



Robert Otto Knecht

September 4, 1937 - October 16, 2022

Vernon - Robert Otto Knecht, 85, of Vernon, NJ, formerly of Whitestone, NY, passed away peacefully at the Karen Ann Quinlan Home for Hospice in Fredon, NJ on Sunday, October 16, 2022.

Robert was born in Queens, NY, to Otto and Bertha Knecht. He and Nancy Lee Knecht (nee Thumm) were married for 59 years and had four children. A genuine people person, he has many friends far and wide.

Robert attended The Stony Brook School, Lycoming College, and Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Kitchener, Ontario.

Robert was a certified safety engineer for over 40 years, working for Rheingold Brewery, ITT, Marsh McClennan, AIG, Koch Construction, and Total Safety Consultants. His career was a calling, and he worked to protect others and improve work conditions.

An active member of Holy Counselor Lutheran Church in Vernon since 1977, Robert had a sincere and heartfelt faith in Christ. He took part in all aspects of congregational life and always maintained a genuine interest in the lives of his fellow church members.

Robert was an active and enthusiastic member of the MG Car Club, Central

Jersey Chapter, and simply adored his award-winning British racing green 1972 MG-B. In recent years he volunteered his time and energy on behalf of the Sussex County Democratic Organization. Robert was a licensed glider pilot. He was an avid stamp collector and a member of the American Philatelic Society. A certified EMT, he served in the Whitestone Volunteer Ambulance Corps in the 1970's and the Vernon Township Rescue Squad in the late 70's. Robert was also a long-time defensive driving instructor.

Robert enjoyed traveling his entire life. He learned to find the beauty in each place he visited, whether for business or pleasure and always brought back a good story. Since retiring, he and Nancy have traveled widely in the US, Europe, South America, & South East Asia.

In addition to his beloved wife Nancy and his brother Christopher, Robert is survived by his children and their families: Rev. Dr. J. David & Mei Knecht and their children Beata and Paul of Springfield, NJ., Dr. Ann Marie & Sean Potter and their children Eamon, Declan, and Jesse of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, Noel and Dustin Brady of San Clemente, California, and Karin & Tom Eanes and their children Marshall and Vivian of Bluemont, Virginia. The son of German/Swiss immigrants, he maintained close lifelong ties to the Kempf family in Europe. All deeply miss him and are thankful to have Robert in their life.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation to Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice, 99 Sparta Avenue, Newton, NJ 07860, or Holy Counselor Lutheran Church, 68 Sand Hill Rd, Sussex, NJ 07461. A memorial service will be held at Holy Counselor Church on Saturday, November 12, 2022 at 11 a.m.. Online condolences may be offered to the family at www.pinkelfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Private Cremation Services

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Holy Counselor Lutheran Church
68 Sand Hill Road
Sussex, NJ 07461

Tribute Wall

MH

“ *Bob’s laugh and wonderful sense of humor will be truly missed by all at the MG club meetings. Always kind, inclusive and interesting and I really enjoyed the MG field trip he organized to the Lakehurst Naval Base including the history of the Hindenburg disaster. Will never forget what an Aero Philatelist is with the introduction to his hobby of airmail stamp collecting. The smile on his face talking about his beautiful MGB and enthusiasm for life will leave a void for all of us. My deepest condolences to Nancy and all who loved Bob. Mary Hayes and the entire MG Car Club of Central Jersey Centre*



Mary Hayes - November 08, 2022 at 09:27 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Robert Otto Knecht.*



November 08, 2022 at 02:41 PM

MO

“ Beautiful Obituary

Yes, I agree. Robert was a genuine people person. He and his family opened their home for me and let me be part of their family when I got the opportunity to live and learn like an American. Robert introduced me to friends and family, and drove me around all over. Thanks to him, I was fortunate to visit many places on the east coast and also a trip to the the mid west. It was a great year. Thank you Robert.

I am also thankful for the opportunity to improve my English skills. As Robert would say with his genuine sense of humor; My English was “not very good looking” when I arrived the United States, but it got better during the year I lived with the Knechts.

We met a couple of times after my stay, and I have always had the feeling as meeting family. Last time was in 2017 in Vernon. I had hope to return one more time, but that did not happen. To many things happened the last 3 years that made it impossible for me to make a visit. But I am glad that I had a last talk with Robert on Facetime.

Rest in peace Robert. You will always be in my heart.



Morten - October 23, 2022 at 01:51 PM

KS

“ *The thing I noticed and loved about Bob was the way he looked at Nancy. His love for his wife was so evident. I know my husband loves me but Bob just beamed when his wife was nearby! One can only pray to have someone express their feelings this way! So sorry to you Nancy and your entire family! May he rest in God's Peace forever.* ”



Kelley Schofield - October 20, 2022 at 07:32 PM

DM

Bob was a caring, helpful and kind person. The love he and Nancy shared was inspiring. He gave me a ride in his GM 3 years ago and I always enjoyed listening to his stories. He is with our Lord and pain free. I will miss him deeply. Hugs to Nancy and family.

Dawn McCormick - October 20, 2022 at 07:53 PM

DO

“ *Bob was always so interesting to talk to. He had a droll sense of humor and quick laugh. Always a smile to greet you with.* ”

Donna - October 20, 2022 at 05:09 PM

AP

“ *2 files added to the album Dad* ”



Ann Marie Potter - October 20, 2022 at 04:05 PM

VH

Your dad was such a gentleman, even to discarded me, & my bro Rev. Doc Steve for his Denville time.

Vicki Hill - October 24, 2022 at 10:31 AM

VH

Your family is greatly appreciated in this time of great loss, all too reminiscent of my 2009. Comfort is my prayer for you, consolation my wish. How to sign? Vicki

Vicki Hill - October 24, 2022 at 10:35 AM