



## Robert Von Hatten

August 20, 1946 - September 12, 2020

Dateline: Godfrey

Robert L. Von Hatten

Robert L. (Bob) Von Hatten was born August 20, 1946 in St. Louis, Missouri and passed away peacefully September 12, 2020. Bob's family moved to Breese, Illinois and then moved to Alton, Illinois in 1960.

Bob's brother, William F. Von Hatten (Bill) and his "big" brother Bob were best friends growing up. As young men they used to hitch hike from the flour mill in downtown Alton to Lockhaven Country club so that at the ripe old ages of 12 and 13 they could make \$6.00 for the day as caddies. They both fell in love with golf at that time.

After high school in 1966, Bob enlisted in the United States Airforce and was stationed in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Bob was a member of the United States Air Force Golf Team and played on the military academy golf course. Returning to Alton, Bob secured a position with Lockhaven Country Club in 1970 through 1975 and also worked as first assistant and instructor through 1976 at Glen Haven Driving Range.

In March 1977 until he retired at the end of 2009, Bob was the General Manager and Director of Golf at Rolling Hills Golf Club located in Godfrey, Illinois. Bob was extremely instrumental in the 1992 expansion of Rolling Hills from a nine-hole golf course with few amenities to the eighteen-hole course with a practice range and beautiful club house. In 1998 a nine-hole executive course was added. In 2005 Bob was inducted into the Alton Golf Hall of Fame.

When visiting Bob, no matter where the brothers went, it seemed that every person in town knew Bob. That included the Catholic Bishop at the time. Wow was he popular!

In 1989, Bob married his beloved wife, Linda (Ballhurst) Von Hatten who preceded him in death in 2018. His loving daughter Nicola K. (Nikki) Ballhurst and her partner Steve Mead were constant companions of Bob's, devoted to his care and comfort for the last two years of his life.

In addition to his wife, Bob is preceded in death by his parents Frank and Catherine (Tebbe) Von Hatten. He is survived by his brother William (Bill) Von Hatten and wife Laura in Phoenix, Arizona, his daughter Nicola (Nikki) Ballhurst and partner Steve Mead in Godfrey, Illinois, his dear Aunt Beatrice (Bea) Tebbe in St. Rose, Illinois and many cousins.

Bob was a kind and loving soul, a wonderful husband, brother, father and friend. He will be dearly missed.

Honoring Bob's request a service will not be held. Memorial donations may be made to St Jude Children's Research Hospital. Gent Funeral Home in Alton is in charge of arrangements. Online guestbook and information may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Von Hatten*

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January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Robert Von Hatten*

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January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *My mother, Peg Schelle, would like to express her condolences to Bob's family. She LOVED working with Bob and has many fond memories. I would like to add that my children also got to experience having Bob as their summer golf instructor, and that is a fond memory of mine, too. Rest well, Bob.*

*Kimberly Schelle Hand*

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**Kimberly Hand** - September 18, 2020 at 05:18 PM



“ *I too have fond memories of Bob. Met him at Hellrung Park for those day long baseball games. He was a heck of a ball player. Always a good soul, Bob impacted so many. Prayers for his family, especially his brother Bill. RIP Bob*

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**John Waters** - September 17, 2020 at 05:15 PM

PS

“ I caddied at Lockhaven with Bob. My brother and I also hitch hiked from the flour mill to the golf course. I've known Bob most of my life. Bob, as everyone who knew him would readily agree was one of the truley great people you are seldom blessed to meet. God bless you dear friend as we all feel the great loss to all who knew you. Paul W. Stilwell.

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**Paul Stilwell** - September 16, 2020 at 11:21 PM

JB

“ I have fond memories of being Bob's teammate with the Alton Moose Baseball team when we were around 12 years old and later when we played for Alton Post 126 American Legion baseball. He had a huge impact on the growth of Rolling Hills Golf course and his 32 year tenure at one location is very unusual in the golf business. Obviously, he was highly respected by the ownership. You will be missed and may you Rest In Peace.



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**Jim Baiter** - September 16, 2020 at 02:26 PM

KS

“ I knew Bob from Rolling Hills when I worked there from 2005 until his retirement. He was the kindest and most respected and respectful person I ever knew. Everyone that walked into that clubhouse was greeted by name by Bob. I admired him then and have missed talking to him since his retirement, Thanks, Bob... for everything you taught me You will be missed my friend. God be with you. Love, Kevin Stahlschmidt.

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**Kevin Stahlschmidt** - September 16, 2020 at 11:24 AM

CY

*Nikki, very nice tribute to Bob. He was a awesome person.*

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**Carol yocom** - September 17, 2020 at 07:56 AM

SS

*I fell in love with the game of golf thanks to Bob, while raising my kids in Godfrey we all spent a great deal of time at Rolling Hills. He was kind, funny and accommodating in every way. Rest in peace Mr Von Hatten, you will be missed!!*

*Steve Stewart/ Cape Coral, Florida*

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**Steve Stewart** - September 17, 2020 at 09:10 AM

CP

*Sending our respects and sadness from miles away. I enjoyed the dinners and going over old times with Bob and Linda whenever I was in town. They both will be sadly missed.*

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**Cecil Payne** - September 21, 2020 at 12:25 PM