



## Robert J. Griffin

March 27, 1937 - January 9, 2021

Robert (Bob) Joseph Griffin was born March 27, 1937, in Salem, Massachusetts, the youngest child of three children of John and Alice Griffin, descendants of County Waterford, Ireland. He was blessed beyond measure with 83 full years of life. He died at his beloved Waterford Farm in Ten Mile, Tennessee on Saturday, January 9, 2021 from a heart attack. His last gift was spending his final day surrounded by his loved ones celebrating the January family birthdays.

He was a faith-filled man and member of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Harriman, Tennessee. His love of learning started at the St. John Preparatory School in Massachusetts. As a young child, he helped on the Osgoode family farm with their fruit orchard and dreamed of owning a farm. He was a proud graduate of the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York. He exemplified and lived their motto “Deeds Not Words” of service-above self. His defining career moment was his “sea year” as a midshipman where he sailed around the world gaining valuable life experiences. In 1966, his dreams of living on a farm came true when he established Waterford Farm in Ten Mile, Tennessee. In 1971, he began his nuclear engineer career with the Tennessee Valley Authority Watts Bar Nuclear Plant for 29 years. God blessed him with the love of his life and anchor, Gail Marie Gilmartin who he met through her family. They were married at Kings Point Memorial Chapel in New York and had 35 years of a

Godly marriage. They wanted a big family and were blessed with six children who they showed a wonderful example of faith, hope and love. Cancer ended Gail's journey here and took her to heaven in 2003. Thankful for his years of faithful service to his church as a Sunday school teacher, lecturer, singer, 4th Degree Knights of Columbus, and with the remodeling committee for Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church; believing in the educational learning benefits of small schools like Midway High School and fighting all his "Battles of Midway" to keep it from being consolidated; annual community fish fry in the Valley; plus 20 years of serving on the Watts Bar Utility District helping to bring city water to rural areas in Tennessee. His proudest legacy is his children! He leaves Waterford Farm to them with new ponds, blueberry bushes, fruit trees and lots of newly planted trees, and a love of the country way of life. He knew he would not see all the fruits of his labor in his time on this Earth but did everything for the future generations.

He was preceded by in death by his wife Gail Marie Griffin; his parents John and Alice Griffin of Salem, Massachusetts; his brother Reverend John Griffin, and sister Mary Guerrette.

Legacy:

Daughters and sons-in-law: Mary Alice and John Devenney of Friendsville, Tennessee; Eileen and Pierre Legault of Knoxville, Tennessee; Kathleen and Kent Patterson of Kingston, Tennessee

Sons: John Griffin of Ten Mile, Tennessee; and James Griffin of Ten Mile, Tennessee

Son and daughter-in-law; Peter and Janay Griffin of Seymour, Tennessee.

Grandchildren: Savannah Griffin, Isaac Legault, Eli Griffin, Abigail Patterson, Elise Legault, Maggie Patterson, Annabelle Legault, and Kayla Patterson.

Brother-in-law: Phil Guerrette

Sadly, in COVID times, it will be a family only funeral Mass at 10 a.m.

Thursday, January 14, 2021 at the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church with

Father Michael Sweeney officiating. Burial will be in the Waterford Cemetery in Ten Mile, Tennessee. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Pat Summitt Foundation for Alzheimer's at [etf.fcsuite.com](http://etf.fcsuite.com) in Knoxville, Tennessee to help families touched by the awful disease and to help find a cure. He was diagnosed with Dementia and had more "senior moments" as he called them the last year. Time will never take away our precious and deep memories of him and all the hats he wore of being a wonderful Christian, husband, father, son, brother, friend, farmer, and storyteller. He will be missed. Believe he is singing in the heavenly choir and home now soaring on the wings like eagles "Isaiah 40:31" May he rest in peace in Christ! Kyker Funeral Home of Kingston is serving the Griffin Family. [www.kykerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.kykerfuneralhomes.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ My wife Pat and I always looked forward to seeing Bob when he came to Salem, MA to visit with members of his family, living in this general area. We always had lunch at Pickering Wharf and we spent wonderful time while exchanging stories.

