

Robert Joseph Kolas

October 7, 1958 - December 31, 2015

Robert "Bob" Kolas, 57 of Plymouth, MI died suddenly at home on December 30, 2015.

Cherished husband of Nancy. Kind and generous brother of Mary Lynn (Arnie) Saks, John (Diane), Mark (Johannah Dillon) and Celia Kolas. Devoted son of the late John & Helen.

Playful uncle of Steven, Brian, Janelle, Steve (Jennifer), Lauren, Mike, John, Rob (Angela), Christina, Bill, Elizabeth, Meg, Andrew, Danny, and Emma. He is also survived by three sisters-in-law; Sue (Russ) Latham, Kathy (Paul) Lesnefsky, and Carol (Jack) Ballish, and brother-in-law John (Leslie) Cahill and father-in-law Frank (Pat) Cahill. Bob was born in East Chicago, Indiana on October 7, 1958 to John and Helen (nee Kipta) Kolas. Bob attended St. Thomas More School and Munster High School in Munster, Indiana. He graduated in 1980 from the University of Notre Dame. Bob married Nancy (Cahill) on June 16, 1999 on Mackinac Island. Bob spent 30 years traveling to high schools in Michigan, selling science supplies. Bob felt fortunate to have represented Flinn Scientific for the last 20 years. A gentle giant, happiest when he was out of doors, Bob enjoyed a lifelong love affair with fishing. He could be found most summer days on the shores of the Black River in South Haven with his brothers and friends. He often shared his passion and expertise with tourists young and old, some who returned year after year. In the past ten years, Bob and Nancy spent hours in the woods and fields of SE and SW Michigan and along the shores of their beloved Lake Michigan,

birding. Bob was a skilled and proud birder, a true bird nerd. Bob and Nancy spent many sun drenched days at their little red cabin in the woods in the Terrace Park neighborhood of South Haven, MI. Visitation Friday 4-7 PM and Saturday January 9th 9:30-10:30 AM at Filbrandt Funeral Home, 1076 S. Bailey Ave., South Haven, MI. Funeral Service in South Haven, Saturday, January 9th 11:00 AM at First Congregational Church, 651 Phoenix Street, South Haven, MI 49090. Memorials may be made to the Washtenaw Audubon Society; www.washtenawaudubon.org or University of Notre Dame – Haiti Program; www.haiti.nd.edu. To share a memory, please use the share a memory tab on the web page.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 8. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Filbrandt Funeral Home
1076 South Bailey Avenue
South Haven, MI 49090

Visitation

JAN 9. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Filbrandt Funeral Home
1076 South Bailey Avenue
South Haven, MI 49090

Funeral Service

JAN 9. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First Congregational Church
651 Phoenix Street
South Haven, MI 49090

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Joseph Kolas*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *I am very sad to hear of Bob's passing. I was looking forward to hanging out with him at MSTA. He was the best at his job. He was better than anyone I had ever worked with in science sales in my 25 years of teaching. He knew everyone by name immediately. He was really a resource to educators everywhere. Truly. I know he really cared about his friends (not customers but friends) and we were all loyal to him. I was and am fiercely loyal to him. Again, I just found out yesterday and am devastated and can only imagine what it is like for those close to him such as family. God Bless,*

*Marty Buehler
Hastings High School
Hastings, MI.*

Marty Buehler - February 11, 2016 at 12:58 PM



“ *I only came in contact with Bob probably twice in my teaching career here at Robichaud H.S. in Dearborn Heights. What I know about Bob was that he was a great support to his clients in the teaching community and to his company. The experience I had with him was that he came into our lab to help us clean it up and organize it, on his own time. He didn't have to do that but he wanted to do it. That speaks a lot about a person, for me, on being there when you need someone and also going above and beyond in his profession.*

Phillip - January 11, 2016 at 09:21 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph Kolas.*



January 07, 2016 at 07:50 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph Kolas.*



January 07, 2016 at 06:01 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph Kolas.*



January 07, 2016 at 04:41 PM



“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Mary Lynn Saks - January 07, 2016 at 02:36 PM

DG

“ *Dr. Shaloma Gray purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Robert Joseph Kolas.*



Dr. Shaloma Gray - January 07, 2016 at 11:39 AM

CS

“ *I met Bob many years ago when he visited us in Traverse City on a sales call. We followed up with a pretty big order and it came in a different configuration than I had hoped for. I called Bob and he showed up the next day and we went through it to get it solved. I knew then I was dealing with a straight shooter! You were a good man Bob!*

Charles Kolbusz = Traverse City Schools - January 07, 2016 at 04:57 AM

JW

“ *Bob was a great rep. I always felt like I was getting a straight deal with him. I can't say that about any other of our vendors.*

*James Winkler
Clare High School*

James Winkler - January 06, 2016 at 02:25 PM

ES

“ Bob was a great friend to me in my early days of teaching at Garber High School and helped give me the tools to make me successful. He was never a salesman and always a friend. When I heard of his passing I felt like I had lost someone from department here at school although I only saw him a few times each year. He was a great man, full of kindness, patience, compassion, and the ability to mentor younger educators like myself. Our school was a better place for his influence and I will miss him greatly.

