



Robert Olenik

October 5, 1938 - January 3, 2026

On Saturday, January 3, 2026, Robert "Bob" Olenik, of North Strabane, passed away peacefully at home at the age of 87.

Born in Stowe Township on October 5, 1938, Bob was the oldest child of Stephen and Anna (Bonchak) Olenik.

He joined the United States Marine Corps in 1958. After completing his service, he headed back home to Pittsburgh. While working as a lab technician at J&L Steel, he met his beloved bride of 61-years, Francine. They married less than six months later and started a family.

Bob went on to work at PPG Industries, where he spent the rest of his career before retiring as the Director of Human Resources. Among his professional accomplishments, Bob successfully spearheaded the corporation's move from Gateway Center to the (then) brand new PPG Place as the relocation manager.

After retirement, Bob focused on new challenges— like learning how to cook. He took pleasure perfecting his new culinary art with each family gathering and even created his own "Chef Bob's Cookbook" for family.

An avid reader, Scrabble player & crossword puzzle aficionado, Bob enjoyed

spending time with family & watching all his favorite Pittsburgh sports teams win. He always loved animals and had a special place in his heart for all his furry family members as well.

Bob is survived by his wife, Francine, son Joseph, of North Strabane, and daughter Jennifer (Kevin) Pollard, of Washington. Surviving siblings include: Stephen (late Cathy) Olenik of Woodinville, Washington, William (Cindi) Olenik of Aliquippa, Marion (Mike) Honyoust of Charlotte, NC and Joanne Olenik of Pittsburgh. He is also survived by numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by an infant daughter, Suzanne and his oldest son, Robert.

A Funeral Mass will be held in Our Lady of Hope Parish - Nativity Church on Saturday, January 10, 2026 at 10 a.m. Arrangements by GRIFFITH FUNERAL HOME, INC., 5636 Brownsville Road, (at 6th St.) South Park Twp. (412) 655-4600.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Bob's memory may be made to: Angel Ridge Animal Rescue, PO Box 94, Meadowlands, PA 15347.

Condolences may be offered for the family at www.GriffithFH.com

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

JAN 10. 10:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Hope Parish - Nativity Church
5811 Curry Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15236

Tribute Wall

LG

“ I remember Bob, my brother's beloved father in law. Best memory and only one, was dancing with him at my brother's wedding reception at the La Mont in Pittsburgh. He was grinning from ear to ear and so was I after only recently learning how to dance. We tore up that floor! Rest in peace sweet man. Dance in heaven with all your loved ones and furbabies!

Linda L Gens - January 06 at 07:57 PM

MF

“ Marion, Mike and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Olenik.

Marion, Mike and family - January 06 at 04:23 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Robert Olenik.



January 06 at 04:23 PM

MH

“ The last time I spoke with Bob just before the holidays, I told him that I was going to try and make it up North this summer just to spend some time reminiscing about old times. He was quiet for a moment then said, “That sounds nice, Sis, but I won’t be here. I will see you again...just not here.” You know, life humbles us and lets us know we’re only human. We are fragile, temporary and fearless. Bob fought long and hard through his illnesses. Now he can rest peacefully in the gentle arms of God.
So hold on to your loved ones a little bit tighter...a little bit longer the next time you hug them because tomorrow is not promised to anyone. I will see you again Big Brother. Until then...

Marion Honyoust - January 06 at 03:56 PM

BF

“ Bill ,Cindi Olenik and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Olenik.

Bill ,Cindi Olenik and family - January 06 at 11:03 AM

BF

“ Bill ,Cindi Olenik and family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Robert Olenik.



Bill ,Cindi Olenik and family - January 06 at 11:03 AM

KP

“ I first met Bob in 1992, when I met his daughter Jennifer — the woman I would marry eight years later. Jennifer was the apple of his eye, and Bob wasn't entirely sure about letting her go, especially to a young, confident guy like me. But over time, something unexpected brought us together: golf.

After Jen and I were married, Bob and I discovered that we shared a genuine love for the game. Week after week, ten hours at a time, we walked fairways, traded stories, and watched sports together. You really get to know a person when you spend that much time side by side, and through those rounds we built a bond that went far deeper than many realized. We understood each other in a way that only comes from years of shared routines, quiet conversations, and friendly competition.

Bob was a devoted father, a loving husband, and a proud father-in-law. He carried immense pride in his family and in his service as a Marine. His presence, his humor, and his steady loyalty will be deeply missed — but the memories, the lessons, and the connection we built will stay with me always.

He will be missed, and he will be remembered.

Kevin Pollard - January 06 at 08:24 AM