



# Robert John Krueger

APR 15, 1948 - JAN 1, 2023



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## **Robert John Krueger**

APR 15, 1948 - JAN 1, 2023

**R**obert "Bob" J. Krueger celebrated the New Year in heaven after courageously battling acute myeloid leukemia for 19 months. He died at Spectrum Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids on January 1, 2023. Bob lived in Big Rapids from 1975 until August 2022 when he and his wife Beth moved to Grand Rapids. He was born on April 15, 1948, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, fueling a lifelong love of the outdoors, fishing, German beer, and Usinger's sausage. After graduation from Wauwatosa West High School, Bob attended the University of Connecticut, where he met and married the love of his life, Beth Lindberg, and earned a Bachelor's degree in Pharmacy in 1971. Following their June 1971 wedding, Bob and Beth moved to Iowa where he received a PhD from the University of Iowa in Pharmacognosy. In 1975 he began his teaching career at Ferris State University College of Pharmacy in Big Rapids, Michigan where he and Beth lived for 42 years raising their two daughters and becoming deeply involved in the community. Bob retired from Ferris State University in Dec 2011 as a full Professor.

Bob was a renaissance man who appreciated gourmet cooking, traveling, art, nature, science, politics, and a good joke. He was a voracious reader and appreciated many literature genres such as mysteries, myths, poetry and mycology. Bob had a whimsical sense of humor and an infectious laugh which allowed him to connect with people of all ages. He loved spending time in nature and his many interests included gardening, plant propagation, herbal medicine and teas, birding, and Michigan weather. His love of nature deeply influenced the lives of his two daughters whose careers focus on the protection of our natural resources. Bob was truly a gifted baker and known for his numerous cookies he created each holiday season. Though grounded in a small town, Bob and Beth explored the world through travel and hosting international visitors to their community. They maintain a second home in Ocean Park, Maine where they spent summers and vacations.



## Obituary

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Bob took great pride in his public service to the community of Big Rapids. He was elected to Big Rapids Board of Education and was involved in the passage of the millage proposal to build the new high school. He was a proud member of the Big Rapids Rotary Club and served a term as its President. He was selected to lead a team of young Rotarians to Germany in 2011 on a 6-week exchange program. He was an active member of Immanuel Lutheran Church and served on various committees within the church. He was elected by the residents of Big Rapids to represent them on the City of Big Rapids Charter Revision Commission.

Bob gained pleasure through maintaining lifelong relationships with his Ferris State and Pharmacy students and colleagues. He served on numerous University committees, and was the Chair of the Ferris Arts and Lectures Committee, bringing speakers and performing artists to the community for several years. In 1988 he was honored by the Michigan Association of Governing Boards of Colleges and Universities as Ferris State's Distinguished Faculty member, and was an active member of the Ferris Faculty Association. He spent countless hours to the American Society of Pharmacognosy (ASP) Foundation as their treasurer, and was recognized for his service to the ASP by being awarded honorary lifelong membership in the association. He served as a member and President of the Michigan Wildflower Association and was recognized as a 50-year member of the American Chemical Society in 2022. Bob was a member of the American Botanical Council, the Michigan Botanical Club, and Sigma Xi. He shared his knowledge of plants and herbs to audiences at conferences across the world.

Bob touched the lives and hearts of all who knew him, and there are no words to express the sadness and loss we feel at this time. Bob was preceded in death by his father Harold, mother June, and daughter Christine Lynn. He is survived by his wife of 51 years Beth (Grand Rapids, MI), daughters Laura of Whittier, CA, and Allison (Max Conroy) of Ypsilanti, MI, and grandchildren Linden, Leah, and Samuel. Bob will be deeply missed by his sister, Jacque Flood (Michael) of Elgin IL and many nieces, nephews and dear friends.

The family would like to thank the community for continued prayers and love during this difficult time.



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Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m., Monday, January 9, 2023, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Big Rapids, with visitation beginning one hour before the service at 10:00 a.m. Memorial contributions in his name can be made to the American Society of Pharmacognosy Foundation, of which Bob served as Treasurer for 25 years, the Big Rapids Rotary Club of which Bob was a member, or Maine Audubon Society, appreciated by Bob and Beth for its work to preserve Maine birds. Care and arrangements are entrusted to the Mohnke Funeral Home in Big Rapids. Share a memory of express condolences at [mohnkefuneralhome.com](http://mohnkefuneralhome.com)



## Tribute Wall

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GB

**Gil Belofsky** posted:

Dear Beth and Family, Just found this out. My sincerest condolences. I always looked forward to seeing Bob at ASP meetings. He was one of my favorite people to talk to, and just 'shoot the breeze.' He was always so pleasant, friendly, and easy

March 27 at 8:00 PM

CK

**Cindy Konrad** posted:

My most sincere condolences to Beth, Laura and Allison. Bob definitely made an impact on Ferris and the Big Rapids community. Bob demonstrated a life well lived. Please take care.

January 12 at 8:00 PM

JJ

**Jillian C. Jakeman** posted:

My dear Beth and family, I am so very saddened to learn of Bob's passing on January 1. Please accept my sincerest condolences. Know that you are in my every thought. Both of you fought very hard going to great lengths to get the best possible medical

January 11 at 8:00 PM

JG

**Joan Kolton & Tom Gustafson** posted:

Beth and family, We are so sorry that cousin Tom could not make it but we prayed with him today at the time of the funeral. Prayers to the family. God's blessings on your next journey.

