



## Robert Bradford Middleton Eichen

October 6, 1958 - April 5, 2024

Robert Bradford Middleton Eichen, 65, died at 3:39 p.m. Friday, April 5, 2024 at his home in Godfrey with his “Shell Shell” by his side. Born October 6, 1958 in Alton, he was the son of Harriett “Harry Lou” Eichen and the late Howard Eichen. Many knew him as a meat cutter for Schwegel’s Market. He attended Carthage College in Kenosha, WI, with a major in criminal justice and worked for the Alton Police Department. He later worked as an engineer for the Alton Fire Department, retiring in January of 2019, after 30 years of service.

Following his retirement, he worked security for OSF St. Anthony’s Healthcare Center in Alton. Bob continued to enjoy working out daily even during his illness. He was an avid collector of dinosaur figures and all things Marvel and DC. He also loved walking his dogs with his invention of the “Eichen walk the dog system.” On October 10, 2020 he married Shelley (Watson) Bauser in St. Petersburg Beach, FL. She survives. Along with his mother and wife, he is survived by his sons, Davey Eichen (Daisy) and Alex Eichen, daughters, Leslie Conlee (Reggie), Lindsey Cress (Randy), and Lauren Gage (Thomas), grandchildren, Lela and Sidney Eichen, Corbin, Boden and Zoe Leezy, Mackenzie and Dylan Pitts, Wyatt and Will Conlee, Kylie Angel, Harper Gage, Austin Cress (Aja), and Ryan Cress, and great grandchildren, Mylo and Haddie. He is also survived by his siblings, David Eichen (Patty), Lisa Norooz, Gretel Maggos (John), and Brita Haggard (Mark), his mother-in-law, Karen Watson, brother-in-law, Brian Watson, sister-in-law, Stephanie Watson, many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, many friends, his brothers at the

Alton Fire Department, his Nautilus Family, and his best friends, Buddy and Ollie. He was preceded in death by his father, his son, Andrew Eichen and his nephew, Ben Maggos. Visitation will be from 4:00-8:00 p.m. with a Fire Fighter walk through at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at Gent Funeral Home in Alton. Memorials may be made to the Alton Fire Department or the 5A's Animal Shelter. Online guestbook and information may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 10. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home  
2409 State Street  
Alton, IL 62002

## Fireman Walk Through

APR 10. 7:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home  
2409 State Street  
Alton, IL 62002

# Tribute Wall

BH

“ To Bobs wife , I am so very sad to find out Bob has passed. It’s a shock because he seemed to be almost super human to many of us! I got to know Bob through Indian guides when we were 7 or 8 and we both went down similar paths in life. Bob lived in the ymca weightlifting all summer long when about 12 and up, I was doing Judo and got Bob to take judo class because he was a big fan of “dick the bruiser” the wrestler. Anyway Bob got a trophy in his first Judo tournament as a yellow tip belt doing moves like the bruiser. We both were on the wrestling team and Bob was a hard person to beat with all that time picking up and putting down many heavy things, a very strong person indeed. I remember a party at the old Western military Academy with Bob wearing a white sheet like a classical Greek figure with a red solo cup in one hand and a heavy stone bust of some noted person in the other he picked up in the Library. After h/s I heard Bob gave the Marines a try and I gave the Navy 6 years on a ship in New England, I never looked back on Alton. I never spoke to Bob again until 2008 when we both buried our boys just 3 months apart. That changes you more than words can describe. That was the time I read Bobs poetry as he tried to workout what life was handing him. I told Bob this a place you decide to be even stronger, don’t let it bring you down. I went to mass daily for a year to keep breathing and be stronger. Bob was always near people that looked up to him because he was strong.  
Brett Harrison

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**Brett Harrison** - August 06, 2024 at 02:06 PM

LB

“ Alex & Family, my sincerest condolences on your loss. Keeping your family in my thoughts and prayers at this most difficult time; and praying for comfort and peace. Donation made to 5A's in Robert's name.



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**Laura Burcham** - April 17, 2024 at 11:45 AM

MR

“ My heartfelt sympathy and prayers to you Shelly and all who loved Bob. Loss is a tough thing to take. God be with you all  
Mary Riker

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**Mary Riker** - April 11, 2024 at 02:36 PM

MM

“ Harry Lou, David, Lisa, Gretel, Brita and family,

*Barbara and I send our sympathies, I met Bob a number of times, usually in the company of Howard. I always enjoyed talking with him and came to admire and appreciate his outlook on life, his dedication to principles and his determination, especially these last few years. Bob was a strong individual. I am glad I knew him. I am sure the love I have witnessed in the Eichen family will be a boon to all of you in this trying time.*

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**Michael R Montgomery** - April 10, 2024 at 04:36 PM

AM

“ Ashley, Christy, and Myra purchased the Sweet T enderness for the family of Robert Bradford Middleton Eichen.



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**Ashley, Christy, and Myra** - April 09, 2024 at 05:00 PM

JL

“ Alex and Family, I am so sorry for your loss. Keeping you in my thoughts and prayers. With Sympathy, Jennifer Layman

Jennifer Layman - April 09, 2024 at 03:03 PM

HC

“ Hannon, Heather, Levi, Louis, and Chloe purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Robert Bradford Middleton Eichen.



Hannon, Heather, Levi, Louis, and Chloe - April 09, 2024 at 08:48 AM

GI

“ We will really miss Bob, he was a great man, he was kind and did not have an enemy. I will miss seeing him at the Gym, he loved to work out. We miss you Bob.

