



Robert J. Snapp

April 17, 1928 - January 28, 2019

Robert Joseph Snapp joined this world on April 17, 1928, and left it peacefully on January 28, 2019, gracing us with his presence for 90 years, 9 months and 12 days. Within that notable (as he would no doubt inform you) timespan, he lived a life full of friends, family, firearms, and fantastic stories.

Bob was born in Marshall, Minnesota, the younger of two sons of Harley Floyd Snapp and Rose Reinboldt Snapp. He spent his childhood learning the ways of the woods and fields, and eating his mother's most wonderful cooking in the world. Do not doubt him on this. The family moved to Detroit, where Bob attended the renowned Cass Tech High School from 1943-1946, a magnet school full of science labs, machine shops, 23 technical curricula, and a cosmopolitan student body. Only the best and brightest gained entry into Cass Tech--but you all knew that Bob was such a person, right?

Bob, being a technical, hands-on guy, decided to become a custom gunsmith, focusing on metalwork and barreling. He learned the trade at Trinidad State in Colorado, which offered the perfect blend for him of the glorious outdoors and immersion in a world of technical excellence and craftsmanship. Bob always had his Snapp's Gunshop attached to the house, first in Royal Oak, Michigan and later in Clare, Michigan, so that he could always be nearby for his family. He was known as a master craftsman of custom rebarreling and modification of actions, and was highly sought after for his skills in that world. He rose to

the top of the custom gunmaker's world as the president of the American Custom Gunmakers Guild in 1992, and was part of a team that crafted the Guild's annual raffle item in 1997, a firearm set that was dubbed the "Special Sporting Set." It included a Winchester single-shot rifle, a Colt single-action target revolver, and a Bowie-style hunting knife, all housed in a custom oak and leather case. Later in his career he focused exclusively on the Martini Cadet single-shot rifle, of which he produced at least two examples for show, and five or more for individuals. Bob was also an expert on the 98 Mauser and the Model 99 Savage, among other types.

He met the most beautiful woman in the world, Lee Comstock--don't argue with him on this--at the Grande Ballroom in Detroit. Mom's unfailing diary entry on nearly every succeeding day was "Bob called." They married at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Detroit on May 28, 1955, and danced their way through their lives together. Bob and Lee started their married life in Royal Oak, Michigan, where they square danced with the Folk Fun Club, began a family of five children (plus Shasta and Shawnee, beagles, and Friskie the cat), and sent their daughters to the Borgo Sisters School of Dance in multi-colored tutus, two doors down. Bob and Lee were quite a dashing pair when they stepped out on the town to dance, mom in her lipstick and white gloves, dad in his crisp pants and fedora. Sadly, no tutus.

After their years of living it up in the dance and music halls of Detroit's heyday, they decided to pursue their other dream: living in the country. Bob and Lee moved to Clare in 1969 with their children Sharon, Ann, Lisa, and Mark, joined a few years later by Glenn. You are no doubt aware of the outstandingness of Bob and Lee's children, so we won't regale you with tales of their prowess here. Another time, perhaps.

Bob was a long-standing member of the Clare United Methodist Church, where he ushered, cooked at the pancake and wild game suppers (not on the

same night) and, hopefully, did not sing. Bob most definitely could not sing, the one fault to which he would cop. This did not prevent him, however, from performing his signature piece, "Ghost Riders in the Sky," whenever a campfire was nearby. There were a few other things he was not good at, like the dishes, ballet dancing, and restrained discourse. No one's perfect.

He did, however, make a fine beef stew. He liked shrimp. Clean hand towels were a must. He loved to hunt, and take his family camping, and help his children build excitingly dangerous things, like go-carts out of old chaise lounges. For those long family road trips to national parks, he made sippy cups, before they were a thing, by soldering metal straws through jar lids. We won't think about the lead solder. Bob was a fine dancer. He followed the Detroit Tigers religiously. He loved all things WWII, especially the strategy, and could converse for hours on the topic. He taught his family about our ancestry, the Volga Deutsch. Bob loved playing Euchre and Pinochle; no other card games need apply. He enjoyed the annual family reunions at Elk Lake, home of the aforementioned campfires. He loved the written word and insisted on correct word usage (Bob, insistent?!? Surely we jest). He enjoyed photography. His photos were properly labeled.

