



Robert "Bobby" Gary Brooking

March 23, 1941 - February 16, 2021

Robert "Bobby" Gary Brooking, 79, passed away on Tuesday, February, 16, 2021 under the expert and compassionate care of the Angels on Earth at Highlands Healthcare in Laporte. Bobby was born in the Bloomsburg Hospital on March 23, 1941, the third child of the late John Jr. and Lucille (Millard) Brooking.

Bobby was well known in the Bloomsburg area, having once been dubbed "Bloomsburg's Number One Fan" by the Bloomsburg High School Yearbook. He loved attending sporting events at both the Bloomsburg High and BU levels, as well as the various sports games of his family members. For many years Bobby's favorite mode of transportation was his bicycle and he was often seen biking to carnivals, street fairs, and just about any social gathering. He rode his bike to the Bloomsburg Swimming Pool every day, beginning the day the pool opened in 1955. Many years later, when his advancing age no longer allowed him to pedal to the pool, he either walked or was transported by one of his siblings or friends.

He attended and graduated from the Fernville Special Education School during the 1950's and 60's. While there he made many friends, most notably beloved school nurse, Joan Kile, who he honestly adored. And speaking of honesty, Bobby was just not capable of telling a lie or gossiping against someone. His nature was to accept everyone he met with true Christian open and honest heartfelt love and a big smile.

Those who had the good fortune of being born on March 23 would forever become Bobby's "birthday girl or boy." There was never a lack of conversation on his part and he wanted to know all about you. "You married?" "Kids?" "Where do you work?" "What school do you go to?" And most of all "How old are you?" If you were younger than him he said, "I got you beat!" After the inquisition you would become his friend forever.

Bobby attended the Nazarene Church on Seventh Street in Bloomsburg regularly and was very upset when it closed. Eventually he found a new church family at the Trinity United Church of Christ and was ecstatic when that congregation purchased and moved into the

former Nazarene Church building on Seventh Street. His favorite hymns were "How Great Thou Art" and "Jesus Loves Me". He had complete faith in God. When he learned of a death or other unfortunate circumstance to someone he knew he would point skyward and say, "I can't help it He's the boss!"

He thoroughly enjoyed his mother's and his brother Rick's cooking. Among Bobby's favorite foods were Lebanon bologna sandwiches with ketchup, or his own specialty, "burned" hot dogs. Add some honey bar-b-que chips and top it off with chocolate cake with peanut butter icing and he was a happy guy!

He loved the Phillies and was blessed with good friends and family who took him to many games over the years.

Bobby was predeceased by his mother in 2005 and father in 2008, and his two older brothers, John III in 1951 and Carl in 1998. He is survived by two "little brothers", William, Plainfield Vt and Richard, Bloomsburg and eight sisters: Margaret "Peggy" Keefer, Atlas; Donna Lemon and husband Terry, Bloomsburg; Joanne Brooking, Plainfield VT; Nancy Maynard, Raymond ME; Bertelle Brooking and partner Marshall Raisman, Micco FL; Dorothy Brooking and wife Susan Horn, Daytona Beach FL; Alice Derr and husband Ronald, Bloomsburg; and Myreta Churba and husband Richard, South Williamsport. Also surviving are his beloved sister in law, Luanne Brooking, Massena NY, and so many nieces, nephews and friends to mention individually.

The Brooking family wishes to extend heartfelt thanks to the many wonderful people who enriched Bobby's life with their presence and caring. It truly does take a village.

To say Bobby will be missed is an understatement. We take comfort in knowing that God has opened his arms and welcomed him home. Matthew 18 verses 3 & 4: "Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Seems to fit Bobby to a tee. Amen.

Graveside funeral services will begin on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 10:00 am at Elan Memorial Park, Lime Ridge with Rev. Dr. Lee Barnhardt, officiating. The Allen Funeral Home, Inc., 745 Market at Eighth Streets, Bloomsburg is honored to be serving the Brooking family.

Memorial contributions in Bobby's name are suggested to: Bloomsburg Town Pool

Renovation Project, P.O. Box 9021 Bloomsburg, PA 17815 or to any other charity of your choice, especially those that benefit children.

