



## Robert T. Van Slambrook

October 27, 1941 - January 3, 2023

Van Slambrook, Robert T., January 3, 2023 age 81 of Brentwood, CA.

Beloved husband of Bernadette.

Loving father of Kevin (James) Cristbrook, Mark (Krista) Van Slambrook, Neil (Joanna) Van Slambrook and Damian Van Slambrook. Cherished brother of Jim (Holly) Van Slambrook. Predeceased by his younger sister, Carol, and younger brother, Chuck. Dear brother-in-law of Patricia (Seamus) Deeney and Joan Van Slambrook. Adoring grandfather of Christian (Graham) , Aidan, Michaela and Conor. Proud uncle of Gerald, Maureen, Nuala, Debbie, Dave, Greg, Amy, Kate, Doug and Heidi. Born October 27, 1941 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Detroit. Bob grew up in a close-knit family, the eldest of four children to Dolores and Vernon Van Slambrook. He attended St. Matthew Elementary, Notre Dame High School and graduated with an Electrical Engineering degree from the University of Detroit. He was an avid trumpet player -- playing in the marching and concert bands of both high school and college as well as at innumerable proms, weddings and social gatherings. Upon earning a degree and graduating ROTC, Bob became a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army with time spent at Forts Riley, Benning, Bragg and Devens. Upon completing two years in the Army, Bob took his first job with a small engineering firm in Washington DC before joining the Federal Power Commission and, eventually, the Department of Energy. Bob met the love of his life, Bernadette, in November of 1964 in Boston. They courted for two years before marrying in June of 1966 at St. Thomas Moore Church in

Arlington, Virginia. The newlyweds settled in Alexandria, Virginia and gave birth to their first son, Kevin, in February of 1968. Bob was transferred to San Francisco in 1969 and the young family settled in Walnut Creek, California -- the city in which his next three sons, Mark and Neil and Damian, were all born and in which the family was raised. Bob enjoyed playing tennis, being in a raucous bowling league (beer frames!), a spirited softball league (pizza and beer for everyone, afterwards!) and playing bridge whenever and wherever possible. A man of faith, Bob was a 25-year parishioner St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Walnut Creek, California and subsequently became a 20+ year member of St. Anne Catholic Community In Byron, California. In the early 1980's Bob's career transitioned into the private sector where he began working in Business Development for Bechtel Engineering and Construction until his retirement in 1999. Bob enjoyed the last three years of his storied career working in Hong Kong on the Kowloon -Canton Railway and Hong Kong International Airport during the historic Handover. Upon return to the United States. Bob and Bernadette sold the family home in Walnut Creek and moved into the vibrant Summerset Active Adult community in Brentwood, California. Bob especially enjoyed time traveling with family and friends all over the world, with extensive travels throughout Europe, Asia, India, Africa, South America, the Caribbean and having visited every one of the United States. (In 2022, alone, Bob travelled in January to the Mexican Riviera, in March to Hawaii, in April to Ireland, in July to Alaska, in August to Michigan, in September to Lake Tahoe, in October to his favorite seaside community of Carmel, California before returning, again, to spend his last holidays in his hometown of Metro Detroit.) Bob was loved by many and will certainly be remembered by all. May he Rest in Eternal Peace. Gathering Monday, January 9 th 9:30 AM until the Monday 10 AM Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Refuge Catholic Church, 3700 Commerce Road, West Bloomfield. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials be made to The Society of St Vincent de Paul, 2800 Camino Diablo, Byron, California 94514 or donate online at [donate.svdpc-cc.org](http://donate.svdpc-cc.org) Arrangements by Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home,

Plymouth (734) 459-2250. To share a memory, please use the 'Share a Memory' tab on this webpage.

# Previous Events

## Gathering of Family and Friends

JAN 9. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Refuge Catholic Church  
3700 Commerce Road  
West Bloomfield, MI 48324

## Funeral Mass

JAN 9. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Refuge Catholic Church  
3700 Commerce Road  
West Bloomfield, MI 48324

# Tribute Wall



“ *Robert T. Van Slambrook*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *Godspeed to you Bob and bless your loving wife and family. So many memories of all of us growing up together. Our days at dear ole U of D together were wonderful. I especially remember attending the Christmas basketball tournaments with you and Al and Chas. Pray for us and we will pray for you. From cuzin Ken and Corinne*

**kenneth a braun** - January 09, 2023 at 08:09 PM



“ *Bob was my god father but I don't think he got the memo as bernadette was home in Ireland after I was born and was asked to be my god mother ..he got a hoot out of this when I told him last April on his trip to manorhamilton..it was a great opportunity for me to chat him and spend a little time with him ..a real gentleman and clearly a real family man happily recounting to me how he met bernadette with so much love for her and his family...all his travels and so many stories ..his life a very full and well lived one, right up to last Tuesday.it was a pleasure to have had that time with him last April...one we will treasure ...all our love & thoughts with you bernadette and the boys and all his family and friends ..we will join you virtually on Monday and again next week in San Francisco.....finny &jordie &francie xx*

