



Robert "Bob" Koetter

December 22, 1944 - February 20, 2026

Robert "Bob" Koetter, 81-year-old resident of Swanville, MN passed away Friday, February 20, 2026 at the St. Cloud VA Hospital. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, February 28, 2026 at St. John's Catholic Church in Swanville with Father Arlie Sowada officiating. Burial will take place in the Parish Cemetery. Visitation will be from 4 to 8 P.M. on Friday and 10 to 11 A.M. on Saturday, all at St. John's Catholic Church in Swanville. Military Rites will be conducted by the Swanville American Legion Post #313 and the Swanville VFW Post #6037. Caring for Bob and his family is the LeMieur Funeral Home in Little Falls, MN.

Robert "Bob" Koetter, was born on December 22, 1944, to the late Norbert and Dorothy Koetter. He attended country school before graduating from Little Falls High School in 1963. Shortly after, he joined the United States Army and was drafted to serve during the Vietnam War, where he served as a cook, and was honorably discharged on August 24, 1973. In 1966, Bob met the love of his life, Frances Kimman, at the Little Falls Ballroom. They were united in marriage in 1967 and built a beautiful life together, raising six children. Their marriage was rooted in faith, hard work, laughter, and deep devotion to family and community. Bob held several jobs throughout his life. Early in his career, he drove a milk truck and later worked for Von's Supply for about 12 years, sharing many memorable stories from his delivery routes. One of his proudest accomplishments was purchasing the grocery store in Swanville with Fran—

Bob and Fran's Grocery—which became a beloved staple of the community. The store was far more than a business to Bob; it was his gathering place. The coffee pot was always on, treats were always available, and there was always time for conversation. He took great pride in writing the store's flyer himself, pecking away with his two pointer fingers, filling it with jokes, stories, and the occasional grammatical error that customers came to love. Bob enjoyed fishing and hunting throughout his life. He especially loved playing cards with just about anyone willing to sit down at the table—and he was never shy about collecting his winnings. He was deeply devoted to his Catholic faith, his church in Swanville, and his community. Bob was an active member of the Knights of Columbus, American Legion, Lions Club, VFW, and the Swanville Sportsmen Club. Above all, Bob was a loving husband, brother, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Bob is survived by his children, Bill (Julie), Jerome (Dawn), David (Ann), Sandra (Brian), Paul (Kathy), and Amanda (Adam); siblings, Delores, Lorraine (Jerry), Jim (Nancy), Steve (Kathy). He was a proud grandfather to Desiree, Dustin, Jill, Travis, Stephanie, Ellie, Matt, Ryan, Tanner, Jamison, Kaleb, Sammy, Eric, RaeAnn, Gavin, Madalin, Alice, and Landon; and great-grandfather to Kayleigh, Silas, Lilly, Stella, Benjamin, Ripken, Huxx, and two more great-grandchildren on the way. Bob was known not only as Grandpa to his own family, but as “the town grandpa” to many children who stopped by his house, visited often, or simply found a welcoming place at his table. He lived his life with his door open to everyone.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his beloved wife, Frances; his brother, Gerald (Rita); brother-in-law, Fred, and his daughter-in-law, Rebecca.

Bob's legacy of faith, generosity, humor, and community spirit will live on in the countless lives he touched. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 27. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

St John's Catholic Church
21 1st St
Swanville, MN 56382
(320) 547-2920

Visitation

FEB 28. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St John's Catholic Church
21 1st St
Swanville, MN 56382
(320) 547-2920

Service

FEB 28. 11:00 AM (CT)

St John's Catholic Church
21 1st St
Swanville, MN 56382
(320) 547-2920

Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Robert "Bob" Koetter*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - February 24 at 02:43 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Koetter.*



February 26 at 09:31 AM



“ *Adam and Cody purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Robert "Bob" Koetter.*



Adam and Cody - February 25 at 09:23 PM

YC

“ Your TCC Family & Coworkers purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Robert "Bob" Koetter.



Your TCC Family & Coworkers - February 25 at 07:01 PM

KK

“ Karen & Gerry Kulzer purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Robert "Bob" Koetter.



Karen & Gerry Kulzer - February 25 at 12:35 PM

JT

“ John Thoma purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Robert "Bob" Koetter.



John Thoma - February 24 at 09:33 PM

“ Bob was the patriarch of his generation - the one to whom we as children & extended relatives could rely upon for predictable reassurance in a troubled world. I'll always think of Bob's weekly newsletter with a few misspellings here & there that lent some refreshing humor to the weekend ritual in Little Falls with my brother Jim, who coincidentally passed away suddenly & oh-so-sadly, just weeks before Bob. (I'm still coping with that loss also.) I hope Bob & Fran will pay a visit to brother Jim and they can do some exploring of God's immense house together - or at least that Bob can plea bargain with the Savior on behalf of his relatives for a few of the good things they accomplished in this world.

