



J. Robert "Bob" Ladd

December 23, 1942 - October 19, 2022

J. Robert "Bob" Ladd, 79, of Lebanon passed away on Wednesday, October 19th, 2022, at the M.S. Hershey Medical Center. A beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, he is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Nancy (Wenger) Ladd.

Bob was born in Harrisburg on December 23rd, 1942, to the late James Warden and Anne (Twigg) Ladd and grew up in Mount Gretna. He spent the entirety of his life living in the Lebanon Valley where he was deeply engaged in the business community, his church and local charitable organizations.

A graduate of The Peddie School and Bucknell University, Bob spent most of his professional life in the family auto business, Ladd Motors, and later Ladd-Hanford. He was a serial entrepreneur and committed mentor to others wanting to start their own businesses. Bob enjoyed the challenge of building new enterprises, including Retire-Wise Financial Services, where he was a partner, Lebanon Imported Cars, Journeys, a travel agency, and The Inn at Mt. Hope, a bed and breakfast he ran with Nancy. Bob worked throughout his life consulting for and spearheading development and fundraising efforts for Christian non-profits. His journey into the world of fundraising began in 1985 when he led the effort to establish the Agape Family Shelter serving homeless women and children in Lebanon, and continued through work with Evangelical Seminary, Jubilee Ministries, Lebanon County Christian Ministries and the

Lebanon Rescue Mission. In the early 2000s he helped to raise capital and participated in trips to build a church and the Family Life Counseling Centers in Tanzania. Bob was a life-long member of the Cornwall United Methodist Church where he served in many leadership, teaching and lay ministry roles and sang in the choir. His faith was an integral part of his life leading him to participate in the Christian Businessmen's Connection and serve on the boards of the Institute of Religion and Democracy and United Methodist Action.

Bob was a charter member of Lebanon Valley Sertoma Club and served as its first president. As president he helped to form and became a charter member of the Hershey-Palmyra Sertoma Club as well. He chaired many events and committees for the club over the years and was honored to have the club's annual J. Robert Ladd Community Service Award named for him. This award has been presented for many years to the recipient of the club's Service to Mankind Award. Bob's deep commitment to his community and interest in politics also led him to mount a grass roots campaign for the Pennsylvania State Senate in the 48th District in 1994 and to support candidates both locally and nationally.

Bob's love for early automobiles dates to 1954 when he bought a 1905 Northern with money earned by raking leaves and mowing lawns near the family home in Mt. Gretna. He was a charter member of the Hershey Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America and holds membership in several other national and regional collector car organizations, including the Horseless Carriage Club of America where he served as 2018-19 National President. His latest passion project was to establish the Museum of the Horseless Carriage, featuring the very earliest cars and the men and women who pioneered in the early car industry, on the campus of the Gilmore Museum in Michigan.

In addition to his wife, Bob is survived by a son, Jason P. Ladd, and his wife

Jean of Lebanon; a daughter, Abby A. Ladd, and her husband Jeff Gould of Silver Spring, MD; 6 grandchildren, India Gould, Graham Gould, Dwight Ladd, Melissa Ladd, Connor Ladd, and Austin Ladd; and 7 great grandchildren, Mikayla, Bailey, Jaxon, Jazlynn, Jayceon, Wyatt, and Lincoln. Bob was preceded in death by his brother, James W. Ladd III.

A public viewing will be held from 7:00-9:00 PM on Tuesday, October 25th, 2022, at Kreamer Funeral Home and Crematory, 618 E. Main St. Annville, PA 17003. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, October 26th, 2022, at Cornwall United Methodist Church, 50 Freeman Dr., Lebanon, PA 17042. There will be no viewing before the service. Interment will be in Mt. Lebanon Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Museum of the Horseless Carriage by visiting <https://www.museumofthehorselesscarriage.org/>, or to the Lebanon Rescue Mission, 1223 Bittner Blvd., Lebanon, PA. 17046, <https://www.lebanonrescuemission.org/product/make-a-monetary-donation-to-irm/> in Bob's memory. Kreamer Funeral Home and Crematory, Annville is handling arrangements.

Previous Events

Public Viewing

OCT **25.** 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Kreamer Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc
618 E. Main Street
Annville, PA 17003
(717) 867-4811

Funeral Service

OCT **26.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Cornwall United Methodist Church
50 Freeman Drive
Lebanon, PA 17042

Tribute Wall

MW

“ I am sad to hear of the passing of Mr Ladd. I was a mechanic at Ladd motors and then Ladd/Hanford around 1985 to 1990; My first real career out of high school. Those were great times for me and i knew Mr Ladd was a Christian man and he made it a point to talk to us from time to time. He was also a great supporter of the Myerstown school of theology which my church was affiliated with. As a young mechanic he once asked me to run with him to exchange cars for his mother i think in an apartment complex in Lebanon. When i left after 5 years to get into the construction trades he personally came out to greet me and wish me well. That was very nice of him as i was feeling bad for leaving. One thing i have always remembered is that at Ladds i was clearly told to 'do your best' and 'fix the car right' and not to worry about it taking too long. Those were comforting words to a new mechanic. I respected that and have also adhered to that same premise as a self employed carpenter for nearly 25 years. Condolences to Mrs Ladd. sincerely,
Mike Wenger

mike I. wenger - June 18, 2023 at 08:55 PM

RL

“ Bob was a student and mentored by my Dad at Peddie c. 1960. He baby-sat me when I was 5 years old!
We were fortunate to meet again later in life where I was given the opportunity to work, learn and grow from his love and generosity. I will miss our chats and the occasional lunch at the diner. I will miss his great spirit and generosity as will, I am sure, his friends family and community.
It is with sad regrets and warm memories I send the family my condolences.
Bob Lawson