Ethan Shannon - Garber High School - January 06, 2016 at 12:46 PM

TC

“ I met Bob about ten years ago when I came to my new school and needed to upgrade the chemistry program. Bob was incredibly helpful, patient, and kind during that time which was greatly appreciated. It was always like seeing an old friend when Bob stopped in. On behalf of the rest of the Science Department here at Concord High School I wish to offer condolences to the family and friends of such a wonderful human being. He will be missed.
Teddy Colangelo- Concord High School

Teresa Colangelo - January 06, 2016 at 12:26 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph Kolas.



January 06, 2016 at 10:30 AM



“ *Bob was my Flinn representative for the past 15 or so years at Lake Shore High School in St. Clair Shores. I enjoyed his visits to the school because he always had something to share. It never felt like a sales pitch, but was more like seeing an old friend. I'll miss seeing him here and at MSTA. My deepest sympathies to his family.*

Connie Kemner - January 06, 2016 at 10:05 AM

MB

“ *I was so devastated to hear of Bobs Passing. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Nancy and the Kolas family. I am glad that I had the opportunity to know such a great man. Bob and I were at the MDSTA in November and had lunch and spoke about the years that we had worked various shows together. The fun times and the bad. We spoke of the crazy things we had done together and how it all seemed so long ago. I will truly miss you. I will always cherish the memories.*

*Michael Benz
Benz Microscope Optics Center, Inc.*

Michael Benz - January 06, 2016 at 09:24 AM

MS

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Mary Lynn Saks - January 05, 2016 at 09:28 PM

SS

“ To the family of Bob Kolas, I am so sorry to hear of your great loss. As Science Department Chair at John Glenn HS in Bay City I have worked with Bob's for years. It was always a pleasure to see him each spring and I enjoyed his enthusiasm for all FLINN had to offer our department. I spoke with him every summer as I placed our order and it seemed I always caught him on the boat fishing! He was a such a sincere and genuine man who will be missed. God's peace be with you at this very difficult time. Sandy Schafer

Sandra L. Schafer - January 05, 2016 at 06:59 PM

JA

“ I was so saddened to hear of Bob's passing. I will miss his smiling face visiting us at Mona Shores. He was such a genuine guy, and I always looked forward to meeting with him. The personal connection he made with us made such an impact, and he was definitely a major reason why we have always been loyal to Flinn. Peace to all of his family and friends during this difficult time.

Jennifer Adams

Jennifer Adams - January 05, 2016 at 05:55 PM

DA

“ Hello,

I was saddened to hear of Bob's passing as I meet with him just a few weeks ago at Byron Center High School. I joked with him then that he and I were still "in the business." Bob worked closely with our science department even back when he was with Sargent Welch. He was the only sales representative to stop in every year to touch base with us and always greeted us by name at association conferences. I considered Bob a friend and a very genuine and kind man. I'll miss him.

I want to express my sincerest sympathies to your family. May God's peace be yours in this difficult time.

*Doug Adema
Byron Center High School*

Doug Adema - January 05, 2016 at 04:19 PM

JR

“ *Julie, Lynn, Judy and Ron purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Robert Joseph Kolas.*



Julie, Lynn, Judy and Ron - January 05, 2016 at 04:07 PM

WT

“ *With Love, Kathleen and Ann Treis purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Robert Joseph Kolas.*



With Love, Kathleen and Ann Treis - January 05, 2016 at 03:53 PM

AO

“ *As a new teacher just starting in the field, I was very much looking forward to working with Bob for years to come. In my first encounters with him, he remembered my colleagues and even my own chemistry teachers from the years he'd worked with them. His care for the people he encountered in his work was evident. Bob will be dearly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Alexandra Ochoa - January 05, 2016 at 03:15 PM

LT

“ *Bob was always so kind and warm, and a consummate professional. He was a very good man and will be missed. Laura Thurlow, Jackson College*

Laura Thurlow - January 05, 2016 at 02:43 PM

RB

“ *I was so very saddened to hear of Bob's passing. I held Bob in the highest regard after working in the science field for many years. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife and family.*
Robert Benz

