



## Robert G. Baumgartner

September 3, 1927 - February 7, 2020

Branchville - Robert G. Baumgartner, age 92, peacefully passed away on Friday, February 7, 2020 at Bentley Assisted Living in Branchville. Born on September 3, 1927 in Paterson to the late Albert and Theresa (Hopper) Baumgartner, Bob had been a long time resident of Haledon before moving to Sussex County in 2017. He had served in the United States Navy during World War II, where he constructed airfields and bases in the Pacific Theatre. Mr. Baumgartner also served his country in the Korean War with his fellow servicemen in the US Navy Seabees. He had been employed as a mechanic for Inter-City Bus Company (TNJ) in Paterson for over 35 years before his retirement. He was a proud lifetime member of the Haledon PAL, Hawthorne VFW, Grand Lodge Mountain View Free and Accepted Masons, the American Legion, and an exempt lifetime member of the Haledon Fire Department, where he served as Chief. Besides his parents, Mr. Baumgartner was predeceased by his loving wife of 55 years, Lois and his brother, Al. Mr. Baumgartner is survived by his two sons, Robert and his wife Sue of Hamburg and Bruce and his wife Linda of Edinboro, PA; his five grandchildren, R.J. and his wife Cait, Lance and his wife Ashley, Bryan, Zachary and Dylan; five great grandchildren, Rowan, Carter, Collette, Reegan and Everett; and his sister-in-law, Bernie of Pittsburgh, PA.

Memorial services with military honors will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Pinkel Funeral Home, 31 Bank Street (Route 23), Sussex. Friends may pay their respects to the family on Saturday February 15, 2020 prior to the service from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the funeral home. Private cremation services have been held at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice, 99 Sparta Avenue, Newton, NJ 07860. Online condolences may be offered to the family at [www.pinkelfuneralhome.com](http://www.pinkelfuneralhome.com)

### SENTIMENTS FROM THE FAMILY.....

It's been said "You can tell a lot about a man from his hands."

Robert G. Baumgartner once again took the hand of his beloved wife Lois, "Chloe" just before 10:30 on Friday morning. "The Man with the Huge Hands" was a long-time resident of Haledon, NJ. With the rest of his fellow servicemen in the US Navy Seabees, his hands strengthened as they constructed airfields and bases in the Pacific Theatre of World War

2, and later in the Korean War. His hands grew coarse and callused as he built his family's home on Mason Ave in Haledon, the same home where "Big Bob" and "Chloe" would start their family. His hands would gain their scars and wear in the 35 plus years in the garages of the Inter-City Bus Company (TNJ) of Paterson, NJ, as well as fighting fires as Fire Chief of the Haledon Fire Department. Sometimes a stern reminder of proper behavior, Bob's hands raised two boys into upstanding men; one with the healing hands of a physical therapist, Bob, the other with hands that would four times earn Olympic wrestling medals, Bruce. The stability of his hands would help countless children learn to safely handle firearms as a certified NRA instructor. Their steadiness was vital as a member of the Haledon Model Railroad Club, and the family's fervent photographer. His hands would provide security and comfort on the countless cruises he and his wife took in their retirement. His monstrous handshakes were well known in the VFW and American Legion Halls and Masonic Lodges throughout much of North Jersey. In the last years of his life, those gigantic hands with all their character would turn soft as pillows as they welcomed five great-grandchildren. In the end, the only thing with more character, warmth, softness, caring, and expanse than his two hands, was his heart. Love ya big...

# Cemetery Details

## Private Cremation Services

## Previous Events

### Visitation

FEB 15. 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM (ET)

Pinkel Funeral Home, Inc.  
31 Bank Street (Route 23)  
Sussex, NJ 07461  
(973) 875-3272  
alexis@pinkelfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.pinkelfuneralhome.com/>

### Service

FEB 15. 3:30 PM (ET)

Pinkel Funeral Home, Inc.  
31 Bank Street (Route 23)  
Sussex, NJ 07461  
(973) 875-3272  
alexis@pinkelfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.pinkelfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall

BH

“ Bob and Bruce , I am sorry I missed the service yesterday but I found out too late. Your dad was a great man I have so many memories of him and your mom supporting us at football games and wrestling matches. They were always so eager to make me feel welcome wether it was at your home or where we spent so many hours, in a gym . Rest assured that they are in a better place now and for eternity. Another chapter of life has closed and a new page has been turned. May he Rest In Peace  
Sincerely Bill Hemstead

