



Robert L. Hayes

October 24, 1945 - October 28, 2025

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Robert "Bob" L. Hayes, aged 80, of Centralia, Illinois, who departed this life on Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at SSM Health St. Mary Hospital in Clayton, Missouri.

Bob was born on October 24, 1945 in Decatur, Illinois, to loving parents, Robert V. Hayes and Viola (Kracht) Hayes, who preceded him in death. He lived a life full of dedication, both in his personal and professional endeavors. Pursuing his passion for business, he earned his degree from the Illinois State University in Business Administration and embarked on a successful 35-year career as a salesman with Bunn Capital, where he was respected and admired by many.

A proud veteran, Bob served his country honorably in the United States Air Force, instilling a deep sense of loyalty and discipline that he carried throughout his life. His commitment to service extended beyond his military career and was reflected in his support for veterans' causes.

In life, Bob was blessed with a loving family. He is survived by his daughter, Elizabeth Hayes of Spain, a grandson of Spain, and step-daughter, Kathleen Phelan of Guam. He also leaves behind his devoted brother, Thomas Hayes, and his wife Jeanie of Indianapolis, Indiana and several nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life to honor Bob will take place on Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 11:00 AM at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home in Centralia, Illinois with Pastor Seth Baltzell officiating. Family and friends are welcome to gather for visitation on the same day, beginning from 10:00 AM until the time of service, offering an opportunity to share stories, memories, and condolences. Military Honors will be accorded at the Funeral Home by the Centralia American Legion Post 446 and the Centralia VFW Post 2055. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial donations be made in Bob's honor to Disabled American Veterans. Contributions may be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home at 235 North Sycamore Street, Centralia, Illinois, (618)532-3523, where the compassionate staff is honored to be of service to Bob's family. Please visit www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com or the Funeral Home Facebook page to leave online condolences for Bob's family or to share a memory.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 6. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home
235 N. Sycamore Street
Centralia, IL 62801

Celebration of Life

NOV 6. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home
235 N. Sycamore Street
Centralia, IL 62801

Tribute Wall

BF

“ For 60 plus years I have thought and spoke of Bob. That will absolutely continue. I am grateful we were able to reconnect in recent years. One of the most unique people I have ever known. I will miss my old friend.

Bill Ferguson

Bill Ferguson - November 04, 2025 at 12:58 PM

RC

“ Kathleen, Beth, Gene and Other Family Members, My condolences for your immense loss! Knowing his faith in Jesus, provides comfort that he is with the Savior, and we will see him again! His friends at City Hope Church will miss his wisdom, strength, humor, compassion, and predictable support under any and all circumstances. The Veterans will miss a patriotic brother and committed fundraising ally. Centralia High School Basketball and the St. Louis Cardinals will miss a big supporter and fan. The business community will miss his competitive nature and vision in defining what winning looks like. Honoring a true friend to the community and proud and loving father. Rest in Peace, Bob. Robert Carmody

Robert Carmody - November 03, 2025 at 03:22 PM

AS

“ Thomas, Beth and other family members and friends. I am so truly sorry for your loss, my thoughts and prayers are all with you. Bob was one great guy. Beth he enjoyed talking about you and your son anytime I visited and showing all the pictures from his trip. He will truly be missed. Ashley McLean

Ashley - November 03, 2025 at 11:04 AM