder purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Robert W. Luken.*



Larry Taliana and Hon. Barbara Crowder - April 10, 2025 at 09:37 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert W. Luken.*



April 08, 2025 at 10:27 PM



“ *Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Robert W. Luken.*



April 08, 2025 at 09:24 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert W. Luken.*

April 08, 2025 at 09:24 PM



“ *Rita Rinderer lit a candle in memory of Robert Luken* ”



Rita Rinderer - April 01, 2025 at 04:26 PM