



Mr. Robert F. Hiner

November 16, 2020

Robert F. Hiner, age 78 of Belmont, MI passed away peacefully at home Monday, November 16, 2020. He was preceded in death by his brother Richard G. Hiner (Mary); in-laws Loren and Maxine Toohey; nephew/niece Steven and Susan Hiner; great nephew Stefen Hiner. Surviving are his adoring wife of 42 years Sandy Hiner; son Sean Fey (Merri Jo), grandson Zach Fey; sister-in-laws Loreen Schnakenberg (Bob), Niece, Wendy Avery (Cary), great-nephew, Gage Avery; Teri Manry, niece Christina Manry; Carol Goehrs and her golden fur babies; Aunt Mary Jo Hamilton and family. Nieces, Susan Lamos (Rich) and Linda DeWitt; several great nieces and nephews. Bob will be especially missed by many lifelong friends, neighbors, golfers, coworkers, round table group, and acquaintances across the globe. Bob was born in Grand Rapids, MI in 1942 to Frank R. and Charlotte Hiner (Schultz). He graduated in 1960 from Godwin Heights High School. Bob joined the U.S. Navy and was deployed to Viet Nam as a hospital corpsman with the Marines. He returned to Viet Nam for a second tour serving as a Medical Evacuation pilot. Bob joined the Kent County Sheriff Department as an E-Unit officer (paramedic), He was assigned to the Investigative Division as an undercover Vice and Narcotics Detective and served as the Commanding Officer of a multi-jurisdictional Narcotics Enforcement Team before retiring in 1996. Bob was creative, loved practical jokes and was really funny. He was a great golfer achieving a career 'hole in one' and was known to throw a club on occasion! He liked to tinker, repair and build in his workshop. He liked anything techie. He took pictures. Many, many pictures! During Bob and Sandy's retirement, they were devoted to serving at St. Isidore Church. They continued their lifetime love of golf and travel. Beginning with a 1991 religious pilgrimage to the village of Medjugorje in Bosnia, he and Sandy were led to many years of international humanitarian efforts being the hands and feet for peace during and beyond the war conflicts. Bob said, "it was the start of the change" in my life." This most sacred place was a lifetime highlight for Sandy and Bob. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated Monday, November 23 at 10:30 am at St. Isidore Catholic Church, 628 Diamond Ave NE Grand Rapids. He will repose one hour prior to the Mass at church. You are invited to read more about Bob's life of service, and devotion to peace in his own words on Robert F. Hiner's Tribute Page at www.arsulowiczbrothers.com. The family expresses a special thank you for care and

support given by Kindred Hospice. In lieu of flowers, please consider memorial contributions to St. Isidore Catholic Church.

Events

NOV **Visitation** 09:30AM - 10:30AM

23

St. Isidore Church

628 Diamond Av NE, Grand Rapids, MI, US, 49503

NOV **A Mass of Christian Burial and Committal** 10:30AM

23

St. Isidore Church

628 Diamond Av NE, Grand Rapids, MI, US, 49503

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Arsulowicz Brothers Mortuaries - November 23, 2020 at 09:04 AM



“ Sandy - I am so sorry to hear of Bob's passing - he was always such a sweet and funny man. My prayers are with you at this time!

Renee "Jankwietz" Schoenrock

RENEE SCHOENROCK - December 10, 2020 at 10:25 AM



“ Sandy, im so sorry to hear of Bobs passing. He was a good man and will be missed. Sending love and hugs to you

Diane Rubin - December 09, 2020 at 10:54 PM



“ Bob, My hero and friend. Bob made a positive difference in more peoples lives than he ever knew. A true servant in Christ. Rest in peace my friend. Jon Maxey

Jon Maxey - December 02, 2020 at 06:20 PM



“ Both Mike and I had the deepest respect for Bob and what he was accomplishing through his organization. At work, KCSD, he was one of the best officers there. Concerned for people, not just good or bad. We wish him Godspeed and his family grace in his absence.
God Bless.

Sue & Mike Johnson - November 24, 2020 at 03:32 PM



“ So sorry to lose Bob. He was an inspiration to many. My fondest memory was a weekend trip across Canada in a little sports car to see a friend at Cornell. My wife and I were seated in front of Bob and Sandy on a flight back from the west coast when he filled me in about his work with Bright Lights. I really admire him for stepping up like that.

Fred Cramer

Fred Cramer - November 23, 2020 at 03:29 PM



“ TeriManry lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert F. Hiner



TeriManry - November 23, 2020 at 03:07 PM



“ Christina Manry lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert F. Hiner



Christina Manry - November 23, 2020 at 09:54 AM



“ Bob was one of the kindest , nicest and generous people I have ever met. Him and I roamed war torn Bosnia in effort to distribute the aid he gathered, and we became a lifelong friends. He helped me tremendously with my immigration to the US and was always there. His sense of humor and good deeds will be missed by many, but his legacy will live forever .

