



Robert R. "Bob" Summitt

January 24, 1960 - November 2, 2025

Robert R. "Bob" Summitt, 65, of Henry, a respected and accomplished professional photographer, passed away surrounded by family and friends who cherished him deeply on Sunday, November 2, 2025 at OSF St. Francis Medical Center.

He was born on January 24, 1960 in Peoria to Kenneth Eugene and Joyce Gretchen (Jury) Summitt. They preceded him in death along with one sister, Cheryl A. (Summitt) Myers.

Bob is survived by his brother, Kerry (Lorelei) Summitt of California; two nieces Kayleen and Kristen still at home, niece, Kara (Ryan) Hanley of Indiana; nephew, Kevin (Natalie) Myers of Michigan; two great-nephews, Aden Hanley and Charlie Myers; two aunts, Merrielle Akright and Bev Meils; and many cousins.

Bob dedicated his life to the art and profession of photography. He was a proud member of the Professional Photographers of America (PPA), where he served as a PPA Councilman and earned the Master of Photography and Photographic Craftsman degrees—two of the highest honors in the profession.

Bob was also active in the Southern Illinois Art League and a past member of

the American Society of Photographers. His commitment to advancing the craft was evident through his service and leadership in numerous organizations, including the Professional Photographers Association of Northern Illinois, where he served on the board of directors.

Perhaps most notably, Bob's love for photography and his generosity in giving back to others shone through his years of service to the Associated Professional Photographers of Illinois (APPI). He served on the state board for many years and became President of APPI in 2006. His peers recognized his outstanding contributions with the prestigious APPI Fellowship Award, as well as numerous state and national awards for photographic excellence.

Bob's photographic skill was nothing short of brilliant. His artistry, professionalism, and kind spirit left a lasting mark on all who had the privilege of knowing him. He will be remembered not only for his creative vision behind the camera but for his humility, generosity, and lifelong dedication to helping others succeed in their craft.

The family is currently planning a Celebration of Life to honor Bob. Details will be shared on Bob's Facebook page as they become available.

Tribute Wall

M(

“ Mark and Cindy (Bogner)Rayburn planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert R. "Bob" Summitt.

Mark and Cindy (Bogner)Rayburn - January 24 at 10:20 AM

M(

“ Mark and Cindy (Bogner)Rayburn purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Robert R. "Bob" Summitt.



Mark and Cindy (Bogner)Rayburn - January 24 at 10:20 AM

DS

“ There are so many memories from growing up and our families doing things together at church and school. One of dad's favorite Bob stories was from an outing to Aunt Betty's cabin on the river. Bob wanted to go in the water but was told he needed supervision. He replied, "I can see pretty good." As an adult that answer proved prophetic as ha shared his visions through his photography. It was a joy every time we were able to reconnect over the years. You are greatly missed.

Diana Strunk nee Shipman - January 20 at 08:29 PM

MA

“ Bob was a true artist who created beautiful, cherished memories for so many people. We are so sad to hear this news and know that he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Marcia - November 12, 2025 at 01:01 PM

C(

“ Bob, you will be missed. Many trips to Henry over the years and Grandma Ellen always had you on the stop in and see list for us. (The Ohio Nevitts) You always were so kind to our Grandma. Thanks for always fitting us in for a family Photo session when Grandma thought it was something that needed done at the last minute. And thank you for taking my Senior pics during the time we had a scheduled trip to Illinois the summer before my Senior year 1994. I considered it a special memory to have family take the pictures.
Christi Ayers (Nevitt) Dan and Karen's daughter and Ellen's granddaughter ☐

Christi Ayers (Nevitt) - November 04, 2025 at 08:27 PM

RT

“ Bobby, I will never forget the canoe trip you took with us to Minnesota when you kids were teens. Ray and Chris were floating down the rapids in the canoe that they were unable to paddle all of the way up the rapids. Becky and I were holding on to the canoe on the outside, trying to keep it from going on down the river. Our dog Sam followed Becky and me into the swiftly moving water. You, Bobby, were running down the path beside the river trying to catch us as we passed by your position. It worked and you probably saved us all. Love you, Bob.

Love You,
Aunt Rose Thielbar
(cousins)

Rose Thielblar - November 04, 2025 at 05:17 PM