

Robert J. Messier

December 9, 1937 - January 2, 2026

Robert J. Messier, age 88, a lifelong resident of Kankakee, passed away on Friday, January 2, 2026 at his residence surrounded by his loving family. Bob was born on December 9, 1937, in Kankakee, a son of Emile and Josephine (Ignacowitz) Messier. He married Mary Lou White on May 9, 1964, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Bradley.

Bob was a Sheet Metal Worker for Local 243, working for 30 years before his retirement. He has been a member of Local 243 for 60 years. He was on the Limestone Park Board and served as President for many years. Bob was also a member of the Kankakee Hundred Club, Ducks Unlimited and the Delta Waterfowl. He enjoyed hunting and fishing as well as woodworking, collecting many trinkets and was always tinkering in his garage on his various projects.

A Veteran of the United States Coast Guard, Bob served from 1956 until 1960 and was deployed to Vietnam during that time. He was on the first icebreaker, the U.S.S. Evergreen, that went through the Northwest Passage.

Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Mary Lou, of Kankakee; three sons, Val (Beth) Messier of Limestone, Bryan (Lisa) Messier of Bradley, and Allen (Donna) Messier of Limestone; five grandchildren, Nicholas Messier, Samantha (Tyler) Werner, John (Hannah) Raimondo, Cara (John) Becker and Jenna Soucie; and six great-grandchildren.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents and his only brother, David (Yvonne) Messier.

Cremation rites have been accorded and a Memorial Service with military honors will be held on Friday, January 9, 2026 at 3:30pm at Schreffler Funeral Home, Kankakee with Deacon Patrick Skelly officiating. Memorial Visitation will be held immediately following from 4:00-7:00pm also at the funeral home. Memorials may be directed to Uplifted Care Hospice.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 9. 3:30 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Kankakee Chapel
1900 W. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-2421
<https://www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com/>

Memorial Visitation

JAN 9. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Kankakee Chapel
1900 W. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-2421
<https://www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com/>

Tribute Wall

CS

“ MARY LOU AND FAMILY, OUR HEARTS ARE FULL OF SORROW FOR YOU ALL AT THIS TIME.

CARING



CAROL & ROB

Carol Stoops - January 09 at 01:30 PM



Thank you Carol, I read your message to her

Beth Messier - January 09 at 09:30 PM

CA

“ Carol A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert J. Messier.

Carol A. - January 09 at 12:45 PM

AS

“ Mary Lou, I am so sorry for your loss. I have such fond memories of breakfasts with my mom and you two on Friday mornings! Bob was such a character and I enjoyed hearing his stories! One I remember him telling was of how he brought his rifle to school so they could go hunting after class and no one batted an eye back then! He also always asked why my Susie didn't just join the Coast Guard instead of becoming a Marine! I know you miss him terribly. Hugs to you, Val, Brian and Allen ~Amy (Hirt) Storm

Amy Storm - January 09 at 12:27 PM



Thank you Amy, I read your message to her

Beth Messier - January 09 at 09:30 PM

JM

“ Prayers to Bob . Sorry for the loss of your husband and father to the family. Rest in peace.



Jim Mallaney - January 08 at 12:24 PM

MG

“ My prayers & condolences go out to his family & friends. Thank you for your service to our country & RIP my union brother. 🙏



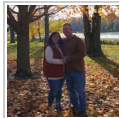
Michael Gambosi - January 06 at 04:17 PM

JE

“ Mary Lou and family, I'm so sorry for your loss. He was such a kind man. I enjoyed hearing the stories he told at Julio's. I imagine he and my Dad are swapping stories again up in heaven.



Julie Enright - January 05 at 04:30 PM



Thanks Julie, I know they are swapping stories! Glad they are together again! I read your message to Mary Lou. ❤️

Beth Messier - January 09 at 09:29 PM