Bob spent his later years enjoying the fine people of mid-Michigan, including his second wife, Hazel Jeffrey and her family, who brought joy back into his life. He regularly enjoyed the good company of his card-playing neighbors and friends, the fine people of the Clare United Methodist Church, his hunting partners, and the notables of Cops and Doughnuts, who kept an eye on him and made him feel welcome and loved. And although he might not have said thank you, he meant it. We do, too. Thank you for making Bob's life one of contentment and community. His legacy lives on in all of you. Thank you for being a part of his life.

Bob was preceded in death by his brother, Harley Floyd Snapp, Jr., his mother, Rose Reinboldt Snapp, his father, Harley Floyd Snapp, Sr., a great-grandchild, Christina Kiehnau, and his beloved wife, Lee Comstock Snapp. Bob is survived by his children, Sharon Snapp-Kolas and husband Roy, Ann Rodgers and husband Pat, Lisa Snapp and husband John Mouat, Mark Snapp and wife Carol, and Glenn Snapp and wife Amy, and grandchildren Joshua Kolas, Christopher Kolas, Emily Rodgers Comer, Isobel Mouat, Julia Mouat, Henry Snapp, Lydia Snapp, Kathryn Snapp Kiehnau, Gabriel Snapp, and Rachel Snapp, and great-grandchildren Titus Kolas, Lucian Kiehnau, and Octavia Kiehnau.

Two events are being planned for Thursday, Feb 7, 2019:

A Memorial Service will be held 11 am at the Clare United Methodist Church, 105 E. 7th Street, Clare, MI 48617. And, as a small token of our appreciation for all of you, Bob Snapp's family will provide a BS Free Doughnut Day from 10:00-2:00 at Cops and Doughnuts, 521 N McEwan St, Clare, Michigan 48617.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to (please put "In memory of Bob Snapp" in the memo line):

The Clare United Methodist Church, 105 E 7th St, Clare, MI 48617, or to the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy, P.O. Box 896, Mount Pleasant, MI, 48804-0896; online donations may be made at <https://squareup.com/store/chippewa-watershed-conservancy>.

Cemetery Details

Cherry Grove Cemetery

1000 Cedar St.
Clare, MI 48617

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

Clare United Methodist Church
105 E. Seventh Street
Clare, MI 48617

Tribute Wall

MB

“ Hi Ann This is Mary Brown. My sister Carole and I were your friends in Royal Oak on Washington St. Also in dance school.

I'm sorry to have learned of your Dad's passing.

You can text me at 814,715,2302

Mary A Brown - August 22, 2023 at 07:16 PM

RW

“ I have fond memories of Uncle Bob teaching us six handed Euchre at the State Park in Indiana where we celebrated Lou and Joyce's Anniversary.

It was a very nice and fun weekend for all. Signed:. Rose Wagnitz

Rose Wagnitz - February 07, 2019 at 05:11 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert J. Snapp.



February 06, 2019 at 09:01 AM

KC

“ I work at Jays, the ammo counter. Bob came in often for many years and stood and chatted with me. We had laughs and talked guns and shooting.

I will miss him. My deepest condolences to the family.

His candor and knowledge will be missed by many!

Blessings to the family. KACHarron

Kevin A Charron - February 04, 2019 at 06:45 PM

BS

“ I met Bob years ago at Jay's Sporting Goods in Clare. He was selling raffle tickets at the time and we had a nice chat. Years later when I became executive director of the ACGG, I was directed to go meet Bob and have a chat. He lived within 30 minutes of me. I sat down in the driveway and we had a couple of adult beverages. He was a kind and unassuming man. Was very helpful to me at ACGG. I send my condolences to his family. He was a sell guy.



brett schwenke - February 02, 2019 at 09:53 PM

JB

“ I met Bob while having coffee somewhere along the way. I remember I was talking to him about my children showing in the Clare County Fair. To my surprise he came to the fair and walked around, watched the children show, and shared his stories. It is an honor to say I knew Bob!

The Bear Family

Jereme Bear - February 02, 2019 at 12:33 PM

VP

“ Thanks for the memories, Bob. Your huge smile and hug of greeting every time our paths crossed, square dancing, and many more. Hugs to all the Sanpp kids. Please count me in as one of many who felt loved by your dad.

Valerie (House) Pearce - February 02, 2019 at 10:21 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Robert J. Snapp.



February 01, 2019 at 11:41 AM

AR

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Ann Rodgers - February 01, 2019 at 10:49 AM

AR

“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



Ann Rodgers - February 01, 2019 at 10:45 AM

AR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Ann Rodgers - February 01, 2019 at 10:13 AM

AR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Ann Rodgers - February 01, 2019 at 10:10 AM

CL

“ So sorry to hear this, Bob was one of the many I looked forward to talking with each January at the Guild show. He was always willing to share information and we talked several times on the phone about rifle projects I had going and needed some help with. A good friend that will be missed.

