



# Robert J. Brilley

MAY 30, 1920 - MAR 3, 2009



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## **Robert J. Brilley**

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**D**ecatur-Robert J. Brilley, Sr., 88, of Decatur, passed away at 3:18 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at St. Mary's Hospital with his family by his side.

Mass of Christian Burial to celebrate Bob's life will be 10:00 a.m. Saturday, March 7, 2009 at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 3850 Lourdes Drive, Decatur, with Father Rick Weltin Presider. Visitation will be from 6:30-9:00 p.m. Friday, March 6, 2009 at the church. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the St. Teresa High School Football Program or to the Macon County Senior Center Capital Campaign Fund. Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home is assisting the family with these arrangements. Online condolences and stories may be shared with the family at [www.gracelandfairlawn.com](http://www.gracelandfairlawn.com).

Robert was born May 30, 1920 in Decatur the son of Dan and Stella (Doolen) Brilley. He was a hero to everyone who met him and loved by all. He Graduated from St. Teresa High School where he played football and was their star. He was offered a football scholarship to the University of Notre Dame. His catholic faith was an example to everyone. He was in the automobile business for over sixty-five years, owning his own new and used car lots for twenty years plus. In 1967 he began employment with El Bauer and soon became sales manager for Fehrenbach Chevrolet and then Miles Chevrolet for Miles Schnaer who he loved so much and was one of his best friends. He greatly admired and respected Cecil Vantuyle of Kansas City. The business was his love and he looked forward everyday to go to work and be with the "Brilley Boys" as they all dubbed themselves. His last boss was Pat Dawson who he himself hired and trained and was so very proud of him and he considered him his son.

He will be so deeply missed by his beloved wife Thelma of sixty-nine years, son; Robert J. Brilley II., daughters; Sandra C. Jennings of Decatur, Susanne M. Peck and husband Jim, who he loved dearly, of Decatur, Cecelia L. Heinrich of O'Fallon,



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Illinois, and Barbara J. Brilley of Springfield, Illinois, daughter-in-law Linda (Raupp) Brilley, grandchildren; Tina Ielase and husband Tony, Krystal Kracht, Ashley Jennings, Amy Fortae and husband Darrell, Celeena Heinrich, and Shane Brilley and wife Amy, eleven great-grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, as well as Roger Heinrich and Ron Jennings. His dog Maggie was his joy and she will miss him.



## Tribute Wall

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DS

**David Scott** posted:

To the entire Brilley family, you have our deepest sympath at this time. You are in our prayers as we think about your loss that you and your family are dealing with. Although it is difficult today to see beyond the sorrow, may looking back in memory help comfort you as you face the rest of your tomorrows without Bob. Life is eternal, and love is immortal, and death is only a horizon, and a horizon is nothing other save the limit of our sight. Hold tight to your memories of the good times. Remember your Faith in God and you'll find that He will give strength and peace to your hearts. Love is how we come into this world and it is by God's love that we leave it to be with him. Bob loved so many of us. He had the ability to bring out the best in us and change what was the worst in us. With Bob you always knew where you stood...there were no gray areas. He was strong but always fair. He changed many of "Brilley's Boys" lives forever with his "tough love" policies. Again, please accept our heartfilled sympathy on the loss of a very good man. We are very much thinking about you in our time of sorrow and grief. Peace, prayers and blessing to all of you. With love, David and Betty Scott.

March 7 at 8:30 AM

DH

**Dick An Mary Huston** posted:

Mr. Bob an Family, Our prayers are with you at this time of loss.

March 7 at 4:24 AM

CE

**Charlene Eddington** posted:

Bob, I was so sorry to hear of your dad's passing but at the same time – we know he is now at peace. I wish we could be there to give you some support in person but won't be coming home until May. Please give my sympathy to your mom and sisters. I've said a prayer for all of you!Charlene

March 7 at 3:51 AM

MM

**Mack And Carmon Mcmanigell** posted:

Dear Brilley Family,We wish to express how sorry we are to hear of the loss of your loved one.We knew Bob for many years and purchased cars for him when he worked at Chevy,and sent them from Florida to Decatur.Also remember when he had his own car lot on I beleive Grand Ave.Our daughter Nina had been a friend of Susie's for many years.We will keep your family in our prayers.May God's love make your grief bearable.Sincerely,Carmon and Mack McManigell

March 6 at 8:54 AM



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MH

**Mary Ann Hall** posted:

I remember Bob coming in to Decatur Auto Auction in the late 80's and 1990's. We always kept a box of Fannie Mae candies for him and when he would come to the counter we would get the box of candy and he would take 1 or 2 pieces to enjoy. Bob was always good for a laugh and always a gentleman. A few months back, I saw Bob and his wife out shopping and reiterated the "Fannie Mae story" and we all had a laugh. I appreciated Shane Brilley when he worked at Miles body shop and I had to have some work done there and when I would see Bob I always told him what a special grandson he had and he was always so proud. My prayers are with you, the family, at this time.

March 5 at 11:26 AM

RH

**Roger Heinrich** posted:

Pop was a role model and guiding hand for much of my young life. He was one of the most honorable and honest men I have ever known. He had a wonderful sense of humor, ready smile and quick wit. I loved him and will miss him dearly.

March 5 at 6:50 AM

CG

**Celeena (Granddaughter)** posted:

I love you Grandpa!!!!

March 4 at 11:06 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Robert by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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