Cemetery Details

Elan Memorial Park

Bloomsburg, PA

Previous Events

Graveside Service

FEB 24. 10:00 AM (ET)

Elan Memorial Park Cemetery
5595 Old Berwick Rd
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

Tribute Wall

KM

“ Thank you for sharing this wonderful photo of Bobby. It brought back fond memories of the days long ago when I worked for my grandfather Speros in the Waffle Grill in Bloom. Bobby would come in clutching his transistor radio, sit down in a booth and regularly order a cup of hot tea. It was an honor to be considered one of his "girlfriends" and I still treasure the locket that he gave me. Everyone in my family loved Bobby too. We are all so lucky to have known him!
Love and sympathy to all of Bobby's remarkable family,
Kay Marinos

Kay Marinos - February 24, 2021 at 08:06 PM

KM

“ Sending our very deepest sympathy to the entire Brooking family in the loss of sweet Bobby. I have always admired your family and the love and devotion that you all gave to your brother. He was the kindest of souls and hearts.
May he rest in eternal peace and may you all find comfort in knowing the hand you played in giving him the best life ❤️
Love & sympathy,
Kim Walters Moore (Aunt Myreta's niece from Williamsport)

Kim Walters Moore - February 22, 2021 at 10:36 PM



“ When I was doing Home Health Care, Bobby was one of my clients, we would sit there and just talk about everything under the sun, he talked about his favorite sport, family, and just life in general, he always made me laugh, he was such a great guy, always a jokester, always making everyone laugh, always had a great sense of humor, Rest In Paradise Bobby, fly high with the angels

Angelica Pagan - February 22, 2021 at 06:54 PM



“ Angelica Pagan lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bobby"
Gary Brooking



Angelica Pagan - February 22, 2021 at 06:50 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert "Bobby" Gary Brooking.*



February 22, 2021 at 08:38 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Robert "Bobby" Gary Brooking.*



February 21, 2021 at 07:11 PM

TC

“ *Not every family is fortunate enough to have a person like Bobby. He set a very high standard when it comes to loving others. We would do well to follow his example. We are truly a blessed family and Bob was a large part of that blessing. There is a saying (there will never be another). Hopefully that is not true for the rest of the worlds sake. Ted Cunningham.*

Ted Cunningham - February 21, 2021 at 06:12 PM

SN

“ *My prayers to you all....Love Snooks*

Snooks - February 21, 2021 at 05:58 PM



“ *My favorite memory was the Brooking reunions. And also seeing Bobby on the float as the Grand Marshal, "Bloomsburg's Biggest Fan!" Love, Uncle Charlie Brooking*



Tina Green - February 21, 2021 at 12:23 PM

KB

“ *I had cared for Bobby at one time at the nursing home and when I read his obituary it was so very well written. He was a very special persons inside and out.*

Kay Beck - February 20, 2021 at 07:45 PM

MC

“ i remember bobby going to the bloomsburg pool when i was like 20 something years old and he'd always ask me if i was old enough to be swimming with the adults for adult swim and i would say yes i am and we'd talked about my aunt dot and how she was and my grandparents (they are gone now) but he will be in my memory forever id always see him at the bloomsburg panthers football games and just say hi he will b missed and me and my sisters would say hi to him at the pool everyday....We will miss you everyday bobby

melissa curran - February 20, 2021 at 06:39 PM

JH

“ Jane Hoffman lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bobby" Gary Brooking



Jane Hoffman - February 20, 2021 at 03:36 PM

BN

“ Rest in peace my good man. Friend to everyone. My favorite memory of Bobby is how excited he was getting his picture taken with the Phillies World Series trophy. No doubt the good Lord has reserved a special place for him.

Bernie Novick - February 20, 2021 at 10:25 AM

MB

“ If the COVID restrictions were all lifted I have no doubt that Bobby would have if not the largest one of the largest funerals in the area. What a wonderful world it would be of there were more Bobby Brookings in this world. My condolences to you all.

Mary Boudman - February 19, 2021 at 08:08 PM

CK

Condolences and prayers to the family on the lose of Bobby. Such a friendly and loving person always with a smile and thoughtful words for eveyone. Another beautiful blossom for the Heavenly Garden.

Charlene Knorr - February 21, 2021 at 02:14 PM



“ Dear Brooking Family! Sad to hear about Bobby’s passing. I tember him well and his sisters who took good care of Booby to include Donna. I recall Bobbie at the Fernville school and swimming at the Fernville bridge as well as at the pool many a day. Good times then and good memories, Bobby’s photo brings back memories of the boy who never grew up.

Jim Bowen, Elizabethtown,Pa.