Robert Benz - January 05, 2016 at 02:00 PM



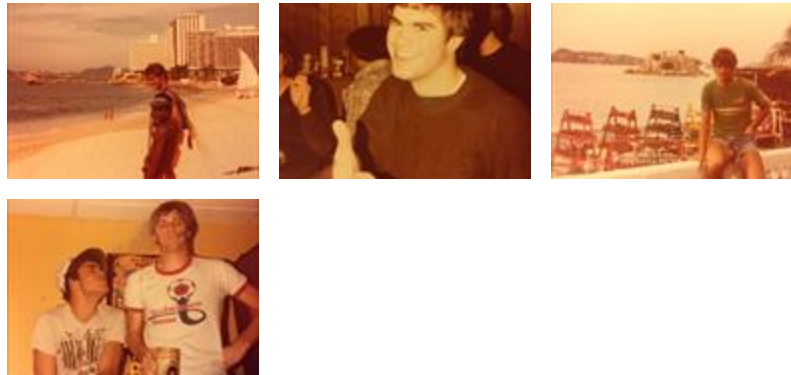
“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph Kolas.*



January 05, 2016 at 01:57 PM



“ *4 files added to the album College Days*



Kelly Robinson - January 05, 2016 at 01:52 PM



The ND Senior Trip was to Acapulco. I remember Bob sending his Mom a postcard that said "going cliff-diving tomorrow". God, I hope she knew he was just kidding. Something tells me she did.

Mike Gray - January 05, 2016 at 03:38 PM



Our deepest sympathy from all of us at Washtenaw Audubon Society. Bob was a great person to bird with, a great listener and story teller. He will be sadly missed by all.

Juliet Berger - January 07, 2016 at 08:55 PM

JN

Bob and I shared the love of fishing on the Black River in South Haven. He always wore his white hat while fishing and could be spotted from a half-mile away. He also caught more fish than me and asked me too many times "what is going on over there Jackson"?, all with his funny grin on his face. Will miss him a lot. Jack Neal

Jack Neal - January 11, 2016 at 04:27 PM

SH

“ I worked with Bob for several years in ordering science supplies. He was always careful to give good service, without selling us things we didn't want or need. That sense of honesty is a wonderful trait I am confident will continue with him. God bless your family as they work through this difficult tragedy.

*Stephen Hall
Hamady High School*

Stephen Hall - January 05, 2016 at 12:44 PM

CF

“ I am very saddened to hear of Bob's passing. Bob was not only very helpful when working with him, but very cheerful and willing to go the extra mile. Bob was extremely helpful to work with when we were transitioning to a new high school about 10 years to set up the science rooms. Please know that your family is in my prayers.

*Cara Flegel
Caledonia High School*

C Flegel - January 05, 2016 at 10:19 AM

RL

“ Bob and I were sales colleagues with Sargent-Welch Scientific before being unceremoniously "down sized" in 1995. We had some good times together. We would often room together at sales meetings. That's when he joined Flinn Scientific and I ended up with Fisher Scientific doing basically the same thing.

The last time we got together my wife and I visited Detroit about 10-12 years ago and we all attended a Twins and Tiger's game. Great time.

Bob was one of the good guys and we seem to be running short of them these days. He'll be missed.

Robert Lovell

Plymouth, MN

Robert Lovell - January 05, 2016 at 10:16 AM

JW

“ I am saddened to hear that Bob has passed. He was my rep when he worked at S.W. and also at Flinn. He was a great guy and doing business with him was always a pleasure. He even came to my retirement party! Gonna miss him, but Heaven just gained a good man.

Joel Watkins

Schoolcraft College (retired)

Joel Watkins - January 05, 2016 at 09:58 AM

SE

“ We will miss Bob. It is shocking to think of Flinn without Bob. He was always so helpful, knowledgeable and appreciated here.

Shelby Erskin - East Kentwood

Shelby Erskin-Seay - January 05, 2016 at 09:12 AM

MG

“ *What makes Notre Dame special is the people you meet, the lasting friendships you make, and the traditions you share. I first met Bob almost 40 years ago when we were freshmen at Notre Dame. We were roommates for all four years, and friends ever since. There are so many great memories, but a few stand out. I'll always remember his love of the Beatles, great ND games we saw together, Springsteen blaring from Senior Bar, Chicago trips to Rush and Division, the trip to Dallas in Bob's unheated jalopy where we almost froze to death, and the Munster friends I made through Bob (Chet, Mark, Karen, Bill and Tom). I especially enjoyed visiting Bob and Nancy in South Haven and regret I did not do that more often. My lasting memory of Bob will be how much everyone enjoyed just being around him. People seemed to gravitate to Bob; he made every gathering better just by his presence. Right now he is back with his beloved parents, John and Helen. Thanks to them for producing and raising such a wonderful man, who touched many lives, and who will be terribly missed by all who knew him.*