It will be a tough Thursday this week when I make my annual thanksgiving call , and don't hear his voice. We will all be there for Sandy nonetheless , as he would want it. Rest in piece my friend, you were one of a kind... Dean Zulich

dean zulic - November 23, 2020 at 02:54 AM



“ Bob was truly one of the good guys. He was an E-Unit Officer when I worked with him and he always had all of the guys around him helping out because that was the kind of guy he was. Bob was a caregiver and a great teacher. It was not about the uniform or the power of the badge, it was about the people. He cared for the people...all of them. God Bless him and to his family our deepest sympathy for your loss. Beth Setchfield

Beth Setchfield - November 22, 2020 at 04:08 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Bob



Merri Jo-Sean Rozeveld Fey - November 22, 2020 at 01:16 PM



“ My deepest sympathy and condolences to Sandy and family. Thanks to Bob, for introducing me to Medjugorje. However, I met him first, while he was working for the KCSD. Half the time I wasn't sure if he was serious or joking, until he broke out that big smile. He was a lot of fun. Such sadness to see of his passing. What a great man. Bob and Sandy did so much for this world with their humanitarian efforts. I am certain, Heaven just got a bit more exciting. God Bless and Rest In Peace.

Jody Naimo



Jody Naimo - November 22, 2020 at 01:14 PM



“ Sending deepest sympathies to Sandy and the Hiner family.

The crew from Dale's Barber Shop.

Joe Rogers - November 22, 2020 at 12:09 PM



“ Please accept my deepest sympathy for your loss of a great guy.
I send all my love to you Sandy. Uncle Alan

Alan Danbom - November 22, 2020 at 10:07 AM



“ Bob was one of the most and compassionate people I have ever met. When my mom passed away seven years ago, he helped my dad in many ways as a friend. One day dad called, and Bob came right over to help him move the bedroom furniture around to bring him more peace. Always there for someone else

Mary Ellerthorpe - November 21, 2020 at 08:08 PM



“ Carol Goehrs is following this tribute.

Carol Goehrs - November 21, 2020 at 02:27 PM



“ Carol Goehrs lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert F. Hiner



Carol Goehrs - November 21, 2020 at 02:21 PM



“ Part 1 of 2 "From Bob in his words"”

In 1964, I joined the Navy. I attended Hospital Corps School and, after graduation, was stationed at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. From there, I went on to Viet Nam as a hospital corpsman with the Marines in a place called Chu Lai.

Upon returning to the U.S., I worked a few years as an Aviation Physiology, Night Vision, and Ejection Seat Instructor at the National Aerospace Medical Institute in Pensacola Florida. While there, I also had the opportunity to train fighter pilots, in the use of the Mark-3 Full Pressure Suit... one of the "early" suits used by NASA on their missions into space. While wearing one of these suits, we would simulate climbing to an altitude above 40,000 feet in a hypobaric chamber. A beaker of water sitting next to us would boil at room temperature! It was a fascinating and enjoyable part of my life. I obtained my private pilot's license there, too.

I did more of the same work at the Marine Air Base in Cherry Point, North Carolina. After a brief stint at civilian life, I went into the Army and became a helicopter pilot. Then it was back to Viet Nam... this time as a Medical Evacuation pilot around Bien Hoa. Exciting stuff!

I joined the Kent County Sheriff Department in '73. After a few years as an E-Unit officer (paramedic), I was assigned to the Investigative Division as an undercover Vice and Narcotics Detective. I attained the rank of Lieutenant and worked my last 5 or 6 years as the Commanding Officer of a multi-jurisdictional Narcotics Enforcement Team in West Michigan. I retired at the end of 1996.

In 1991, my wife, Sandy, and I traveled to a little village called Medjugorje, in what was then Yugoslavia. This religious pilgrimage was the start of the "change" in my life. After this, I found that material things meant much less to me than they had in the past. During the war in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, Sandy and I brought large amounts of food, medicines, medical supplies, and refugee care items into these emerging countries.

In 1993, two other men and I formed a group called Bright Light, Inc., a 501 (c)(3) humanitarian aid organization. We continued to help any individuals who were sick, injured, or hungry, and not a part of any military unit or government agency. In 95, we drove 6 new Chevy 3/4-ton vans from Rijeka, Croatia, into Bosnia. Sandy and I managed to drive two of them to Sarajevo while enemy forces surrounded the city.

In early 1996, just after the signing of the Dayton Peace Accord, Bright Light decided to build a playground in Sarajevo. We felt that the best chance for any reconciliation of the warring sides would be through the children. We made contact with the hierarchy of the three main religions, to ask for their support, and we also had the government sign a contract stating that all children could play in the park without regard to their religion or national heritage. In June, we started construction of a large playground in Sarajevo, on what had recently been the front lines. In August, at the grand opening of our Park of Peace, it was heartwarming to see kids from all three

sides playing together. I was crying like a child.

Merri Jo-Sean Rozeveld Fey - November 21, 2020 at 01:20 PM



“ Part 2 of 2 "In Bob's Own Words"

In 1999, when the conflict in Kosovo started, we went to the refugee camps in Macedonia and Albania, bringing food, medical supplies, and financial help to the fleeing Kosovo Albanians. These camps were just huge fields, containing row upon row of tents. We visited with the people, and listened to their stories of horror as they described what had happened to them, and their loved one who didn't make it out.

I've had the pleasure of working with the OSCE (Organization for the Security and Cooperation in Europe), through our State Department, on several of the elections and registration processes over the past 4 years, in both Bosnia and Kosovo.

My recent trip to Kosovo was one of the most heartwarming. After arriving in Kosovo, I traveled around the country with a UN friend of mine, and was able to meet with the poorest of the poor around the Pristina and Urosevac areas. The people welcomed me into their shacks, and I was able to share some of the money Bright Light had received specifically for those in need in Kosovo. It was a great trip.

Life has been exciting, and more beautiful than I could have ever dreamed.

Merri Jo-Sean Rozeveld Fey - November 21, 2020 at 01:18 PM