---

**Bill Hemstead** - February 16, 2020 at 07:22 AM

PN

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Bob was loved by everyone who met him.  
I'll never forget how much he enjoyed Thanksgiving at our home a few years ago. It made me so happy to see him have a good time. He truly enjoyed his family and you could feel the love he felt for all of you. His smile said it all.  
He will always be that angel watching over you and yours and I hope you take comfort knowing that.  
Love to you all.  
Patty & Mark

---

**Patty Niswonger** - February 15, 2020 at 09:34 AM

“ To The Baumgartner Family,

*The Dash Poem by Linda Ellis*

*I read of a a man who stood to speak  
At the funeral of a friend  
He referred to the dates on the tombstone  
From the beginning to the end.*

*He noted that first came the date of birth  
And spoke the following date with tears,  
But he said what mattered most of all  
Was the dash between the years.*

*For it matters not, how much we own,  
The cars...the house...the cash  
What matters is how we live and love  
And how we spend our dash.*

*So, think about this long and hard.  
Are there things you'd like to change?  
For you never know how much time is left  
That can still be rearranged.*

*If we could just slow down enough  
To consider what's true and real  
And always try to understand  
The way other people feel.*

*And be less quick to anger  
And show appreciation more  
And love the people in our lives  
Like we never loved before.*

*If we treat each other with respect  
And more often wear a smile  
Remembering this special dash  
Might only last a little while.*

*So, when your eulogy is being read  
With life's actions to rehash....  
Would you be proud of the things they say  
About how you spent your DASH?*

*Mr. B. definitely can be proud of his dash. He lived for his family and practiced the golden rule at all times. He was such a kind man and was always smiling. He will*

*be missed by all who knew him. I hope he and Mrs. B. are on a heavenly cruise right now eating gallons of ice cream. Love.... Debbie and Guy Johnstone*

**Debbie Johnstone** - February 13, 2020 at 06:51 PM

KP

“ Dear Bob and Bruce,

*In reading the newspaper, I found out that your Dad had passed away. I feel a real loss in his passing and want to extend my sympathy to you and your families. I will not be able to pay my respects in person, so I hope this small message sends my heartfelt thoughts.*

*I will always remember your Dad as an honest and cheerful person. A leader in the Borough of Haledon, NJ., and a dear friend of my late father-in-law, Tony DeFabio.*

*Our families the Pengitore's and DeFabio's were privileged to know him.*

*His work with the Haledon Fire Department, the Haledon PAL and various boards that I appointed him to made our borough strong and vibrant.*

*He was a giant among giants. We will miss him.*

*I want you to know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.*

*God Bless.*

*Ken Pengitore*

**Kenneth Pengitore** - February 13, 2020 at 04:40 PM



“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Robert G. Baumgartner.



February 12, 2020 at 08:34 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert G. Baumgartner.*



February 10, 2020 at 11:08 AM

KR

“ *Mr. Baumgardner will be truly missed  
My father Bob Herbst was a lifelong friend and I learned about guns in the gun club. My heart goes out to Bruce and Bob as well as your family's  
Karen Herbst Rich*

**Karen Herbst Rich** - February 09, 2020 at 08:51 PM

CR

“ *Sending my sympathy to Bob and Bruce and their families. Way back when, I was a junior bridesmaid in Bob and Lois s wedding. The personal message by the family was just wonderful.*

**Carole McConaghy Runo** - February 09, 2020 at 06:59 PM

JZ

“ *Bob was a wonderful and kind neighbor and friend. We will miss him. Sending you our condolences.  
Joe and Pat Zelanis.*

**Joe Zelanis** - February 09, 2020 at 01:36 PM



“ *I have many fine memories of my Uncle Bob. He was a towering Teddy Bear of a man with a broad smile and warm hug for all. He had a fondness for model trains and took pride in his huge collection which he shared with me every time we visited. One would be hard pressed to find a kinder family man then my beloved Uncle Bob. Condolences to Cousins Bruce and Robby, and to the entire family.  
Love, Jane Jenner-McKeon*

**Jim Mckeon** - February 09, 2020 at 10:43 AM

SV

“ *Boband Bruce,May God your Dad in the palm of His hands.My condolences,SteveVanDyk*

**steve vandyk** - February 08, 2020 at 07:58 PM

CV

“ So sorry to hear , he was a great person. My condolences and prayers to his wife and his family.

---

**claire De Virgilio** - February 08, 2020 at 05:34 PM