



## Robert Zanoni

September 5, 2020

Robert Zanoni

Age 91, of Milwaukee, passed away peacefully on Saturday, September 5, 2020, at a local memory care facility. He was born in 1929 in Vulcan, Michigan, son of the late Innocente and Enrica Zanoni. He married Sally Ann Johnson on June 22, 1957. Shortly thereafter, they moved to Milwaukee and started their family.

Robert graduated from Michigan Tech with a degree in Metallurgical Engineering and then joined the US Army and served for two years. Following his discharge, he was employed as an Metallurgical Engineer at Ladish for 35 years where he designed and tested parts for airplanes and space shuttles for NASA. He not only earned a degree at Michigan Tech, but he also developed his interest and passion for ice hockey. When he heard about a team trying to organize at Wilson Park, in Milwaukee, he started volunteering his time working with the Milwaukee Wings which eventually became the Milwaukee Admirals. He served in a variety of volunteer positions for the Admirals for 48 years when, at 89, a broken hip forced him into 'retirement'. In addition to hockey, he was passionate about watching his children and grandchildren participate in the sports of their choice which included football, baseball, basketball, volleyball and, of course, hockey! He enjoyed following the Packers, Brewers, and Bucks and watching ANY hockey game he could.

Retirement allowed him to foster his vegetable gardening skills and golf skills which resulted in some delicious tomatoes and a couple of hole-in-ones on the links.

His family, career and love of hockey allowed him to make numerous good friends throughout his life. Whether it was a card game, a neighborhood party, a business trip, or a round of golf, he knew how to have fun and enjoy his time with family and friends. He was known for his Bloody Mary mix, which he named 'Uncle Bob's #321' claiming he tried 320 recipes before he got it right, and his Old Fashioned's. His faith was strong so he rarely missed mass at St. Romans Catholic Church where he was a member for 60+ years. He was a very active man heading to the local fitness center every morning until a fall at 89 sidelined him. The last couple of years kept him at home more than he liked, but he was still able to feed the birds daily and enjoy a good cigar throughout the day.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Sally; his brothers Henry, Victor and Herman; his parents Innocente and Enrica Zanoni; his brothers-in-law Robert Johnson, Larry Johnson, Frank Curiel, Roger Anderson, Bert Whitford, Chuck Flink; his sisters-in-law Angie Zanoni, Chris Zanoni, Rita Anderson, Lois Whitford, Verna Johnson, Nancy Curiel and Joan Flink; his niece Rosemary, and son-in-law to be, Greg Dzievit.

He is survived by his three daughters: Deborah Zanoni (Jim Pullen) of Elk Mound, WI, Cynthia (Kurt) Knoebel of Franklin, WI and Laura Zanoni of Greenfield, WI; three sons: Mark (Linnmarie) Zanoni of South Milwaukee, WI, Gary Zanoni of Milwaukee, WI, and Dean (Julie) Zanoni of Milwaukee, WI; grandchildren: Robert, Lindsey, Andrew, Kelly, Amanda, Hannah, Hayden, Harrison, Hunter, Aaliyah, and Jessie; four great grandchildren: Brooklyn, Brock, Mason, and Payton; sisters-in-law Susie (David) Oberthaler and Marybelle Johnson; goddaughter, Lisa Uherick and numerous nieces,

nephews, and friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorials to the Youth Hockey Helpers Foundation (P.O. Box 210062, Milwaukee, WI 53221) are appreciated.

Due to Covid-19, the family encourages friends to share their condolences online and/or view the Live Streamed Funeral Service located directly on the Funeral Home website. For those that feel the need to share their condolences in person, please wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Visitation Saturday, September 12, 2020 from 9:00 to 10:50 AM at the FUNERAL HOME. Private Funeral Services to follow. Private Entombment St. Adalbert Cemetery.

Rozga Funeral & Cremation Services  
Rozga-Walloch Chapel  
4309 South 20th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53221

# Cemetery Details

## St. Adalbert Cemetery

3801 S. 6th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53221

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 12. 9:00 AM - 10:50 AM (CT)

Rozga Funeral & Cremation Services - Rozga-Walloch Chapel  
4309 South 20th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53221  
(414) 281-7145  
<https://www.rozgafuneral.com/>

## Private Services

SEP 12 (CT)

Rozga Funeral & Cremation Services - Rozga-Walloch Chapel  
4309 South 20th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53221  
(414) 281-7145  
<https://www.rozgafuneral.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Rozga Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Robert Zaroni*



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**Rozga Funeral & Cremation Services** - September 09, 2020 at 12:42 AM

GL

“ *Our condolences to the family may God grant him the peace he truly deserves and the family the strength to make it through these most troubling times. Had many great moments with him through all the seasons his kids were in SHAW hockey. A donation in his name will be made to Youth Hockey Helpers Foundation. He will be missed by all who knew him.  
Our prayers are with you all,  
The Lemmermanns*

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**Gerald Lemmermann** - September 12, 2020 at 04:37 PM

JB

“ *When I think of someone being committed to their passion, I think of Bob, and I always will. His passion for hockey and the Admirals was infectious, and it made me realize early on that I must be part of something special if this guy cares so much about it. And thanks to him, future generations will be able to be part of something special.  
Thanks Bob.*

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**John Bitter** - September 12, 2020 at 04:08 PM

LL

“ Thinking of all of you on this day. May your memories comfort you in this time of sorrow. Laurie and Dennis Lampe

Laurie Lampe - September 12, 2020 at 11:59 AM

BB

“ Sending a virtual hug to Dean and Julie. Remember the good times. You ow have two angels in heaven sending love your way,