Mike Gray - January 05, 2016 at 08:18 AM

JT

“ *Judy Verses and the E&E Leadership Team purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Robert Joseph Kolas.*



Judy Verses and the E&E Leadership Team - January 05, 2016 at 07:42 AM

MM

“ I was so saddened to hear of Bob's passing. I always enjoyed conversations we had as he stopped by my school to share new information from Flinn. He was so helpful and friendly. My family bumped in to him in South Haven and he took the time to show my daughters his fishing gear and they still remember just that brief encounter, Bob just had that way with people. He will be missed by many.

Sincerely,

Molly Mattias Chelsea High

Molly Mattias - January 05, 2016 at 07:15 AM

TH

“ So sad to hear of Bob's death. He was the most professional, friendly rep you could find. More than that, he was a good friend. He could always find a way to help stretch the department budget and offer suggestions for the kids. I always looked forward to meeting with him. He will be greatly missed. Tim Holcomb

Tim Holcomb - January 05, 2016 at 07:11 AM

BB

“ I am so shocked to hear about Bob's passing. I fondly remember him stopping by the schools I taught at and saying " Have you got a minute". He was always so professional and friendly. I loved being able to work with him . I saw at Lansing Community College just this fall and we shared some memories of the years. He will be missed deeply. Bruce Buysse

Bruce Buysse - January 04, 2016 at 11:10 PM

PT

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I have many good memories of doing sales trips with Bob to northern Michigan. He showed my you g son his huge tackle box which impressed him, & now my son is a commercial Salmon fisherman. He was a very caring person, and I am so sad to hear of his passing so young still.

Penny TerHaar - January 04, 2016 at 08:07 PM

DA

“ I am so sad to hear of your loss. I greatly enjoyed visiting with Bob when he made the trip north to see me, and appreciated his knowledge and good humor. He will be greatly missed.

Dave - January 04, 2016 at 07:28 PM

 Julie
Law

“ My condolences to Bob's family. I had the privilege of working with Bob at Sargent-Welch. He was a true leader in the science education community. Heaven just gained another angel.

Julie Law - January 04, 2016 at 06:15 PM

NL

“ I am so sad to hear about Bob. He has been my rep from school for as long as I can remember! He always remembered me when I approached the Flinn booth at MSTA. He was always kind and ALWAYS helpful. Please know that I will miss him and you are all in my prayers.

Sincerely,

Nancy Lefere

Lumen Christi High School

Nancy Lefere - January 04, 2016 at 06:03 PM

PR

“ Penny Rosner purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Robert Joseph Kolas.



Penny Rosner - January 04, 2016 at 04:51 PM

TT

“ Bob will be missed by his friends, family, and the science teachers that he worked so closely with for years. Our thoughts and prayers to his family.

Tom Trapp - January 04, 2016 at 04:37 PM

PV

“ My condolences. Bob was my rep for many many years when I taught chemistry in SE MI. He was gracious, caring, truthful and reliable - everything one could want in a rep and a friend.

Pat Vance - January 04, 2016 at 04:05 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph Kolas.



January 04, 2016 at 02:44 PM

MP

“ Just want to let the family know that Robert Joseph Kolas will be missed and remembered by this science teacher. We were not close nor did we ever interact other than his visits to our school, but he was someone who was worth remembering. I will miss his positive attitude, smile, and warm personality. Mark Pittsley, Beal City High School.

Mark Pittsley - January 04, 2016 at 02:42 PM

JW

“ Bob will be missed. It was always wonderful to get a visit from him at school or to talk to him at MSTA. He was always so helpful and knowledgeable about Flinn's products. The true definition of customer service.

It was also great to run into him in South Haven. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.

*Jennifer Ward
Allegan (MI) High School*

Jennifer WArD - January 04, 2016 at 02:41 PM

TW

“ I was saddened to hear about the passing of Bob when I returned to school the first day after break. I work at Clarenceville High School and have met with Bob several times. He was always smiling, happy, informative, and helpful. We would always end up laughing about something. Last year he met with me and gave me some guidance on how to safely store and dispose of chemicals here at school. I took his advice and our chemical room has never looked better. I guess you could say he made our school a safer place for all the kids.

I will miss him.

My condolences to his family,

Tricia Waeschle

tricia waeschle - January 04, 2016 at 02:40 PM

JR

“ My condolences go out to the Kolas family. Bob was always a pleasure to work with as I enjoyed his yearly visits representing Flinn. He was a knowledgeable resource and very caring and genuine person to work with. I'll miss our discussions on everything from science resources to hobby birding. My thoughts and prayers are with the Kolas family.

