



## Robert Eugene McLinko

March 29, 1934 - January 22, 2019

Robert Eugene McLinko, a true American patriot, departed this earthly world and went home to meet his Lord, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019. As his life ebbed, he was surrounded by family and friends, many of whom eased his passage with gentle caresses. They praised him for his life well lived and uttered encouragement that he would never be forgotten for the love he showed by way of his dedication to family. His passing was therefore made peaceful.

Robert was born March 29, 1934 at the Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre. He was the first grandchild of Michael and Mary McLinko, who for decades lived on Mechanic Street, Towanda where Robert was raised. They had come to the United States from Austria-Hungary near the turn of the 20th Century and carved an existence in the new world by finding employment at Laquin. This hardiness surely was passed down to Robert.

Bob, as most everybody referred to him, graduated from Towanda High School in 1952 and thereafter heeded the call of his country by enlisting in the United States Navy. He served four years as a radio operator on a destroyer, #DD567, and later on the USS Manchester, a cruiser. He humbly spoke with pride about a duty performed at the end of the Korean War, which was that his ship escorted U.S servicemen's repatriated remains back to United States' soil. In the ensuing years he unabashedly carried the memory of his uncle, Peter McLinko, who was taken captive in Korea, but died while on a forced march to a prisoner of war camp. Peter's remains were never found. Robert never forgot.

Upon his return home, he worked for Valley Cities Gas and the Sylvania Corporation before engaging in heavy construction work for Lane Construction Company. His hardy lineage served him well. As an entrepreneur he started JCM trucking and was further involved in numerous business ventures, including REM Security, where he partnered with his grandson Anthony.

Robert loved sports and enjoyed hunting. As with any country boy, he was also enamored with car races. Then too, his favorite football team was the Penn State Nittany Lions. He was also known for playing softball for the Marie Foyle Softball team, where he became memorable for celebrating each game regardless of winning or losing. He also loved his heritage, his home and his community. Yet still, the biggest love of all was his family. In this, he embodied the noblest of ways, as he always acted selflessly.

Robert was the oldest living McLinko, as he was predeceased by the sweetest of mothers, Kate, all of his aunts, uncles and grandparents. He leaves behind a large, loving family: two sons, Douglas and Robert, as well as eight grandchildren, Anthony, Robert, Bradley, Eric, Marisha, Ashley, Christopher and Matthew. Eleven great grandchildren also adorned his lineage.

While his dear family is left with their collective loss, Robert's passing allows that his presence will survive, as all of his loved ones have some of him, in them.

The family plans a simple service, which is to be held sometime in the spring.

# Comments

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“ Doug and family,  
We are so very sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you all.

Sincerely,  
Tom and Peggy Blanchard

Margaret K Blanchard - February 03, 2019 at 08:31 AM

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“ I'm going to miss exchanging waves "hello" with him whenever he was going up or down Oak Street. Even though I was busy doing something I stopped and waved not wanting him to think that I was stuck up . I'm sure that he will be missed!



Kathy LeStrange - January 30, 2019 at 10:59 AM

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“ JOHN VINESKI lit a candle in memory of Robert Eugene McLinko



JOHN VINESKI - January 30, 2019 at 09:50 AM