Bonnie Bruss (Jerelynn's Mom)

Bonita Bruss - September 12, 2020 at 11:40 AM

SH

“ I am saddened that I cannot be with all of you today as we celebrate the long life of Mr Zanoni. Sending my most sincere condolences. As a close friend of the family, I have many memories of the Bob and Sal castle on Edgerton Avenue-always filled with love, laughter and friendship. They created a home that was welcome to all. Mr Z possessed a divine energy and was ceaselessly driven to move, share and make a difference. Traits that he passes along to his children. He was the very essence of life. He will be greatly missed, fondly remembered, and eternally present in the hearts of all of us who loved him. A long life, well lived. Rest in peace somehow doesn't seem to fit this great man. We are glad that any suffering is over, and you're free to be. Blessed to have known you Big Bob. Until we meet again. In loving memory, Sam Helgemoe



Sandy Helgemoe - September 12, 2020 at 09:28 AM

MO

“ My deepest sympathy to the Zanoni family. Bob and I must have watched over a thousand Admiral games together. Then we spent 20 years golfing together. Now he will be watching Admiral games along with the Morbeck boys and others from on high. My best to Gary and Dean who care on the tradition.

*Mike Oltz*

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**Michael Oltz** - September 11, 2020 at 05:43 PM

JH

“ Julie and I would like to express our deepest condolences to the entire Zanoni family. We will be viewing the live stream of the service on Saturday. I know you guys will put on a wonderful ceremony. God bless you all.

*Jon & Julie Holubowicz*

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**Jon Holubowicz** - September 11, 2020 at 04:37 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Zanoni.



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September 11, 2020 at 12:19 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Zanoni.*



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September 11, 2020 at 01:52 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert Zanoni.*



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September 10, 2020 at 09:15 AM



“ *It was my pleasure to have known Bob for almost 40 years, it was always a treat to see Bob and talk with him either at Wilson Park ice arena or Whitnall Park golf course. He was truly a treasure to the hockey community of Milwaukee. My sympathies to the Zanoni family. Joe Kershasky*

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**Joseph Kershasky** - September 09, 2020 at 04:46 PM



“ *One of many hockey Guys who enjoyed Bobs company at Admiral games ..reading his obituary made it clear what a giving and example of solid family man ..very fortunate to have him our lives ..condolences to his family ..*

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**Gene S Ubriaco** - September 09, 2020 at 03:36 PM

JG

“ I met Bob in 2005 when I came to the Admirals. I immediately saw the respect that everyone involved with the game had for him and I knew that this was a guy that I needed to know. I learned a lot from Bob in those early years of my Admirals tenure and for that I will always be grateful.

More importantly, the biggest tribute I can offer is that Bob was clearly a wonderful father because his children are all great people. The work ethic that he instilled in them and in addition the kindness that Bob always showed is evident in the way his kids act.

The hockey community, the Admirals community and those of us who had the sincere pleasure to know Bob will miss him dearly.

To the Zanoni family, please accept my sincere condolences on Bob's passing. May God grant him eternal rest and your family the joy of knowing that Bob was loved by so many.

*Jon Greenberg*

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**Jon Greenberg** - September 09, 2020 at 03:04 PM

TO

“ My deepest condolences to the Zanoni family on the loss of your father. I was so overcome with emotions this morning when I saw the notice in the newspaper. I know how much he meant to all of you. I remember fondly how helpful and supportive he was to the Ram baseball team when the boys played. I wish I could attend the funeral, but with all the restrictions, and knowing how many friends and family will be there to honor him, I feel it best that I respect the family's wishes. Again, my sympathies to the family.

*Tom O'Connell*

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**Tom O'Connell** - September 09, 2020 at 01:33 PM

KK

“ Our deepest Condolences to the family of Robert Zanoni. A Monetary gift has been made to the Youth Hockey Helpers Foundation. Mark spoke often about his dad, telling us wonderful stories about Robert and his passion's (FAMILY, hockey, work, gardening and all that he accomplished in his life). With Sympathy, Prayers and Love, Quikx family

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**KURT KOENING** - September 09, 2020 at 11:26 AM

EC

“ Saying farewell to our dear, loving friend, Bob, is so very difficult. It seems like yesterday when the Caufield Family met the Zanoni Family some 48 years ago through mutual love of hockey. Our family friendship continued, with raising our children together on so many weekend camping trips, so many family activities, weddings, births, and, of course, hockey. Those memories and the love continues today. Heaven has gained another Angel to watch over all of us. Our hearts ache but our Angels will be with us always and never forgotten.

*Eileen Caufield and Family*

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**Eileen Caufield** - September 09, 2020 at 10:14 AM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Robert Zanoni.



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September 09, 2020 at 10:14 AM

KF

“ Our sincere sympathy to the Zanoni family in the loss of their father, grandfather, friend.  
Always keep his memory in your minds. He was a great man. Jim & Darlene Kwiecinski

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**Kwiecinski Family** - September 09, 2020 at 09:47 AM

GG

“ The world just got a little less kind, a little less honest, a little less fun with the passing of this great guy. On behalf of our Ladish retirement group (and the entire Ladish family) I want to send our sincere condolences to the family. We'll all miss him - the world was a better place with him in it. (And a special thank you to Hannah for making it possible for Bob to join our breakfasts after his fall. We'll miss you at our breakfasts too.)

*George Groppi*

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**George Groppi** - September 09, 2020 at 07:39 AM

LS

“ Love Mickey & Judy , Craig & Sheri purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Robert Zanoni.



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**Love Mickey & Judy , Craig & Sheri** - September 08, 2020 at 08:23 PM