J. Van Ryn - January 04, 2016 at 02:30 PM

JB

“ My mother passed away just before Christmas and it was very meaningful to me when people shared special memories. I am a science teacher in SE Michigan, so Bob would visit my school each year. The past few visits I was teaching in class so wasn't able to meet with him. However, I always appreciated the kind and supportive nature that he had given to me in other visits. He was able to provide knowledgeable advice or was willing to seek out the answer.

My heart is saddened for you and I pray that God's grace will truly be evident and sufficient in this very difficult time.

J. Butler - January 04, 2016 at 02:19 PM

AM

“ I'm so very sad to learn of Bob's passing. He was such a kind, gracious, and intelligent man. Through Flinn Scientific, he helped me order and set up not just one, but two extensive science labs for our new programs in Romeo. We were all so grateful for his expertise and the generosity of his spirit. He will truly be missed. My prayers and condolences to his family.

Aleda Morr

Romeo Engineering and Technolgy Center

Aleda Morr - January 04, 2016 at 02:16 PM

DM

“ Hello Nancy and other family members; my name is David Mayoros and I am a Science Teacher at Edsel Ford High School and have had a relationship with Bob in his capacity as Sales Rep for Flinn Scientific for the past 12 years. I really appreciated Bob's friendliness and honesty. He was a trustworthy salesman and he was a true friend. His obituary described him as a gentle giant, and that is so true.

Nancy you married a good man and I am sure you and many others will miss him greatly. I am also sure that you have many a fine memory of times spent with him.

You and your family and friends will be in my thoughts and prayers over the next few weeks. "May the souls of the faithfully departed rest in peace." And in the Holy Year of Mercy may you and all of Bob's family and friends experience God's mercy and gracious comfort.

David Mayoros - January 04, 2016 at 02:12 PM

JL

“ Bob was such a wonderful man. He was extremely knowledgable and had a great personality. My first year teaching chemistry, Bob stopped by to answer all of my questions. He was extremely helpful. I am going to miss his smile!! It was a pleasure getting to work with Bob. My condolences to his family.



Janell Leschinger
Annapolis High School

Janell Leschinger - January 04, 2016 at 02:03 PM

 Sue West

“ *Bob, you will be missed. You always found time to meet with the science dept at Forest Hills Central and shared many lunch time laughs with our department in Ted Gribas's old classroom. My thoughts and prayers for comfort are for your family. I was so saddened to hear about their loss. God bless and keep you.*

Sue West

Sue West - January 04, 2016 at 01:59 PM

AH

“ *Bob will be missed. He was one of the few sale's people that you didn't mind talking to. He always had a smile on his face, always treated you like you were his biggest customer and never pressured you into buying things you didn't want. Just this year he made a great suggestion for a purchase that he thought I might be interested in. He was right! I ordered it immediately and it became part of my chemistry lessons. He also had neat handouts that were always appreciated. My condolences to his family.*

Andy Behmlander Reese High - January 04, 2016 at 01:46 PM

JP

“ *Bob was a genuine man with a great heart. Last time he was here we were talking about how he loved getting to chat to the teachers on his visits. He will be missed. My prayers are with his family at this time.*

*Jayne Pfannes
Utica Academy for International Studies*


Jayne Pfannes - January 04, 2016 at 01:36 PM

MD

“ Bob was an unbelievably nice and thoughtful man. I enjoyed his visits to both Monroe High School and Detroit Country Day School. Bob was knowledgeable about science and safety. He will be missed. My condolences to his family.

*Marc Drougel
Detroit Country Day School*

Marc Drougel - January 04, 2016 at 01:20 PM

 Connie Botzau

“ Very sorry to hear about your loss! Bob always made a point to stop in to say hello even if there wasn't a big purchase made that year. He always had the biggest smile as well. Sincere sympathy to all of you!

*Connie Botzau
Pinconning High School*

Connie Botzau - January 04, 2016 at 01:15 PM

MH

“ I just had a nice visit with Bob a few weeks ago. He saw a picture of me holding a brown trout and he commented on it. We talked for awhile about our shared love of fishing. Bob was not an ordinary salesman (the kind you try to avoid when you can). I enjoyed the times he stopped by to talk. I will miss him. I will pray that God surrounds his family and loved ones with grace and peace as they walk through the valley of the shadow of death.