P.S. Donna, I’d like to hear from you regarding Buddy please..if you will. Hope you all are well...

Moe Def - February 19, 2021 at 03:10 PM

LK

“ Alice and family:To quote Physical Education teacher Ed Kriner “ Bobby is Mr. Bloomsburg”.He told this to all of us at the Kiwanis Memorial School summer program.Bobby covered more ground on his bike than many people did in their car.Whether at the town pool,baseball game,or on Main Street he always said Hi .He was truely a special person that will be missed by all who had the privilege to know him.May God Bless Bobby

Larry Kressler-Fernville - February 19, 2021 at 11:40 AM

JR

“ My prayers are for Bobby’s family. He was a special man. My fondest memory of Bobby was when we were kids, he used to call me on the phone and he was convinced that I was his girlfriend. He would stop people on the sidewalks in the town of Bloomsburg and tell them that "Janet Shaffer" is my girlfriend. My name is Janice Shaffer Rishe and he was very special to me and he loved my dad, Henry Shaffer. He worked with him at the Bloomsburg Mills and my father was his protector and he loved my Dad for that and when my father passed away, it brought me such joy and peace to see him attend my father's funeral. Yes, I am so sure that Jesus escorted him in to his Eternal Home. May God bring peace to his family by all the wonderful memories of Bobby.

Janice Rishe - February 19, 2021 at 11:16 AM

TD

“ To all of Bobby's brothers and sisters and relatives:
I wish that I had stopped at the house sometime to introduce my wife to Bobby. I'm sure he would have given me some good advice on how to treat her right and make her happy! He told me one time when I met him going home from the Bloomsburg fair that he really missed my mother after she died in 1978. He and my mom were good buddies and she was always teasing him about his many girlfriends. He will be missed here on Earth, but Heaven is certainly richer for having Bobby as a new resident.

Tony Domanski, Reading Pa

Tony Domanski - February 19, 2021 at 11:00 AM

JR

Bobby was a neighbor of ours and always waved to us when walking down the alley by our house. My condolences to his family. He will be missed. Joni Reitmeyer (Thomas).

Joni Reitmeyer - February 21, 2021 at 03:05 PM

LR

“ Heaven has gained a beautiful child of God!! Bobby blessed more people than we will ever know, including me. God bless and comfort all. Lorraine Roberts

Lorraine Roberts - February 19, 2021 at 10:57 AM

JC

“ My sincere condolences to the entire Brooking family. Truly the best obituary I may have ever read! Bobby always lit up when he saw me....he knew who I was, but more importantly, he was excited because he knew who my sister was - "How's your sister Baba (Barbara) doing?" He wanted to know everything about Baba first, then would ask about my brother Johnny sometimes. Not too many years ago, when Barb was in town, we took her to see Bobby at his home near the airport. He was sooo excited and happy to see her. I'll never forget that meeting. I always was happy to talk to Bobby, you could say he made my day on those occasions. God Bless you Bobby! It's a loss for your family and friends here on earth - but a big win for God and everyone in heaven!

Jim Chyko - February 19, 2021 at 10:08 AM

JG

“ I remember Bobby from the Elementary School Summer Playground when we were kids; he was an unbelievable ping pong player, as hard as I tried I could never come close to beating him. RIP Bobby.



John Gensel - February 19, 2021 at 09:31 AM

SS

“ Bobby always made me smile. What a great guy. That was a beautiful obituary. It brought back lots of good memories. Smiles and hugs to the Brooking family.



Steve Shaffer

Steve Shaffer - February 19, 2021 at 08:41 AM

KS

“ Dear Joanne and Brooking family...our hearts are sad, knowing dear, sweet Bobby has left this earth. But, God took him on to 'bigger and better things!' No man was sweeter than Bobby. So kind, upbeat, always glad to see you...even if he didn't know you!
We missed seeing him at all the BHS sports events, cheering on his favorite team!
He was the main 'cheerleader' of the fan section! Everyone who knew him was a better person because of knowing him...and you always left his presence, feeling better about life! "The world lost a sweet soul (sadly)...but Heaven gained another precious Angel!"
In Sympathy and Friendship, Karleen Fetterman Smith



Karleen Smith - February 19, 2021 at 06:47 AM

Jl

“ John Wanich II lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bobby" Gary Brooking



John wanich II - February 19, 2021 at 01:49 AM

JK

“ So many great memories of Bobby. He will be missed by so many. Enjoyed the times in church, when I was visiting, and singing with Bobby. The kids remembered him watching over them with care at the pool when we lived there and the fun times at the family reunions. Rest in peace Bobby.

