



## Robert Jean Towne

October 2, 1922 - September 6, 2017

ROBERT JEAN TOWNE, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend to many, died peacefully on Wednesday, Sept 6, 2017 at the age of 94.

Bob was born October 2, 1922, in Sibley, Iowa. Raised during the Great Depression, he attended 13 schools before graduating from high school in 1941. After graduation, Bob went to Long Beach, California to help with the war effort and built ships. He returned home and continued in the ship-building industry, worked road construction and was an electrician's assistant. In 1949 he found his calling after earning his bachelor's degree in education at St. Cloud State University. Bob loved being an educator. He taught in Raymond and Rosholt, SD, Jasper, MN, and eventually took a job in Isle, MN where he met and married Betsy, whom he spent 57 loving and adventurous years.

Bob continued his education at the University of Minnesota and the University of North Dakota, where he earned his master's degree in education in 1959. Bob was a principal in Goodrich and Willow River, before becoming the high school principal in Esko, where he spent 15 years before retiring in 1982. Bob embraced the Esko community, and was active in and a charter member of the Esko Area Lion's Club. He was also active in St. Matthews Lutheran Church and Esko Senior Citizens.

Bob loved life, and enjoyed being with his family and many friends. He was an avid reader, and will be fondly remembered for his great sense of humor. Bob and Betsy always stayed busy fishing, camping, traveling, and watching the kids and grandkids activities. They enjoyed the many winters spent in Arizona, the annual family reunions, and their weekly breakfasts and lunches with friends. But their favorite activities were going to their cabin on Lake Vermilion, and watching the Twins and Timberwolves.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents, Anna and Elbert; his wife of 57 years, Betsy; and his brother, Murray.

He is survived by his son, Gary (Linda) of Cloquet; daughters, Annette (Steve) Cohen of

The Woodlands, TX, Melani Towne and Jennifer Mann of Rochester;  
grandchildren, Logan and Bijou Towne; sisters, Lois (John) Robson of Glencoe, MN and  
Bethel (Billie) Blankenfeld of Grygla, MN.; and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation: 4 - 6 p.m. on Saturday, September 16, 2017 in the Atkins Northland Funeral  
Home, 801 14th St. in Cloquet. Visitation will continue from 2 until the 3:00 p.m. funeral  
service Sunday, September 17th in St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Esko. A time of  
lunch and fellowship will follow in the Family Life Center. To sign the guest book and offer  
an online tribute, see [www.atkinsnorthlandfuneralhome.com](http://www.atkinsnorthlandfuneralhome.com)

# Comments

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“ 23 files added to the album Bob



Atkins-Northland Funeral Home and Cremation Service - April 03, 2018 at 11:24 AM

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“ Gary, Annette and Lani,  
I am so sorry for your loss. I have very fond memories from my younger years, of when i spent alot ot of time at your family's home in Willow River and Esko, with Annette. I always liked your parents so much.  
Sincerrely,  
Denise Pangerl Knudson

September 18, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ What great memories we had over the last few years my friend! I am going to miss your coffee visits, the stories and laughs about your life. you were truly an inspiration to anyone who knew you. Thanks for the memories Bob, your stories are safe with me. Your friend and Neighbor Charlie

September 16, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ I'm so sorry for the loss of your love one. Death is never easy and it brings great sorrow. But know that the "God of tender mercies, and the God of all comfort" will help you endure this sad time. 2 Corinthians 1:3, 4.

September 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Gary, Annette, and Lani,  
I am so sorry for the loss of your dad. I have great memories of Bob and especially when he would let Annette and I out of school for the dumbest of excuses. I would have loved to see all of you, but Steve and I are headed to KY for the funeral of my sister-in-law. Know that I am thinking of all of you. Bob and Betsy were good people and will be missed. (Whenever I would see one of your parents, Annette, they would

always do their best to catch me up on what was new in your life).  
What a great long life and legacy your dad leaves behind!  
Our sincere sympathy,  
Steve and Becky (Lassila) Hanson

September 14, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Gary, Annette, and Lani. Sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. He certainly lived a full life. It brings back many memories of growing up on Torma Rd when we were kids. You are in our prayers.

Jay and Cindy Sonnenburg  
Anoka, MN

September 10, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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September 10, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ I will miss you my friend. Thanks for all the wonderful memories.

**Heart** - September 09, 2017 at 12:00 AM