Craig Libhart

Craig Libhart - February 01, 2019 at 08:49 AM

LS

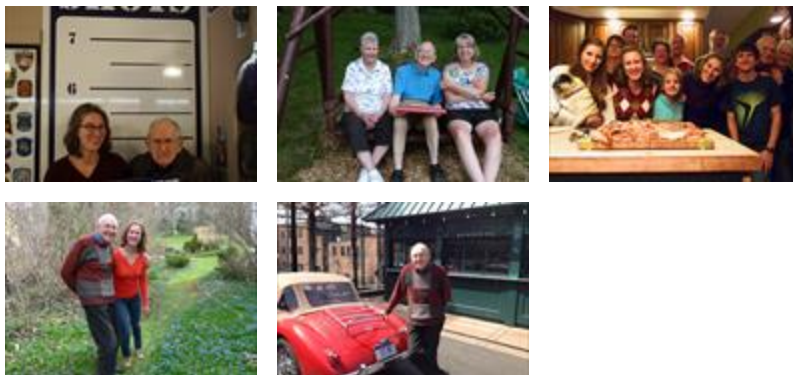
“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Lisa Snapp - February 01, 2019 at 07:09 AM

LS

“ 10 files added to the album Memories Album



Lisa Snapp - January 31, 2019 at 10:05 PM

WF

“ Rest In Peace Snapper. Such great memories of Bob and the entire Snapp family growing up in the Clare United Methodist Church and in band. Always a smile and a friendly face. You will be missed!

Wendy Foss - January 31, 2019 at 09:20 PM

DN

“ I first came to know Bob in the late 1960's, when he did a lot of re-boring rifle barrels for me. We only knew each other over the phone. When I first became a Guild member at one of our shows - Bob was there and rushed up to congratulate me with a hand shake, because he remembered my name. He was a good friend and master at his work and was always glad to share a few tips and techniques especially with younger gunmakers. His influence on the craft will last for generations. His sense of humor is legendary in the Guild. When he would speak at our banquets or meetings he would have us all in stitches He was a good friend; my deepest condolences to his family..

Dave Norin

Dave Norin - January 31, 2019 at 08:11 PM

LS

“ 21 files added to the album Memories Album



Lisa Snapp - January 31, 2019 at 06:09 PM

MY

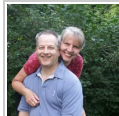
In our hearts forever. Thanks for the wonderful memories we shared at cops over coffee or a meal. You will be deeply missed. Our love, Martha and John Youstra

Martha Youstra - January 31, 2019 at 10:40 PM



Rest in Peace, my dear friend. You have had a positive influence on many people (certainly me). I will always cherish the hours we spent at Cops and Doughnuts while you shared your memories and history with us. You will not be forgotten.

John Youstra - January 31, 2019 at 10:58 PM



We stopped by last summer to take Bob out to dinner in downtown Clare. As we walked a few blocks from the car to the restaurant, people on both sides of the street were calling out greetings to Bob. It reminded me of the TV show "Cheers" where the song said, "you want to go where everybody knows your name". The people in Clare made Bob's life a happy one and took care of him when those of us who loved him were too far away to be there. We love you, Uncle Bob, and miss you. Love, Niece Carolyn, Nephew-in-law Brian and Brother-in-law Lou

Brian Wyckhuys - February 01, 2019 at 10:35 AM

BR

I had shared a long story about Bob and I, but I lost it here somehow. I have known Bob and his wife Lee since 1961. He was a tops in his profession and super gentleman. I know he loved his family whom I never met. It was sad and hard for Bob when Lee died of cancer. Bob managed none the less to move on with his life the best he could. I saw him last this past October at Cops and Donuts. I bought him a meal since Lee's passing as I usually done each time I visited him over the years. Bob and I always had a good discussion on a variety of subjects. The family is welcome to contact me to hear the stories. God bless Bob on his journey home to be with Lee and his loved ones again. I will be sending a Mass memorial to the family once the funeral director lets me know to whom I can.

Ben Riozzi - February 03, 2019 at 03:08 PM

BT

Lots of great memories of Bob,lots of banter back and forth over the years at Guild meetings. Was privileged to get him into the NWT's barren grounds for a caribou hunt and see his eyes light up!! Gonna miss you, Bob! From way up here in the Northwest Territories!
Barry Taylor

Barry Taylor - February 11, 2019 at 03:15 PM