



# Robert Ryan "Bobby" Blair

JUN 7, 1958 - MAR 30, 2026



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## Robert Ryan "Bobby" Blair

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**R**obert Ryan "Bobby" Blair, 67, of Decatur, Illinois, passed away March 30, 2026, at HSHS St. Mary's Hospital.

Robert was born in Decatur on June 7, 1958, the son of Robert A. and Nellie J. (McKinney) Blair. After graduating from Lakeview High School, he took classes at both Richland Community College and Millikin University. He was passionate about space and belonged to several astronomy clubs throughout his life. He had an affinity for technology, and he was able to put that to good use in his positions at K's Merchandise and Radio Shack. He was fascinated by every new aspect of technology. His favorite job was working as an airplane refueler for the Decatur Airport.

Robert was a member of Lakeview Baptist Church until its closure. He was an exceedingly kind person who never hesitated to lend a helping hand to anyone who needed it. He especially cherished his one-on-one time with his family and friends. Robert is survived by his mother Nellie Blair of Decatur; sister Kimberly (Dan) Bell of Athens, IL; aunt Sylvia Mardis; and too many cousins to name. He was preceded in death by his father Robert A. Blair, his grandparents, and special friend Tamy.

The family would like to thank the HSHS St. Mary's ICU staff, the chaplains, and the hospice nurses for their compassionate care.

Graceland Fairlawn Funeral Home is providing cremation services for Robert. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Condolences may be shared with the family at <https://www.gracelandfairlawn.com>.



## Tribute Wall

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KB

**Kimberly Bell** posted:

A few days ago I was tasked with going through my brother, Bobby's, papers. He's always been a very private person, even with us. After sifting through the usual debris that is collected in life, I was surprised to find a drawer filled entirely of cards and letters. Birthday and holiday cards, letters from me when I was traveling, postcards from mom and dad when they were on road trips. One note caught my eye as being different from the rest. It was a handwritten thank you card from one of Bobby's high school teachers. Apparently, Bob stopped to help when her car stranded her and her elderly mother. The ladies had set out on foot (no cellphones yet) when Bob stopped and gave them a ride to a nearby restaurant and waited until her husband came to get them. She said she was so grateful to him because she didn't know if her mother could have walked much farther. I had never heard this. I asked mom, and she hadn't either. It's a perfect example of my brother. He was unassuming and never sought recognition. If he saw someone in need, he would try to help. Crowds made him uncomfortable, but singly, he could be gregarious and quite informative. He loved knowledge and craved it. He was smart in ways that were beyond my comprehension. People who looked past the awkward smile found a loyal and trustworthy friend for life. I hope he is back with those friends now. He has missed them so much. I love you, Bob. ❤️ Your Little Brat Sister

April 9 at 2:36 PM

D

**Debbie Mcfarland** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

My cousin Bobby was his own person. I'm sure he liked books better than people. He loved anything space, NASA and technology. He used to ask John all kinds of questions about KSC. And he also knew a lot about it too. He was an unassuming, quiet, gentle and giving person. I just wish he'd have had a sense of humor. (He knew I couldn't resist.) Between him and his dad it was like being at a comedy show. One joke after another. I'm sure him and Bob are entertaining everyone up there. Well, Bobby, tell your dad hello, Aunt Thelma too. Give my mom a hug and kiss for me. A handshake for John and Terry. I know you've already given Tamy plenty of hugs and kisses. Tell all the rest that I'll see them when I see them. Stay sweet.



April 5 at 1:34 PM

TS

**Tricia Spencer** posted:

Bobby Blair was a sweet unicorn who always stayed true to himself. What's not to admire about a man who does that? In this day and age of "conforming to fit in" and "always trying to one-up someone else", Bobby engaged in none of that. That made him quite special. But he came by it honestly, because his mother, father, and sister (who is our sister-in-law) was always a family of generosity, caring, and inclusion...the American ideal. Bobby, with his unique perspective on life, will be missed by those who loved him most, but the greatest loss is by those who never knew him at all. With Peace and Love, Mark & Tricia Spencer

April 4 at 12:43 PM



## Tribute Wall

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**Susan Bean** lit a candle in honor of Robert.

Susan Bean lit a candle in memory of Robert Blair

April 3 at 4:03 PM



**Cousin Mike** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Blair family.

April 3 at 8:18 AM





# Media

**Robert Ryan "Bobby" Blair**

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**Debbie Mcfarland** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

April 5 at 1:34 PM





## **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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