



Robert "Bob" Dent

September 26, 1940 - February 13, 2026

Robert "Bob" Dent, age 85, of Rochester, NY, passed away suddenly at home on February 13, 2026. He was predeceased by his parents and sister Kathy (Bill) Klemme. He will be dearly missed and remembered with love by his wife Gretchen (Freeland), brother Tom (Joan) Dent, cousin Dennis (Pat) McLaughlin, sister in law Jane (Bob) Ogren, children Karen (Charles) Smith and Aland (Lisa) Dent, grandchildren Molly Des Jardin, Adam (Dalice) Des Jardin , Gavin (Tiffany Tran) Dent, Dallas (Geoffrey Sttop) Coulter, Madison (Jason) Weinrich, great-grandson Brady Weinrich, and many nieces and nephews.

Bob was born on September 26, 1940, in Pittsburgh, PA, to Aland and Agnes Dent. He grew up in Fayette City, PA, and graduated from Phillips Academy in Andover, MA. Bob went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Carnegie Institute of Technology (Carnegie Mellon University) in Pittsburgh, PA. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi, helping to design and drive in the Spring Carnival buggy races. Bob's photograph steering the buggy in spring 1962 later appeared in National Geographic magazine, in the March 1965 issue's feature "Pittsburgh: Pattern for Progress."

Bob and Gretchen married in 1961, and in 1962 they moved to California to begin a family. Bob began his engineering career there, working on the Saturn V rocket at North American Aviation. After a few years out west, Bob and Gretchen came back east and Bob landed in Rochester with a job at Kodak.

He worked for Kodak's Government Systems Division for the majority of his career. His work there on Cold War spy satellites was top secret and only recently declassified. After he retired from Kodak, Bob enjoyed playing in two golf leagues every year until just recently. He also loved going to visit his family's camp in Snowshoe, PA.

Bob was a true engineer who did plenty of tinkering and DIY projects after hours, earning the nicknames "Heathkit King" and "Gadget King." He also had a deep love of music - he was "a rocket scientist and a rocker" - making a record with his band "The Broughams" in high school. Bob wrote and sang "Baby You Just Wait", a song that appeared on the record, and was able to enjoy a resurgence of interest in the song when it appeared on an album of songs from that era decades later. Bob was a quiet and caring person who lived a talented and giving life, and will be missed by all who knew him.

If you would like to make a donation in Bob's memory, please honor his compassion and care for animals (especially cats) by choosing a cat rescue to support.

Rochester Rescues:

Keller's Cat Rescue Spencerport

Mr. Grey's Strays Brockport

GRASP Greece

Tribute Wall

SM

“Gretchen and family, we are so sorry for your loss. My husband and I both worked with Bob at Kodak 101 Building. He was such a wonderful man with great humor and intelligence. You and the family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Susan Mastowski - February 22 at 07:34 AM

KS

Thank you so much ☐

Karen Smith - March 04 at 04:36 PM

LD

“Uncle Bob was a really neat guy. I'm sorry I didn't get to know him better over the years. But I'm very happy that I got to experience some of his charm, humor, and intelligence. We're so sorry for your loss.

Logan Dent - February 20 at 07:30 PM

KS

Thank you Logan. I have some fun memories of visiting your parents house when we were kids. I remember my dad working on the stereo when a bolt of static electricity raced around the room from a thunderstorm!

Karen Smith - March 04 at 04:38 PM

SA

“I'm sorry that Bob(Mr Dent) has left us but he's left all of us with so many great memories. I had fun golfing with him because he enjoyed the game and was not an overly serious player. He will always be remembered fondly.



Sherre Albright - February 19 at 11:10 AM

BS

I'm surprised & sorry to read of Bob's passing. It's been a long time since I've seen either he or Gretchen, both beloved and I'm sorry I have lose contact with Gretchen & Bob.

Best wishes always.

Bob Swinehart

Bob Swinehart - February 22 at 11:38 AM

KS

I loved that we got to golf with my dad Sherre, that's a fond memory for me ☐

Karen Smith - March 04 at 04:39 PM

KS

Bob, it's so nice to hear from you. I know my mother would love to chat with you. We will figure out how to connect both of you. Karen

Karen Smith - March 04 at 04:40 PM

MA

“ *Maggie lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Dent*



Maggie - February 18 at 08:06 AM

MA

Thinking of Bob and his family with fond memories. Bob was a man of few words, but he had a big heart. Years ago when I bought my house, in 2001, I didn't have a lot of money. My sewing room did not have a ceiling light and Bob installed one for me. He also spent two days on the floor changing all the electrical outlets to make my house safe for me. He never wanted to charge me for his work, only reimbursement for the supplies he needed to purchase.

Bob, you were a blessed man, and I will always remember you with love. Memories of you will shine like the stars. Condolences, love and prayers to your family.

Maggie

Maggie - February 18 at 08:32 AM

KS

Thank you so much Maggie ☐ I love thinking about those memories shining like stars

Karen Smith - March 04 at 04:41 PM

SB

“ 2 files added to the album *Bob Dent*



Stephen Bean - February 16 at 02:26 PM