Julie Kreamer - February 18, 2021 at 09:57 PM

JW

“ Our family Mascot. Cousin Bobby always kept the whole family grounded, making us smile and laugh about everything. You now are with Mom, Dad, Johnny and Carl. Love you with all my heart and always will. Rest in peace Bob. Cuz Joyce Weiss



Joyce weiss - February 18, 2021 at 05:54 PM

BP

“ Brenda Pitonyak lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bobby" Gary Brooking



Brenda Pitonyak - February 18, 2021 at 04:02 PM

BP

“ Bobby was such a sweet and loving person. I always enjoyed his greeting me with "Hi ya, honey!!!" He was loved by many and I am so thankful to have spent a good deal of time with him--at the town pool, at Bloomsburg High School football and basketball games, BU Husky games, and even visitation with him at the healthcare home. I'm also so proud of his discussions about his Lord and Savior, with whom he was very devoted to. Sending hugs, love, peace and comfort to all his family! Sincerely, Brenda Pitonyak and Family

Brenda Pitonyak - February 18, 2021 at 04:02 PM

MF

“ Marlin Bollinger and all Bobby's friends purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Robert "Bobby" Gary Brooking.



Marlin Bollinger and all Bobby's friends - February 18, 2021 at 03:35 PM

RN

“ Bobby was the heart and soul of Bloomsburg. He always had a smile on his face, a kind word and a laugh to share. The world could learn a lot from the way he loved and cared for his town and it's residents. I hope the town honors him in some way!!!

Russ Nevius - February 18, 2021 at 02:57 PM

LC

“ Lori Croop lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bobby" Gary Brooking



Lori Croop - February 18, 2021 at 02:04 PM

DS

“ Bobby was the kindest person, always with a smile and his infectious laugh! His love of Bloomsburg and his Panthers was second to none. He was an integral member of the community at the Norris Rock Pool and he loved looking out for everyone, especially us lifeguards. I know Bobby will have his lounge by the pool ready for him, Rest In Peace Bobby! May all the warm memories bring his family and loved ones comfort

David Steinruck - February 18, 2021 at 12:54 PM

BC

“ I would always talk to Bobby at the town pool for adult swim, he was such a fun loving person and we would talk for the whole time we were there. He will truly be missed by all who got to know him. RIP dear Bobby and now you can root for all the teams from your Heavenly Seat at Gods Temple. Till we meet again, Keep smiling. Love you...
Barbara Berger Coladonato

Barbara Coladonato - February 18, 2021 at 12:33 PM

CH

“ You will be missed dearly Uncle Bobby. I lost touch so many years ago but I will never forget the memories we had playing rummy, you would always beat me-but only cause I let you cheat 🤔. Or calling the hoise phone, pranking you when I was in the next room over. You found it so funny. You are a beautiful soul inside and out. Always made the best out of any situation, made everyone laugh that was around you. I mention your name and every knew you. Thats special! You were/are well loved. You touched many hearts. Youre now flying with the angels, till we meet again. RIP.

Charissa Hunsinger - February 18, 2021 at 12:15 PM

DB

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Dorothy Brooking - February 18, 2021 at 11:57 AM

BE

L-r Donna, Joanne, Nancy, Bertelle, Bobby, Myreta, Alice, Dot

Bertelle - February 18, 2021 at 03:40 PM

DG

Joanne, so sorry to hear about your brother. It has been forever since we have met but I recognized you immediately in the photo above with all your sisters. Bobby was surrounded by his family's love and I'm sure he was a joy to all in your family and, as you can see, by the community as a whole.

duane greenly - February 21, 2021 at 12:41 PM

MH

Where do I start? I grew up with the Brooking Girls and Bobby. He always called me "Helma my Honey". To this day, I use it as my login to alot of things. Spent my childhood and our children's childhood at the town pool with Bobby. When our kids became lifeguards, Bobby would talk to my son about the Phillies and would ask everyday, "how is my Helma My Honey?. What a kind, gentle soul. Bertelle, Nancy, Joanne and the rest of your families, our thoughts and prayers are with you. We have such great memories!

Mike and Helen Hock

Mike & Helen Hock - February 21, 2021 at 01:36 PM