



## Robert L. Thorstenson

December 10, 1934 - September 30, 2023

Robert L. Thorstenson, 88, of Bayles Lake, passed away on Saturday, September 30, 2023, in Paxton. He was born on December 10, 1934, in Palestine, IL, the son of Julius and Sarieta (McCarter) Thorstenson. Bob married Diane Brown on August 6, 1960, in Paxton.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Diane Thorstenson of Bayles Lake; one son, Todd (Julie) Thorstenson of Champaign, and Tanya (Matt) Judy of Lake Iroquois; six grandchildren, Nick, Alexis, and Annabel Thorstenson, Ashley Judy, and Kennedy and Ireland Feit; and a nephew, Keith Thorstenson of Kansas City, MO.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Jack.

Bob's family moved to Paxton when he was in grade school. He graduated from Paxton High School and received his bachelor's degree from Illinois State University and a Master of Education degree from the University of Illinois. Following his education, Bob taught high school in Onarga and Paxton. In 1964, he joined the business world, forming close lifetime friendships with Bill Cofel and John Healey, operating Kentucky Fried Chicken franchises in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana.

Bob was President of Lopax KFC and Lopax Advertising Agency. He had also

been a director of the Farmers-Merchants Bank in Paxton, the Bobby Nichols Fiddlesticks Charity Foundation, Ft. Myers, FL, and the Illinois Restaurant Association. He was Chairman of the KFC National Co-op Advertising and enjoyed working with The Colonel. Bob also served terms as President of the Paxton United Fund, the Paxton Rotary, Lakeview Country Club, and the Paxton Education Foundation. He was also a Past Master of the Paxton Masonic Lodge.

Bob and Diane spent 36 years in the warm weather of Florida, while still maintaining their Illinois home. A kind and gentle man, he enjoyed golfing in both places and loved to fly fish. When friends weren't able to play anymore, Bob created a lunch group highly anticipated by all.

At Bob's request, cremation rites have been accorded. Private family services will be held at a later date.

Friends are invited to share memories and celebrate Bob's life on Sunday, October 8, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., at Lakeview Country Club in Loda.

Memorials may be made in Bob's name to the Paxton Buckley Loda Education Foundation or Alzheimer's Association.

The family would like to thank Accolade Healthcare staff in Paxton and Transitions Hospice team for the care they gave.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

OCT 8. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Lakeview Country Club  
147 E 200 North Rd  
Loda, IL 60948

# Tribute Wall

WB

“ So many great times shared with Bob over the years:  
-Becoming close friends at Illinois State  
-Singing and traveling with the men's choir (We were always in back row)  
- Weekend trips to Paxton and Pike County  
- "College Boy Waiters" at Liggetts Resort in Wisconsin in summer  
-Charter members of the "Social Pro Six" at ISU  
-Attending the "Wedding of the Wine & Cheese" in Nauvoo  
-As a Groomsman in my wedding  
-Annual reunions at the lake with Bob, Jerry Kemp, and Al Pierson, a college friend who took over the Guy Lombardo Band  
-Visiting Bob and Dianne in Florida

so many other great memories I will always cherish. He was a special person in my life. My sincere condolences to the family/

*Bill Blake*

---

**William Blake** - October 06, 2023 at 10:48 PM

JK

“ Diane and Bob were our neighbors for ten years. I have so many wonderful memories too numerous to post.  
Sam and Bob loved to fly fish out west, while Diane and I loved to shop in Naples.  
Many lovely evenings spent in their home enjoying delicious dinners. Walking Maggie and Muffin.  
Those ten years were some of the best of my life. Thanks to the Thorstenson's.

---

**JoAnne Knight** - October 05, 2023 at 12:47 PM

JH

“ Thoughts and prayers to Diane, Todd, Tanya and family. I have lots of fond memories of Bob growing up in the Loda area. Going to U of I football games, tailgating in the big GMC motorhome with Bob at the wheel, interacting at Lakeview CC, some great memories.

-----  
**Jamie Hensley** - October 04, 2023 at 01:55 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert L. Thorstenson.

-----  
October 04, 2023 at 01:29 PM



“ Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Robert L. Thorstenson.



-----  
October 04, 2023 at 01:29 PM

RM

“ We flew our planes a lot together! We built some homes and mostly enjoyed everything we did together. I met Bob in “83” and was blessed with his friendship! A huge part of my life has left and it is hard for me to accept that! Ted in Peace Robert!

-----  
**Richard Maxey** - October 03, 2023 at 11:39 AM

BL

“ Bob was my high school business teacher. He was a great guy .  
Condolences to the family.

-----  
**Bill Lee** - October 01, 2023 at 09:14 PM