I never knew Bob to complain very much - he seemed to keep a healthy outlook and a trademark humor throughout his life, even to the last day when I understand he acknowledged he had lived a full life and was looking forward to his audience with the Prince of Peace; a meeting for which Bob spent his full life preparing. Bob had spent time in the military earlier in life and I sometimes wonder as to his secret for surviving such experiences and still coming out smiling. I think it was because he seemed to really believe this life is just the beginning of an even greater one, one befitting a humble mind and heart that will be open to more fulfilling love and affection that can be afforded this temporary lifetime on Earth.

I recall Bob's last years with Fran and when I had occasion to visit once or twice, how well-cared for Fran had been. Bob had arranged for her to stay in a beautiful cabin that had a delightful view of a local meadow and lake area of Swanville. Bob managed to stay with Fran through good times and bad, in sickness and in health, fulfilling commitments made with marriage vows. Fran too, with Bob - though this week we honor in particular Bob's life as he finds his way home to be with Christ.

Bob's brother Steve shared a public comment about a book called 'The Noticer' when Bob was in the hospital with his first major heart surgery. I still listen to the audiobook from time to time - a book that calls out the importance of living life in this world until it is one's time, and not before. Bob strove to live out his years despite the hardships that come with age and managed to make some happy

memories with loved ones in that time. He even was in attendance when my former wife was granted legal citizenship in the U.S., having spent many good years together with me in Burnsville. Bob tried. That is what counts at the end of our lives. He did what he could with what he had and reached many people, and had many relatives who will bear fond memories of him throughout their own lives. Bob lived by example, with a warm demeanor and peaceful humility that welcomed friendship. He was ready to offer a cup of coffee to just about anyone coming to visit him in Swanville, reminding my brother and I of the open invitation years ago while Fran was still with him. I'll keep in my mind and heart from Bob a perfect example of someone who reacted most reliably to life's adversities with a signature grace and humor that made life easier for everyone around him.

Bob's humble yet capable leadership was such we can all follow, and I can envision him reuniting with his own mother and father, Dorothy and Norbert Koetter, once more, in a happy and peaceful scene.

Bob - be sure to connect with my brother Jim and take a break from all the sad things that we face on Earth. I hope you two, along with Aunt Fran, will be able to enjoy a happy reunion in a beautiful cabin on a lakeshore in a place we longingly search for in our truest hearts - a place called Heaven.

My most sincere condolences to the many friends and extended relatives of uncle Bob.

- John Thoma

John Thoma - February 24 at 09:26 PM

SP

John thanks for the beautiful tribute, you hit everything spot on. ❤️🙏

Sandra Primus - February 25 at 08:31 PM



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

February 24 at 11:56 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Koetter.



February 24 at 11:56 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Koetter.



February 24 at 10:34 AM



“ *I always looked up to cousin, Bob. Warm memories stay with us.*
Len Duevel

Len Duevel - February 23 at 05:23 PM



Sandra Primus - February 25 at 08:34 PM

PH

“ Sympathy to Bob’s family. Bob and Fran were good friends when my parents Were living. Bob wrote me the nicest note when my mother passed.....he played cards with my dad and their poker group. Sorry for your loss.



patti Ritchie Hammerbeck - February 23 at 01:35 PM

SP

He sure loved his card games. Thanks for your thoughts 🙏

Sandra Primus - February 25 at 08:36 PM

JH

“ Our deepest sympathy to all of Bob's family. Such a community minded man. We will truly miss not seeing Bob around town!



Jerry & Julie Hollermann - February 23 at 12:54 PM

CH

“ When I was younger about 12 years old (now 67) I would ride with Bob on his route to help him get the orders ready after he went in to get the orders in stores and bars. He’d buy me lunch and we talk. I enjoyed going with Bob on those days in the summer. I still think about those days and Bob. Bob and Fran use to stop over at our house and sometimes play cards with my mom and dad. My dad worked in the office at Vons Supply. Good memories of the good old days! May Bob rest in peace now with Fran!

Cheryl Britz Harrison - February 23 at 11:09 AM

AN

I love that story. Thank you so much for sharing it.

Amanda Notsch - February 23 at 03:28 PM

MW

“ *Marlene Wolbeck lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Koetter*



Marlene Wolbeck - February 23 at 09:41 AM

SG

“ *Shirley Gessell lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Koetter*



Shirley Gessell - February 22 at 02:56 PM

JS

“ *Jenny Stout lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Koetter*



Jenny Stout - February 22 at 07:46 AM

AS

“ *My prayers to the family, Heaven gained a truly great man!*



Audrey Stout - February 21 at 11:36 PM

BB

“ *Sending prayers to the family Bob you will be missed by many RIP*



Brenda Baum - February 21 at 08:47 PM

CH

“ *Chad & Kari Heid purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Robert "Bob" Koetter.*



Chad & Kari Heid - February 21 at 08:44 PM

CH

“ *Chad & Kari Heid planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert "Bob" Koetter.*

Chad & Kari Heid - February 21 at 08:44 PM

JL

“ *Julie Lambrecht lit a candle in memory of
Robert "Bob" Koetter*



Julie Lambrecht - February 21 at 08:12 PM