*Bob was a very wonderful and caring person and a person of strong Catholic faith nurtured early on by the teachings at "The Prep", everyone who really knew him liked him like a brother.*

*He was really moved by the death of his good friend and SJP classmate Bob Cummings also from SJP and Salem, MA.*

*I never knew there was a photo of us that is now 20 years old which included Bob, Tom Kwei and me.*

*Please accept our sincere sympathies for Bobs loss.*

*He will be missed .....Pat and "Moe" Morency CL"1954*

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**Roland "Moe" Morency** - January 19, 2021 at 05:21 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert J. Griffin.*



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January 16, 2021 at 10:03 AM

TK

“ I will always remember Bob fondly as he was among a few kids in St. John's Prep who welcomed my arrival as a foreign student from Hong Kong when the Korean war still in progress in 1952. The photo was taken in May 2012 at St. John's Prep during a commencement weekend. I wish we had more time to know each other better. Rest in peace, Bob. My sincerest condolences to his family.



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**Thomas Kwei** - January 14, 2021 at 05:05 PM

TK

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Thomas Kwei** - January 14, 2021 at 04:58 PM

GO

“ I have fond memories of Bob all the way back to the 1960s when we worked together at the HIFR at ORNL. I remember how a city boy came to Tennessee wanting to become a country boy. I remember he knew little about farming, but he was intent on learning. I know his neighbors were a big help. I also worked at WBNP during part of that time as well. Bob was a fine man & I give my sincere condolences to his family.

Gary Owens

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**Gary Owens** - January 13, 2021 at 10:45 AM

RE

“ *Wendye and I send our sincere condolences with thoughts and prayers for you all.*

Ronnie and Wendye Edgemon - January 13, 2021 at 09:08 AM



“ *Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert J. Griffin.*



January 11, 2021 at 09:41 PM

JC

“ *One of the warmest, kindest, most welcoming humans I have had the privilege of knowing. He was truly blessed in all things that matter in this life... Family, friends and faith. I have sweet memories of he and his wife counseling my family through a personal tragedy. I will never forget them and the kindness they showed us in a time of terrible grief. Mr. Griffin was a special man and I will remember him always.*

*Julie Clower and family- Knoxville, TN*

Julie Clower - January 11, 2021 at 08:02 PM

JK

*Jim and I send our sincere condolences . Bob and Gail represented all that is good in this life. Family is their legacy. May God grant the Griffin family peace and comfort as they celebrate a life well lived. Jim & Jamie Kelly*

jim & jamie kelly - January 11, 2021 at 10:24 PM

SS

*I met Bob when I went to work at Watts Bar Nuclear Plant as a young lady just starting my work career. He was a great man and loved by so many.*

*He was truly a man that loved God, cared about others, his community and country. His family was so loved and most important thing to him on this earth. Prayers for peace and comfort to his family.*

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**Sherry Dishman Samples** - January 12, 2021 at 01:54 AM

DN

*Bob has been one of my best friends since 1958 when we first met at the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point. We are both from Massachusetts and both when to High Schools run by the Zaverian Brothers; he to St John's Prep and I to Malden Catholic. We spent some time kidding each other over the outcome of sporting events that involved these two schools.*

*Bob was also my shipmate during our sea year at KP. Our friend ship only deepen as time passed. I will miss our weekly one hour long telephone conversations. He was a very gentle, kind man who everyone liked. He will be missed by all of his KP classmates and everyone one who knew him.*

ANV,

*Dave Nazzaro KP 62*

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**David Nazzaro** - January 12, 2021 at 11:17 AM

SK

*I always enjoyed talking with Bob on grandparents breakfast at school . He always came for his grandchildren and you could see how much love they had for each other*

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**Sue Kelly** - January 12, 2021 at 04:49 PM

AS

“ *Alan Swicegood lit a candle in memory of Robert J. Griffin*



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**Alan Swicegood** - January 11, 2021 at 07:02 PM

WP

*So sorry for your loss. Rev Wilma Cheree Perry  
Full Armour of Christ Church*

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**Wilma Cheree Perry** - January 11, 2021 at 07:40 PM