



Robert A. VanWart, Sr.

May 14, 1942 - November 18, 2018

Robert Alexander Van Wart passed peacefully in his sleep on November 18, 2018, in Exeter, NY, in the home he built and loved.

Bob was born in Staten Island to Al and Lillian Van Wart. Upon graduating McKee High School in 1960, he joined the Navy and did tours in Europe and the Mediterranean. In 1963, Bob joined the New York City Police Department and became a Navy Reservist. During that time, he started Van Wart Excavating Inc. He worked as a police officer by night and operated his backhoe by day, until his retirement from the NYPD after 20 years. He retired from his business in 1993.

Bob was a member of Zion Lutheran Church, Nansen Lodge, and the Contractors' Association, all on Staten Island.

Bob enjoyed hunting, fishing, target shooting and fixing things. He could literally fix anything. He was never happier than when he was hosting family and friends at his home upstate, especially when his grandchildren spent summers at "Camp Grandpa."

Bob is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Karen (Johnson), his beloved children Holly Van Hart (Ike van Cruyningen) of Saratoga, CA, Robert (Ursula) of Sayreville, NJ, and Dawn Rhodes (Stephen) of Morristown, NJ.

He adored being Pop-Pop to his six loving grandchildren, Thomas and Kirsten Van Wart, Skyler and Erik van Cruyningen, and John and Hunter Rhodes. Bob is also survived by his sister, Betty Lenning, of Tobyhanna, PA and brother Rev. Phil Van Wart (Nancy) of Huntingtown, MD, and many nieces, nephews, and friends of all ages and from all walks of life.

Friends are welcome to call on Friday, November 23 from 2-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. at the John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals at 28 Eltingville Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10312, with services on Saturday, November 24 at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in memory of Bob to the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation (www.Tunnel2Towers.org) or Zion Lutheran Church, 505 Watchogue Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **23**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc.
28 Eltingville Blvd
Staten Island, NY 10312

Visitation

NOV **23**. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc.
28 Eltingville Blvd
Staten Island, NY 10312

Service

NOV **24**. 11:00 AM (ET)

John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc.
28 Eltingville Blvd
Staten Island, NY 10312

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert A. VanWart, Sr.*

October 04, 2023 at 06:13 PM



“ *A 'big' light dimmed last Sunday.
Bob VanWart touched countless lives with his gracious and gentle
manner.
His diverse storytelling will be matched by none for the rest of time.
Rest dear friend, your work here is done.
I'll wait for the thunder, then I'll know you are making them laugh
too!
Joe and Edyth-Anne Stefanski*

Edyth-Anne Herczech - November 22, 2018 at 07:44 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for
the family of Robert A. VanWart, Sr..*



November 22, 2018 at 01:11 PM



“ *Gery and Elaine Stocker purchased the Strength
& Solace Spray for the family of Robert A.
VanWart, Sr..*



Gery and Elaine Stocker - November 22, 2018 at 10:41 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert A. VanWart, Sr..*



November 21, 2018 at 07:17 PM



“ *Dear VanWart Family,*

I would like to express my deepest condolences. I have good memories of your father and I'm sorry to hear about his passing.

Sincerely,

George A lafe Jr.

George lafe - November 21, 2018 at 06:11 PM



Thank you, George, for your kind words.

Rob and family

Rob VW - November 21, 2018 at 07:01 PM



Dear Karen & Family,

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all in the loss of your Husband, Father, and Grandpa. We know how he loved to hunt and his "Camp Grandpa." Bob will be missed.

Sincerely, Gail Peterson & Sigurd Egebo

Gail Peterson - November 24, 2018 at 01:44 PM

DR

“ 184 files added to the album Tribute Album



Dawn RHodes - November 21, 2018 at 04:01 PM

MU

“ I only knew Bob a short time. He was a very caring man. He got me through some rough days when I was going through Chemo. I,feel like I knew him forever....I miss his phone call already. He loved his retreat in the woods,his time with is Grandchildren. My prayers are with Karen and the family Love Marilyn

Marilyn Urbiss - November 21, 2018 at 01:19 PM

SH

“ Steve, Barb, Ryan & Sean Headley purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Robert A. VanWart, Sr..



Steve, Barb, Ryan & Sean Headley - November 21, 2018 at 10:35 AM



“ *What a kind and generous man and a good neighbor. We will miss him riding his tractor back our road to check up on us. It was an honor to have known him. Condolences to Karen and family. Rest in peace Bob*

The Jones' Randy and Donna

Randy Jones - November 21, 2018 at 08:47 AM



“ *Great man. He kept me laughing all the time. I'm sure he's teaching god a few things about hunting and fishing. Rest in peace my friend. richie and pat miller*

pat miller - November 21, 2018 at 08:23 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert A. VanWart, Sr..*



November 21, 2018 at 08:21 AM

BZ

“ So Sorry to hear of Bob's passing. My thoughts and prayers will be with your Karen and all your children, Grandchildren and family. He was a good man and always the gentleman! I am leaving for Connecticut today to be with my son and his family for the Thanksgiving weekend do will be unable to attend the wake or funeral. I am so sorry!

Love and prayers,

Your friend,

Barbara Zinicola-Luciani.

Barbara Zinicola-Luciani - November 21, 2018 at 07:35 AM

KM

“ Went to high school with bob and in the 1960 graduation class together. Didnt see each other for years then years later I was in the building trades and needed a backhoe a friend said call bobby van wart he's an ex cop and knows how to get things done . That started a friendship that lasted over 35 years . we affectionly called bob makgever . he will be greatly missed .

ken mcintyre - November 21, 2018 at 06:57 AM



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Robert A. VanWart, Sr..



November 20, 2018 at 08:06 AM



Bernard
Eldredge

“ *Till We meet again Shipmate, We have the watch.,B. Eldredge
USN-RET , USS Briarcliff S.I. & Fleet Reserves BR 226.*



Bernard Eldredge - November 20, 2018 at 04:59 AM