*Grace and peace,
Mike Hoekwater
Calvin Christian High School
Grandville, Michigan*

Michael Hoekwater - January 04, 2016 at 01:09 PM

KA

“ A very informative and friendly man. Always appreciated his help and his visit to the Science Department at Henry Ford II HS. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family,

Kim Adams

Kim Adams - January 04, 2016 at 01:04 PM

BD

“ I will miss Bob visiting me each year. He was a wonderful person. I worked with him from his days at Sargent Welch. He helped a lot of students learn science in my days teaching in Allegan, Lawrence, and Decatur. I am so sorry.

*Bob Dick
Decatur High School*

Bob Dick - January 04, 2016 at 01:03 PM

BD

“ I was a client of Bob's through his work with Flinn Scientific. It was so refreshing to have a representative come and visit you in the building! Emails are efficient, but meeting with a friendly face that will listen to your concerns in person is much more human. I appreciated his work and will miss him.

My condolences to his family and friends.

Brad Davies - January 04, 2016 at 01:01 PM

DB

“ *My sincere condolences to the family of Bob Kolas. Bob has served the science department at our career technical center in Genesee County for 13 years. He always came in with a smile and was so willing to help our teachers. I appreciated his help and kind personality. Our Forensic Science department will greatly miss him. God Bless your family.*

Dawn Bright

Dawn Bright - January 04, 2016 at 01:00 PM

AA

“ *It was always nice to receive a visit from Bob. His true passion for science education came shining through each time he stopped by or sent an email.*

Andrea Atwood - January 04, 2016 at 12:57 PM

DO

“ *Bob was an excellent representative for Flinn. He helped a lot of students at Paw Paw High School learn science. We will miss him.*

Doreen Odziana - January 04, 2016 at 12:50 PM

LH

“ *I am so sorry to hear of Bob's passing. He and your family have truly been robbed of his golden years. He will be missed terribly here at Macomb Community College. His friendly, professional manner and his sincere concern shown his customers has left a permanent impression on me. Recently he and I had a chance to share birding stories - what a delight! I had so hoped my husband and I would run into Bob and Nancy birding one of these days. I am so terribly sorry for your loss. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you. Bob will be remembered always! God bless.*

Leslie Hoskyns - January 04, 2016 at 12:46 PM

JH

“ Bob was an amazing positive force in science education. His happy, joyful outgoing spirit would always brighten my day when he would visit. His energy and smile will be missed. I want to thank Bob's family for sharing such an amazing soul with all of us.

Jamie Hilliard - January 04, 2016 at 12:46 PM

BC

I second those comments from Jamie. As a fellow chemistry teacher in Warren, it was always a pleasure to catch up with Bob about everything Flinn had to offer. He always showed a genuine interest in what was going on in our schools with regard to science education.

Bob Callender - January 04, 2016 at 01:01 PM

RR

“ I'm very sorry for your loss. I always enjoyed Bob's visits at school and he never failed to brighten my day. He always had a calm and caring nature about him. I feel very fortunate to have gotten to know him through Flinn and he will be greatly missed. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers.

Ryan Rathje
Marysville high school

ryan rathje - January 04, 2016 at 12:43 PM

LK

“ Bob called on me over the years as my Flinn representative. I always enjoyed meeting with Bob. He was a kind and gentle man who cared deeply about science education. My prayers and sympathies to his family during this time of grief.

Lori Keen
Calvin College Biology Department

Lori Keen - January 04, 2016 at 12:41 PM

CH

“ So sorry to hear of Bob's passing. It was always a bright day when he would stop into the science department at Delton Kellogg High School to show us what was new and exciting. He was a great man with a constantly positive outlook! You will be missed.

Connie High - January 04, 2016 at 12:41 PM

JF

“ God speed, Robert. Thank you for treating me with respect and treating me like a human, not a customer.

Jeff Fosnaugh

Jeff Fosnaugh - January 04, 2016 at 12:40 PM

JB

*Dear Family,
Please accept our sympathies. May the Lord comfort you like none can in this time of mourning. We mourn with you! We loved Bob. I was never fond of Salesmen, but I really appreciated when Bob came around. We will miss him.*

*You are in our prayers,
James Bazen
Plymouth Christian High School*

James Bazen - January 04, 2016 at 12:56 PM

LC

“ I'm so sorry to hear of the loss of Bob in our lives. As a science teacher, he helped me out with supplies at the various schools I worked. I remember the last time I saw him he walked into my classroom in Morenci, Michigan and said, "Hey don't you belong in the UP?" (The school I previously worked at). He made you feel right at home everytime you spoke with him. My prayers and thoughts are being sent to his family.

