



Ernest "Bob" Robert Bennett II

October 16, 1949 - January 7, 2026

Peacefully at home, Ernest "Bob" Robert Bennett II passed away on January 7th, 2026, at the age of 76. Born on October 16th, 1949, in Gary, Indiana, he was the firstborn child to Ernest and Helen Bennett. Bob received a diploma from Roosevelt High School in Gary, Indiana and later graduated from Ball State University. While at Ball State, he chartered the Theta Xi chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity with his brother Michael.

After graduating, he joined the Marines. He was also a member of the Isaak Walton League of America and the National Rifle Association. Bob worked at the Lake County Juvenile Justice Complex for 37 years, with many of those years, serving in the role of Director of the Lake County Juvenile Center. In 2014 he retired and moved to Merrillville, Indiana. He loved watching movies (especially *The Godfather*), carpentry and home repair, collecting firearms, and being a grandfather.

Bob was preceded in death by his daughter Amerika "Dixie" Bennett, his mother Helen Bennett, his father Ernest Bennett, his brother Wesley "Wes" Bennett (Belinda), his grandparents Sidney and Nevada Bennett and Murray and Mary Richards, his sister-in-law Marilyn Myers, and his father-in-law James "Jim" Hamer (Joan). He is survived by his wife of 53 years Karen Bennett, his daughter Erika Kelly, his granddaughter Leandra Kelly, his brother Michael "Mike" Bennett (Monique), his sister Kia Crockrom (Rod), his sister-in-law Belinda Bennett (Wes), his brother-in-law Rick Hamer (Michelle), his brother-in-law Gary Hamer (Sandy), his mother-in-law Joan Hamer (Jim), and

numerous other relatives.

His visitation will be held on Thursday, January 15th, 2026, from 2-7 PM, followed by a funeral on Friday, January 16th, 2026, at 10 AM. Services are provided by Burns Funeral Home & Crematory in Crown Point. The funeral service will be conducted by Bob's cousin, Reverend Warren Smith. Bob will be buried in Evergreen Memorial Park in Hobart, Indiana next to his father.

Cemetery Details

Evergreen Memorial Park

3815 W.39th Ave.
Hobart, IN 46342

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **15**. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (cst)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point
10101 Broadway
Crown Point, IN 46307
(219) 769-0044
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Funeral Service

JAN **16**. 10:00 AM (cst)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point
10101 Broadway
Crown Point, IN 46307
(219) 769-0044
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Tribute Wall

KF

“ *Kia and family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Ernest "Bob" Robert Bennett II.*



Kia and family - January 15 at 08:32 AM

KF

“ *Kia and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ernest "Bob" Robert Bennett II.*

Kia and family - January 15 at 08:32 AM

CF

“ *Col (ret) & Mrs Richard Smith & Family purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Ernest "Bob" Robert Bennett II.*



Col (ret) & Mrs Richard Smith & Family - January 13 at 06:39 AM

CF

“ *Col (ret) & Mrs Richard Smith & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ernest "Bob" Robert Bennett II.*

Col (ret) & Mrs Richard Smith & Family - January 13 at 06:39 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Ernest "Bob" Robert Bennett II.*



January 13 at 01:00 AM



“ *CHOA purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Ernest "Bob" Robert Bennett II.*



CHOA - January 12 at 02:17 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Ernest "Bob" Robert Bennett II.*



January 11 at 06:51 PM



“ *Pastors Jimmy & Katie Harbin purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ernest "Bob" Robert Bennett II.*



Pastors Jimmy & Katie Harbin - January 10 at 05:11 PM

MK

“ Dear family, I am saddened to hear of Bob's passing. He was superintend of the Lake County Juvenile Center for most of my career. Bob was an honest and hard working man with a great sense of humor. It was a pleasure working with him. My thoughts and prayers are with Erica and family. God Bless

Mary Kaffenberger-Rone - January 10 at 09:16 AM