



Robert J. Solimene

October 25, 1953 - April 12, 2017

Robert J. Solimene, a longtime Amtrak electrician and devoted husband, died April 12 at Connecticut Hospice in Branford of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease. He was 63.

Bob was born in New Haven on Oct. 25, 1953, to the late John and Carmella P. (Cassella) Solimene. He was the third of six children. The family lived in West Haven, where Bob graduated from West Haven High School. His father owned Kelsey Electric and mentored him.

At Amtrak, Bob was in turn a mentor to many, revered by his coworkers as a highly knowledgeable and skilled railway electrical technician. He served as vice president of Local IBEW 747 as well as union committeeman and local chairman. He retired in December after 41 years.

He met his wife of 36 years, the former Roberta LaFrance, through a mutual friend. Roberta recalls that the three were driving to the Beardsley Zoo, and on the way, she sat in the back seat. On the return trip, "I got in the front seat," she said, "and never looked back."

The couple loved traveling, from Puerto Rico to Italy to New Mexico. Wherever they went, they would rent a car and "just go whatever way we turned," Roberta recalled. "That was the most fun."

At the couple's Bethany home, Bob enjoyed landscaping and home improvement projects. He was a voracious reader of "Consumer Reports" and enjoyed helping friends and family research their purchases of cars and other items. "He was everybody's husband," Roberta said jokingly. "He was the guy who would do what everybody needed to be done."

Bob planned to celebrate his retirement with Roberta in St. John this spring. After a sudden and rapidly developing illness, he died peacefully with his wife and brother at his side.

In addition to Roberta, Bob is survived by brother Richard (Dina) Solimene of West Haven; sisters Joanne (Roger) Brouillard of Wallingford, Diana (Jim) Garlick of Wallingford, Carol Solimene of Tiverton, RI, and Laurie Solimene of Meriden, mother-in-law Alberta LaFrance of Wallingford, brother in law Daniel (Sigrid) LaFrance of FL, many nieces and nephews; and two beloved cats, Sophia and Benny.

Calling hours will be 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 20 at Sisk Brothers Funeral Home, 3105

Whitney Ave. in Hamden. A Memorial Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, April 21 at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 2819 Whitney Ave. in Hamden. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be directed to the CJD Foundation, P.O. Box 5312, Akron, OH, 44334.<http://www.siskbrothers.com>

Events

APR **Calling hours** 05:00PM - 08:00PM
20

Sisk Brothers Funeral Home
3105 Whitney Ave., Hamden, CT, US, 06518

APR **memorial mass** 10:00AM
21

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church
2819 Whitney Ave., Hamden, CT, US

Comments



“ Paulo Madureira.
To Roberta, Richard, and family. So sorry for your loss. Truly going to miss him. To the man I called Pops.

Paulo Madureira - April 20, 2017 at 11:53 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert J. Solimene.



April 19, 2017 at 08:58 AM



“ Roberta, I am so very sorry for your loss of Bob. You are and will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers. God bless, Love, Karen & Bill Ramos

Karen Ramos - April 18, 2017 at 09:32 AM



“ My dear beloved husband Bob-you are missed Each and every second of each day. Never in a million years would I believe this would happen to you. You were my rock, always keeping me believing that "tomorrow is another day and never worry unless you get a concrete reason to". I will always cherish the amazing vacations we took and will continue to wish we had more time "seeking and exploring". I miss hearing your voice, holding your hand and especially miss my goodnight kiss. Forever in my heart I love you eternally. Close your eyes now and rest peacefully, your suffering is over xoxo

Roberta Solimene - April 17, 2017 at 08:53 PM



“ Paul Carver and Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Robert J. Solimene.



Paul Carver and Family - April 16, 2017 at 09:40 AM



“ Bobby was the one who got me my job at Amtrak. Over the years he did so much for me and all of us in mechanical. He taught me so much. He was a great mentor and great friend. I am heartbroken and will miss him terribly. RIP brother Bob.

Tony Covino - April 15, 2017 at 03:49 PM



“ Thoughts and prayers to all who love him.

WHEN TOMORROW STARTS WITHOUT ME

When tomorrow starts without me
And I'm not here to see
If the sun should rise and find your eyes
All filled with tears for me

I wish you wouldn't cry
The Way you did today
While thinking of the many things
We did not get to say

I know how much you love me
As much as I love you
Each time that you think of me
I know you will miss me too

When tomorrow starts with out me
Please try to understand
That an angel came and called my name
And took me by the hand

The angel said my place was ready
In heaven far above
And That I would have to leave behind
All those I Dearly Love

But When I walked through Heaven's Gates
I felt so much at home
When GOD looked down and smiled at me
From his golden throne

He said This Is Eternity
And All I promised you
Today for life on earth is done
But Here it starts a new

I promise no tomorrow
For today will always last
And Since each day's the exact same way
There is no longing for the past

So When Tomorrow starts without me
Do not think we're apart
For every time you think of me
Remember I'm right here in your heart

Author: David M Romano

MaryAnn Gambardella - April 15, 2017 at 02:21 PM



“ Dear Bob

I have fond memories of all the family get-togethers and enjoyed your company when chatting over a glass of wine. I am thinking of your family. Rest in Peace.

Lou Cavaliere, Sr.

Lou Cavaliere - April 15, 2017 at 10:14 AM



“ Dear Roberta and Family, I am so sorry for your sudden loss. May all of your memories of Bobby grow brighter, and help you through this terrible time, as your grieving subsides. Jackie Cerillo.

Jackie Cerillo - April 15, 2017 at 08:47 AM



“ Bobby, I will always love and miss you. I will also miss those phone calls, "this is brother Bob on this end" that made me happy. You are with Mom and Dad and others special and dear to you. RIP Bob, until we meet again.

Jo-Ann Brouillard - April 15, 2017 at 08:42 AM



“ to my dear brother in law going to miss our chats you always listen and there for me . Rest In Peace my dear bob please give my mom a hug .. rest easy bob love your sister in law

dina solimene - April 15, 2017 at 06:21 AM



“ Bobby called me Kid, Chief and few other things I can't mention lol. What a great person and friend. Will miss him dearly. Our deepest condolences to Roberta and Richard, as well as the rest of the family.

Paul Carver & Family

paul carver - April 14, 2017 at 07:56 PM



“ Bobby has always been so generous of his knowledge, time and friendship. A wonderful partner and husband to my oldest, and dearest friend Roberta, my heart aches for her and for Bob's family and friends. He made his mark in his life. Peace while you soar on eagles wings.

Meari - April 14, 2017 at 06:55 PM



“ To my brother Bobby. Words cannot express the sadness and grief I feel after loosing you to such a unthinkable, horrible disease. I will love and miss you forever. Until we meet again. I love you!!!!!!

Di Di

Diana - April 14, 2017 at 05:55 PM



“ Bobby.....My heart is broken.....the world has lost a wonderful person. I met you in 1975 when you first started dating Roberta, and we became friends right from the start. I was truly hoping that you and Roberta and me and Al would grow old together, but God had other plans for you.....you will always be my great paisano.....

Debbie Alkoff - April 15, 2017 at 10:36 AM



“ Roberta I'm so sorry for your loss. Keeping you and your family in my prayers. Ann Cillo

Ann Cillo - April 17, 2017 at 06:47 AM