Loretta Cox - January 04, 2016 at 12:40 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph Kolas.*



January 04, 2016 at 12:37 PM



“ *Lexia Learning Systems purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Robert Joseph Kolas.*



Lexia Learning Systems - January 04, 2016 at 11:21 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph Kolas.*



January 04, 2016 at 11:07 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of your loss. Bob was our Flinn Rep. and was an amazing and helpful guy. He invested in our SWMSES event when we were getting started . Our thoughts and prayers go out to you all.*

-Mike Huber

Mike Huber - January 04, 2016 at 10:37 AM

LM

“ Lexia Implementation Managers purchased the S imply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Robert Joseph Kolas.



Lexia Implementation Managers - January 04, 2016 at 09:32 AM

TG

“ I knew Bob for so many years and am so sad to hear of his death. Bob would come to the Knabusch center with a fishing pole on occasion and fish the pond for largemouth bass.

Tom Green - January 04, 2016 at 08:59 AM

JC

“ I am a Science Dept Chair in Plymouth Canton Community Schools and have worked with and known Bob for many years. Bob was a thoughtful and caring person that was a pleasure to work with. . My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Jan Coratti

Plymouth Canton Schools

Jan Coratti - January 04, 2016 at 08:51 AM

KM

“ It is with immense sadness that I learned of Bob's passing. I am a science teacher and former science department chairperson who worked with Bob on numerous occasions throughout my almost 20 years at Portage Northern HS. He was the most gentle, professional sales rep I have ever encountered. His professionalism was of the highest level and he was always there when you needed help. Personally he was a man who knew your name, asked about your family and how things were going at school. Flinn Scientific now has a void that will be difficult to fill and the world has lost a wonderful, caring man. My condolences to his family and friends.

*Kathy Mirakovits
Portage Northern High School*

Kathy Mirakovits - January 04, 2016 at 07:25 AM

MM

“ It is so sad to hear of your family's loss. I am a high school teacher and knew Bob through Flinn. He was always so friendly and made a priority to be on a first-name basis with all of the teachers at my school. I saw him often at conferences both near and far, and always looked forward to catching up. All of us that knew him professionally feel a great loss.

*Michelle Mason
Portage Northern High School*

Michelle Mason - January 04, 2016 at 06:49 AM

TA

“ *The Mackie's: Richard, Janice, Sam, Makenna and Abbey purchased the Gift of Grace Bouquet for the family of Robert Joseph Kolas.*



The Mackie's: Richard, Janice, Sam, Makenna and Abbey -
January 03, 2016 at 06:20 PM

JM

“ *2 files added to the album New Album Name*



Janice Mackie - January 03, 2016 at 05:32 PM

JM

There was a time when, on any given weekend, I could count on Bob occupying a seat in our living room. To watch a game with Richard, have dinner and always eat brownies! And then Nancy joined the party and Bob learned to eat vegetables and other delicious food (besides Pop Tarts). She and I kicked some serious ass at board games against the guys! The Mackies will forever have catch phrases which came from Bob...perhaps the most memorable being..."Phooey on Valentines Day" and activities like finding the pickle on the Christmas tree (I'd never heard of it) - Janice Mackie

When I first arrived in the Michigan, Bob quickly became my best friend. He taught me how to watch american football and yell at the officials. Of course I became a big Fighting Irish fan and he and I are somewhere in the crowd of the movie Rudy. We drank a few beers and he peeled off the labels. We played a bit of golf (every weekend) but little did I know that every time Bob hit a golf ball into the woods, which was often, he was really just a closet birder in search of some elusive species.

Every Saturday afternoon in the fall when ND takes the field....every walk on a green fairway....I will remember my friend Bob. - Richard Mackie

Janice Mackie - January 03, 2016 at 06:07 PM

JD

To read more condolences and memories of Bob please go to filbrandtffh.com in South Haven.

Johannah Dillon - January 04, 2016 at 01:21 PM



“ *I am truly saddened to learn of Bob's passing. I have known him for so many years and have always enjoyed talking with him at conferences and when he visited my school. He was the "face" of Flinn Scientific in our area and I don't know anyone who didn't appreciate his kindness and generosity. He will be greatly missed. My condolences to all of his family and friends.*

Kathy Kitzmann

Chemistry teacher, Mercy High School

Kathy Kitzmann - January 03, 2016 at 04:07 PM

AL

I was very sad to hear of this unpleasant news. I also know Bob from his visits to my chemistry classroom as well as visiting him at Flinn booths at science conferences, SEMCTO meetings where he would bring many gift items saying " I found these in my basement ". He was viewed more of a member than a Flinn Rep. He was kind and soft spoken and will be greatly missed. My condolences to his family and friends. He left us too soon!!