**Fionnuala Mc loughlin** - January 07, 2023 at 08:33 PM

NS

“ Our last family photo. On my mom's birthday in Marin.  
I am grateful he went out the best possible way he could.  
A Braun family Christmas party with all his relatives a few days prior  
to his passing and the night before spent with his closest cousins  
(Al, Frank, Dave) and loving Bernadette as well with Damian, Kevin  
James & Aidan.  
No doubt I am forever grateful for my upbringing and all the love  
and support given to me.  
I love you dad 😊



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**Neil P Van Slambrook** - January 07, 2023 at 05:55 PM



“ Dad was a great man. A man who was a role model to me.  
Someone who was not just a father figure, but a friend. A man full of  
excellent qualities that as a kid, I wanted to instill into my soul.  
Thanks to dad sharing those qualities with me as a kid, I believe  
that as an adult I have some of those qualities. Maybe all of them.  
Dad had a gentle soul and a heart full of love. Dad shared that love,  
that gift from god with everyone he came across in his life. Dad will  
be alive in our hearts and his spirit will be with me until I meet him  
again sometime.

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**Damian Van Slambrook** - January 07, 2023 at 03:01 PM

HK

“ I remember when I visited my family in California when I graduated high school, Uncle Bob and Aunt Bernadette took me on a special trip to Carmel, California and Monterey Bay to the aquarium. We ate in this really neat restaurant with a beautiful view of the ocean. They were so always so warm and hospitable and friendly. I have so many great memories of Uncle Bob and my family growing up. I remember staying at their house when I was five years old and visiting Yosemite and the Redwoods with them. I remember picking peaches from the trees in Brentwood with them. And of course all the euchre games! He will truly be missed, and it was a blessing to have grown up with him.

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**Heidi Kinkead** - January 07, 2023 at 02:42 PM

MO

“ My thoughts and prayers to Bernadette and family. I have many fond memories of Bob and how kind he was to me and my family when we came to visit. I will always remember all the stories he told and his wealth of knowledge on all topics. My mum, Sheila and Bernadette were really close and anytime she was over visiting me, we would always take a trip up to Walnut Creek and later in Brentwood to visit Bob and Bernadette. Many nights while visiting we would stay up late chatting, remembering and laughing. Bob, you will be missed. I know you are up in Heaven now chatting away with mum. My deepest condolences to the family. Sending all my love. Michelle, John and Aoife.

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**Michelle Oconnor-Sidlow** - January 07, 2023 at 01:49 PM

MB

“ From the days in East Detroit, to Washington DC, to California Bob lit up the room with his love and friendship. We have lost a wonderful family friend but the memories we all have are many and enduring. Bob will be deeply missed.  
Mike and Ann Braun

Michael Edwin Braun - January 07, 2023 at 01:12 PM



Thanks Mike. Dad was a great man.

Damian Van Slambrook - January 07, 2023 at 03:01 PM



Bob ,was a very good friend for over 50 years. I want to thank Bob and Bernie for a lifetime they provided to us with fun, laughter, friendship, support, kindness, and companionship. He will truly be missed by his family, and endless amount of friends, whos lives he touched. God Bless my dear friend and best buddy over the years!!!!

Raymond Gorski - January 07, 2023 at 04:46 PM

MD

A wonderful full loving life, Bobs legacy lives on with his sons and grandchildren, never gone as he will live on in our hearts and memories. Thinking of you all in this sad time aunty B and cousins , I hope you are strengthened during this time by all the love that is coming your way and comforted by the special memories of Bob and his well lived life.

Maureen Deeney - January 08, 2023 at 11:34 AM

AC

Words don't begin to cover all the memories shared with Bob, Bernadette, their four "boys" and our family on Ramsay Circle in Walnut Creek. May you and all your family be wrapped in God's loving arms here. May Bob rest in peace always.

Anne Comiskey - January 08, 2023 at 06:27 PM

PB

*Bob, an outgoing friendly man who eagerly approached a couple Expats who had just arrived in HK as his family did. He is a man for others, as he was portrayed in the 01/09/2023 sermon in Detroit. And I think of tennis, even in the HK heat.  
Rest In Peace. Peace and comfort to Bob's families.  
Thank you for arranging for us to celebrate virtually on Monday. Patsy in Cleveland*

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**Patsy Burns** - January 09, 2023 at 01:33 PM

JM

*We send our heartfelt condolences to Bernadette and the Van Slambrook family. Bob was devoted to his wife, his four sons, his faith, and extended family and friends. We will miss his Irish sense of humor, sports insights, political commentary, and graciousness. He leaves many wonderful memories which we can cherish. God bless.  
Jim and Claire, remembering Bob from Ramsay Circle and St. Stephen's.*

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**James Marchiano** - January 11, 2023 at 09:37 PM