January 8 at 8:00 PM

JL

**Jean And Mike Lalonde** posted:

Dear Beth and girls, We are so saddened over the passing of Bob. We enjoyed gathering at your house for many lovely dinners. Bob would have a special beverage and main dish to serve with gusto and graciousness. Please know that our hearts and prayers a

January 8 at 8:00 PM



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SH

**Shirley Hamelund** lit a candle in honor of Robert.

What a great man Bib was. I will miss his sense of humor and wonderful friendship. My condolences to Beth and the girls. God bless, Shirley Hamelund.

January 7 at 8:00 PM



TF

**Tom, Holly, Ron, Beth Fish** posted:

Beth and Family- We were very sad to hear about Bob. He was a wonderful person who and was always up for a debate on the issues of the day. We will miss him!

January 6 at 8:00 PM

DP

**David And Yvonne Prelesnik** posted:

Dear Beth, Laura, and Allison: May your hearts be filled with memories of joyful times together as you celebrate Bob's life, a life well lived! Sending a GREAT BIG HUG!!!!!! Our prayers go out to you!! Love, David and Yvonne

January 6 at 8:00 PM

CH

**Christine Vonder Haar** posted:

I am so saddened at the death of Bob, and I offer my deepest sympathy and prayers to you, Beth, your daughters and to your extended family. Bob's legacy at Ferris State is rich and memorable, especially his Senate his tireless hours planning and org

January 6 at 8:00 PM

JR

**Jim Rumpf** posted:

So sorry for the family's loss. Nothing but good memories of Bob. One of my favorite people in Big Rapids.

January 5 at 8:00 PM

WH

**Warren And Pam Hills** posted:

Beth and family . . . We're so sorry to hear and you're in our thoughts and prayers.

January 5 at 8:00 PM



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LB

**Lianne Briggs** posted:

Bob's obituary was a fitting tribute to the wonderful man he was. Although I was in the College of Business, and Hospitality Management program, we shared many common interests. He was always willing to share his time and knowledge. My condolences to B

January 5 at 8:00 PM

PH

**Paula Hadley** posted:

Beth, Laura and Allison, sending love and comforting hugs to you and families. I am so very sorry for your loss.

January 4 at 8:00 PM

JN

**Jeffrey Nagelbush** posted:

Bob was a wonderful man. I always enjoyed my time with him. Beth, I know what you are going through and I wish you all the best.

January 4 at 8:00 PM

PF

**Pamela Fleming** posted:

I offer my deepest condolences to Beth and family. Bob was a treasure

January 4 at 8:00 PM

JP

**Jane Pedelty** posted:

Bob was one of those rare people who always had time for those of us in the service areas of campus - he was a true gentleman who will be missed. My prayers go out to Beth and the family; his spirit will live on!

January 4 at 8:00 PM

TW

**Tracey Ward** lit a candle in honor of Robert.

Bob was an amazing colleague and friend who was very passionate about science. He will be greatly missed by many, and my heart goes out to Beth and their children. Your family will be in my prayers during this difficult time.

January 4 at 8:00 PM





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JG

**Jerry Gosselin** posted:

Beth, please accept my sincere condolences. Both you and Bob fought very hard during this latest chapter of your lives together and you went to great lengths to get the best possible medical treatment. May Bob's soul rest in peace and may you be conso

January 4 at 8:00 PM

BK

**Bevy And Rick Kowalkoski** lit a candle in honor of Robert.

Our deepest condolences to Beth and family on the passing of Bob! He was a great man, friend colleague to us when we worked together at Ferris on various Committees! He will be greatly missed by all!



January 4 at 8:00 PM

BK

**Bob Kern** posted:

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with you and your families. Remembering your flower and gardens. Always with a smile... chatting in the back yard. Will remember your laughter.

January 3 at 8:00 PM

JJ

**Jim And Christine Jacobs** lit a candle in honor of Robert.

There are no words to express the emptiness we feel. Our hearts ache for all of you. We pray you find comfort knowing your loss is shared.



January 3 at 8:00 PM

KS

**Kipp Saathoff** posted:

Beth, Laura, Allison and family, I am so sorry for your loss. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. Bob was always a highlight of our HR holiday get togethers.

January 3 at 8:00 PM



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KB

**Kristen Kern-Beaver** posted:

Dear Beth, Laura, and Allison, I am so very sorry to hear Bob has passed away. I will always remember his giant garden growing up on Willow, the Christmas cookies, and his great sense of humor. I will never forget at my wedding reception when Bob heard

January 3 at 8:00 PM

JB

**Jeanne Burch** posted:

So very sorry for your loss! Many great memories of the Krueger family! Prayers for all of you during this time.

January 3 at 8:00 PM

PJ

**Paula Johnson** posted:

Beth, I am so sorry to learn of Bob's passing. My sympathies and prayers to you and your family. Paula Johnson Formerly from Immanuel Lutheran Church and worked at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, now living in Mendota, Illinois.

January 3 at 8:00 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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