Avideh Lotfi - January 04, 2016 at 06:39 AM

MG

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Mike Gray - January 03, 2016 at 03:04 PM

DZ

“ *I am a high school science teacher and Bob was our Flinn Rep. He was very dedicated to his job and the schools he visited. He was always kind and sincere when visiting our school and always wanted to know how things were going. My condolences to his family and friends. He was a great guy and will be missed.*
~Danielle Zachary, RCHS

Danielle Zachary - January 03, 2016 at 02:51 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph Kolas.*



January 03, 2016 at 11:45 AM

MS

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Mary Lynn Saks - January 03, 2016 at 08:03 AM

MS

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Mary Lynn Saks - January 03, 2016 at 07:52 AM

MS

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Mary Lynn Saks - January 03, 2016 at 07:51 AM

MS

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Mary Lynn Saks - January 03, 2016 at 07:50 AM

MS

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Mary Lynn Saks - January 03, 2016 at 07:49 AM

MS

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Mary Lynn Saks - January 03, 2016 at 07:47 AM

DS

“ I remember playing pool in his home in Munster. Play poker with the guys. Ditching school to go fish. We got caught. I always thought that I would see him again someday. It has been 35 years since he last visited me in Montana. He will be missed.

Dominick Speranza

Dominick Speranza - January 02, 2016 at 10:14 PM

MM

“ Nancy, I just saw Bob at the MDSTA Conference and remember both of you for our many times at science conferences. I always tried to stop by and chat with Bob over these past many years. I will miss him and send my sincere concern for you,
Mike Mansour

Mike Mansour - January 02, 2016 at 08:07 PM

DB

“ Bob was so friendly and caring. I would always look for him on the south pier as he held fort at his favorite fishing spot. He would wave with his signature smile always wearing his lucky hat. he will be missed.

Dick & Lois Brunvand

Dick & Lois Brunvand - January 02, 2016 at 05:42 PM

MK

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Mark Kolas - January 02, 2016 at 02:30 PM

RS

“ *Gentle Giant Bob and I had a lot of loves in common. The love of his wife Nancy, chocolate, South Haven, frosted strawberry pop tarts, and Nancy's homemade blueberry jam. I only learned of Bob's love for the blueberry jam over Thanksgiving. That made for a supply/demand issue. But being the unselfish person that he was, I received what was most likely his personal stash of my much loved blueberry jam in the mail. God bless you and thank you for the memories. Rut Stencel*

Ruth Stencel - January 02, 2016 at 01:19 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph Kolas.*



January 02, 2016 at 11:03 AM

JK

“ Bobby was a great man. So meek & kind. He had the gentleness of Uncle John and gave the warmest hug. He will be missed. Too sad & much too young to have him gone from our lives.



Julie Kipta - January 01, 2016 at 07:20 PM

FP

My dear Nanner, no words can express my sorrow in your loss.. Bob was a kind hearted person and so much in love with you which was obvious when I saw the two of you together. Your friendship to our dear Ponz is immeasurable which is greatly appreciated. When things settle down, please give me a call 734.340.1444 and we can share our loss together....I feeling sorry for myself does not even measure to yours.....Much love and heartfelt prayers from me... My condolences... Ponz's Mom....Fil Ponzi.

Fil (Filomena) Ponzi - January 02, 2016 at 07:29 AM

TS

So sorry for your loss. As a 30-year buddy of brother John, I naturally got to know Bob. Back in the days before we realized how absurd this "Weekend Warrior" stuff was, he would join us for basketball, home run derby and even a beer or two when he was in Indy on business. I had not seen him as much in recent years, but whenever I did, I was sure to joke with him that about a fine honor he received in the '80s while in Indy: "Signature Inn Guest of the Month." I mean, what does one have to do to be Signature Inn Guest of the Month? Leave it to Bob to figure it out.

My condolences to Bob's family and his many friends.

Tom Swenson - January 02, 2016 at 10:11 AM

RG

*I found out about Bob's passing through our '76 class of Munster Facebook. As I shared to my fellow classmates on Saturday, Bob was one of my best friends at St. Thomas Moore in grade school and we continued to be good friends in high school. A few of the pictures captured above from others of Bob in his younger days was really what Bob was about. Great personality and smile! I remember his rock star looks and hair! Bob's family was a class act. I remember to this day his parents and how nice they were to me in my youth. Mark his older brother by one class was such a super guy also who I always enjoyed his company. I did not know John and Celia as much but were always cordial to me also. Mark, John, Celia, I'm so sorry to hear about Bob. In closing, I have not seen Bob for many years but I always have and will cherish our friendship and memories growing up. God Bless, my friend.
Ronny Gar*

Ron Garzinski - January 04, 2016 at 08:02 AM