Gary Ingle - April 08, 2024 at 01:28 PM

JH

“ Shelley and family, my heart aches for you as you have lost one of the truly great ones, an original, one of a kind masterpiece. The smile, the laugh and the amazing things that Bob said were always a source of wonderful amusement. Many years ago, we shared a unique camaraderie, built upon some shared eclectic pursuits... trying to find the rare Muddy Waters or Mothers of Invention LPs after stops at every record store in STL. I would beg Bob to go see shows when the greats came through town, but was always met with the same response..”Why would I buy a ticket when I can get the record and listen to it forever?”...

We shared so much growing up together in that idyllic midwestern childhood, but what will always be with me are the deepest, heartfelt sentiments Bob shared in simple vulnerable communications. I still have the letters he wrote to me from his time at Carthage, and laugh out loud everytime I read them. He put a spin on a story unlike anyone I've ever met, he was my favorite prolific author and poet. I will most miss that laugh, the chuckle we heard at the best times of our lives. I loved him like a brother.

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**Jeff House** - April 07, 2024 at 08:13 PM

MR

“ Mike Roach planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Bradford Middleton Eichen.

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**Mike Roach** - April 07, 2024 at 06:46 PM

MR

“ Mike Roach purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Robert Bradford Middleton Eichen.



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**Mike Roach** - April 07, 2024 at 06:46 PM

DJ

“ The memories I have of Rock are from earliest childhood to today. He was present in my mind since we were 4 years old. Sleepovers as grade schoolers watching the old godzilla movies, playing in the yard til we couldn't anymore. We first met at swimming lessons at the YWCA on 3rd St. at age 4. Bob didn't like getting water in his face and neither did I! We spent summers at scout camp together, went to Philmont together ( where Bob accidentally dropped a rock on my foot and smashed my toe, and we had to hike ten miles one day with no food because a bear ate all ours the night before), played sports and in many ways we grew up as brothers. We wore his dads zoot suits to our first day of senior year of high school, made fools of ourselves pretending to be the Principals until the real ones made us stop. We share memories of great successes, good times and also some tragedy. But for all our lives whenever we talked we were those two little kids again. Shelley, you and your families have my deepest condolences. Bob 'Rock' Eichen, one of the original Mullen Muggers, and my very good lifetime friend, you will be missed.

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**Daniel Johnson** - April 07, 2024 at 06:44 PM

BR

“ Brian Roach planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Bradford Middleton Eichen.

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**Brian Roach** - April 07, 2024 at 03:22 PM

BR

“ *Brian Roach purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Robert Bradford Middleton Eichen.*



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**Brian Roach** - April 07, 2024 at 03:22 PM

VA

“ *I can't think of anyone kinder or more genuine than Bob. An all around great guy, he will be sorely missed.*

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**Vanessa** - April 07, 2024 at 12:30 AM

CB

“ *I am sorry for your loss. No matter where I saw him, he had that warm and eternal smile. I will miss it and him.*

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**Cathy Beiser** - April 07, 2024 at 12:21 AM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Bradford Middleton Eichen.*



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April 06, 2024 at 07:57 PM

BH

“ I first met Bob while working at St. Anthony's hospital and experienced what a great man he was, when he offered to help me in my line of duty when he didn't even know me, but that's who Bob was...willing to help in any situation....that's when I realized this is a guy I would want as a friend. As time went on, I got to know him and see the great person he was...helpful, caring, smart & dedicated. Then as time went on, he was really fun and funny to be around. Magnetic personality. I was blessed to get to know him, work around him, and see him and Shelley begin their journey. I knew Bob only for a little over 4 years, but wish I would have met him so much earlier in life!  
I'll miss you Bob, but my hope is in seeing you again in our next journey after this life.

Bret Hill - April 06, 2024 at 04:24 PM

DM

Shelly and family, so sorry for your loss. Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers 🤍🙏🤍🙏

Dennis and Pam Maxeiner - April 06, 2024 at 07:25 PM

SM

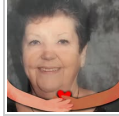
Dearest Shelly, We are all so sorry for the loss of Bob! He was such a wonderful example of cheerfulness and faith in his suffering. You continue to be a well-loved member of the St. Anthony's Family. If there is anything we can do for you and your family, just let us know! With many prayers, Sr. M. Anastasia and the Sisters and Staff of OSF St. Anthony's

Sr. M. Anastasia Maher - April 07, 2024 at 11:28 AM

 Bryan Couch

My Gym Rat Icon and Friend of Over 30 plus years ..No words but what a Great Man I got to Meet and learn the Love as a Friend ..Howard was waiting on yah and I so miss him as Well ..Tell we meet again ..Rest Easy Bob

Bryan Couch - April 07, 2024 at 10:29 PM



*Shelly and family, so sorry for your loss. Wish we could have met him, seems like he was loved by many. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers.♥♥*

*Dennis and Pam Maxeiner*

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**Pamela Maxeiner** - April 08, 2024 at 01:56 AM

LS

*I am so sorry to read about this loss. Bob was lifting weights at the gym right up until his last days. The Eichen family will be in my meditations and prayers.*

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**Layne Simpson** - April 08, 2024 at 11:39 PM

CL

*My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family Alex.*

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**Chris Lapel** - April 09, 2024 at 02:22 PM

RT

*What a great guy. The world needs more Bobs.*

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**Robert Tolliver** - April 11, 2024 at 11:00 AM

AD

*I first met Bob in Boy Scouts, with Dan Johnson and Jeff House. I hadn't seen him in years when we both came for one of the high school reunions. We took up together again like 20 years made no difference. There was a guy there selling carved and painted figures made out of individual grains of rice. Bob reacted with his most expressive face and his best arched eyebrow. We both laughed like lunatics the whole night.*

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**Allen daGue** - June 01, 2024 at 01:20 PM