Robert Lawson - October 26, 2022 at 10:00 AM

NM

“ Bob led a life of service to his many businesses, friends, Cornwall UM Church, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, and the World. His enthusiasm, organizational abilities, and "get things done" attitude touched all who had the honor of knowing and working with him. He was a leader, teacher, mentor, and most of all a friend. His was a life well lived and I will miss him. Condolences to his family and friends.

Noel F. Marks - October 25, 2022 at 06:16 PM

JB

“ I grew up in Mt. Gretna and went to school with Bob until he transferred to The Peddie School. He was a kind and caring man who will be missed by family and friends. My condolences to Nancy and the family.

Jeanie Krause Bachand

Jeanie Bachand - October 25, 2022 at 04:51 PM

LM

“ Love, Patrick and Marcy purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of J. Robert "Bob" Ladd.



Love, Patrick and Marcy - October 25, 2022 at 03:16 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of J. Robert "Bob" Ladd.



October 25, 2022 at 10:03 AM

RS

“ *What a great loss. Bob's all-in commitment to Jesus Christ brought him to challenge many issues and causes that truly harm people. He was a soldier of Christ's Church. May his soul find joy in the Communion of the Saints, as his body awaits resurrection at Christ's return in glory.*

Rev. Paul T. Stallworth - October 25, 2022 at 09:13 AM

RH

“ *Always thankful for Bob's wise council and faithful witness. He was a true believer in Jesus Christ. Bob worked with me on many Methodist meetings. He was always reliable and kind-hearted. I will truly miss him.*

Richard Hoffman - October 25, 2022 at 07:24 AM

PS

“ *My deepest condolences to Bob's family. I pray for peace, comfort and grace to understand during this time of bereavement.*

Paulo Da Silva - October 25, 2022 at 06:12 AM

ID

“ *Institute on Religion & Democracy purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of J. Robert "Bob" Ladd.*



Institute on Religion & Democracy - October 25, 2022 at 01:23 AM

JL

“ *Bob was such a thoughtful, humble, pleasant Christian man. I am honored to have known him, and to have him as part of my prayer team. He will be missed.*

John Lomperis - October 25, 2022 at 12:25 AM

DS

“ *My deepest condolences go out to Bob's family. I pray for peace, comfort and understanding during this time of bereavement.*



Dennis R Swingholm - October 24, 2022 at 08:56 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of J. Robert "Bob" Ladd.*



October 24, 2022 at 06:32 PM

PJ

“ *I met Bob when I joined our local Susquehanna Valley chapter of the Horseless Carriage Club. He became our first president, and I soon discovered his formidable leadership abilities! I benefited from his interest in old cars, but I know others found aid, ideas and comfort in his generosity and enthusiasm. Thanks, Bob.*

Phil Jamison - October 24, 2022 at 05:27 PM

AH

“ All your friends at Ladd Hanford purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of J. Robert "Bob" Ladd.



All your friends at Ladd Hanford - October 24, 2022 at 10:27 AM

BC

“ Bob was a blessing in our lives. May his legacy carry on.
Butch and Judi Cohen

Butch Cohen - October 24, 2022 at 06:16 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of J. Robert "Bob" Ladd.



October 24, 2022 at 02:49 AM

KG

“ Karen and Steve Gentry purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of J. Robert "Bob" Ladd.



Karen and Steve Gentry - October 24, 2022 at 02:34 AM

JK

“ *Sending prayers to the Ladd family at this time. Bob served on many committees with my father Francis for many Years. He was a nice man.*

Jennifer Ulishney Koch - October 23, 2022 at 05:46 PM

DP

“ *What a great friend Bob has been to me, generous to a fault, and an amazing role model. His great dedication to the Horseless Carriage Club of America is unmatched. His unstinting support of the Museum of the Horseless Carriage, and his guidance through its formation has been such a valuable gift. His loss will be felt by so many of us for a long, long time. My sincere condolences to Nancy, Jason, Abby, and the rest of the family.*

Donald Plumb - October 23, 2022 at 05:06 PM

TB

“ *Thanks Bob for all the fun memories at Cornwall church, wether singing in the choir or playing trival presuit at the annual dinners ,*

Tracy Boyer - October 23, 2022 at 10:51 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of J. Robert "Bob" Ladd.*



October 23, 2022 at 09:13 AM

CB

“ Prayers sent to the family. Bob was a wonderful man and will be missed by many people.

Carol Blecker - October 23, 2022 at 09:01 AM

PS

“ The fondest memory I have was Bob was the ride he gave us in one of his old cars. He was a great man.

Pamm Seifert - October 22, 2022 at 11:42 PM

HK

“ Sending my prayers to your family, Bob! I'm sure you are with the Lord in Heaven! May He help all of your family and friends find peace at your loss. Helen Krug

Helen Krug - October 22, 2022 at 10:16 PM