



## Robert "Bob" K. Zimmerman

November 17, 1926 - December 16, 2017

Robert "Bob" Keith Zimmerman, 91, of Morton, formerly of Hudson, passed away at 12:55 a.m., Saturday, December 16, 2017 at his daughter's residence in Washington, IL with family by his side.

He was born November 17, 1926 in Eureka to David and Cordelia (Gudeman) Zimmerman. He married Betty Clesson on February 5, 1950 in Normal, IL. She died December 6, 2003. He later married Fern Ault on February 8, 2013 in Eureka. She survives.

Also surviving is his daughter Litta Dennis of Washington; son-in-law Jim Pepper of Mokena, IL; sister Dorothy Baer of Bloomington; four grandchildren Jenny, Adam, Luscina, Kalle and four great-grandchildren Carter, Rose, Eva and Abigail.

He was preceded in death by his first wife Betty, daughter Cynthia Pepper, close personal friend Audrey Kool and one sister Joyce Morrison.

Bob was a WWII Army veteran, a member of Hudson United Methodist Church and life member of the Bloomington Elks Lodge 281. He also served as the Hudson Ag 4-H leader for 10 years.

Bob was well known for his outstanding pitching ability in fast pitch softball. He played for the Hudson fast pitch team and was recruited to pitch for many other teams during tournament time. He was a life-long Chicago Cubs fan and was overjoyed to finally see them win the World Series. Bob was also very well known for his wine making ability. He enjoyed cooking and hanging out with the Milk House Gang, fishing, raising rabbits with his two daughters and traveling with his family to shows throughout the state. Bob enjoyed spending time with friends and family fishing and telling stories at his pond.

A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m., Thursday, December 21, 2017 at Hudson United Methodist Church. Rev. Dr. Curt Keller and Rev. Tom Zobrist will officiate. Visitation will be

from 2 to 6 p.m., Wednesday at Argo-Ruestman-Harris Funeral Home in Eureka. Burial will be in Hudson Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Hudson United Methodist Church or Advocate BroMenn Hospice for nursing education.

Online tributes and condolences may be made at [www.argoruestmanharris.com](http://www.argoruestmanharris.com)

# Events

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**DEC**   **Visitation**   02:00PM - 06:00PM

**20**

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Argo-Ruestman-Harris Funeral Home  
508 South Main Street, Eureka, IL, US, 61530

**DEC**   **Funeral service**   10:00AM

**21**

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Hudson United Methodist Church  
212 E. Franklin St., Hudson, IL, US, 61748

# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**argo ruestman** - December 20, 2017 at 01:12 PM

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“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" K. Zimmerman.



December 20, 2017 at 02:20 PM

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“ Sharon Fowler lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" K. Zimmerman



**Sharon Fowler** - December 20, 2017 at 11:13 AM

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“ Litta, I'm so sorry to learn of your father's death. I have fond memories of both your parents and your old farm house — your rabbits, hunting for newborn kittens in the barn, playdates and sleepovers, and many rousing games of pick-up sticks. And my dad dearly loved the get togethers in the Milk House and really enjoyed your father's wine.

Again, my heartfelt condolences.

Linda (Tjaden) St. John

**Linda St. John** - December 19, 2017 at 09:15 PM



“ Fern, my deepest sympathy in your loss. May God bring comfort as you trust in Him.  
Shirley Hough

Shirley Hough - December 19, 2017 at 07:15 PM

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“ We first met Bob and Betty over 35 years ago when we rented the "old family home" just down the road from them in Hudson. We had just gotten married. A short-term goal was to rent a house until we could afford to purchase either a country home or land to build on. We thought we would rent for a year. That year turned into 5 1/2 years and ones we will never forget.

The Zimmerman's welcomed us into their hearts and lives. We have many special memories of their family, parties and shuffleboard, "the Milk House gang," Hudson neighbors, and life in the country. Did we also mention Bob's homemade wine and rabbit fries? Both experiences were not to be missed!

The spring was always a new beginning and new life on the farm. It also brought the rotation of Bob's pigs and new calves were born. Summer was growing all around us with beautiful star-filled evenings. Fall was a special time of harvest and many a night we were lulled to sleep by the sound of Bob's corn dryer. And winter....brought lots and lots of snow. We recall one Christmas Eve when we all were snowed in. We took our food down to the Zimmerman's to celebrate and play Tripoly. Every Christmas Eve we recall that wonderful time and their friendship.

Bob got John into raising rabbits. Before you knew it, we had added chickens, ducks, geese, goats, pigs, dogs, puppies, and cats, too. Bob always got a kick out of visiting to see what new animal had shown up. To this day, there continues to be some form of bird or animal in our lives.

They don't make 'em like Bob anymore. He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend. A quiet man who loved his God, family, and country. God truly blessed the hands of this hard-working American farmer. Heaven received a Christmas Angel and we know God was there to say, "Well done my good and faithful servant."

Thank you Bob for believing in and giving a young couple a great foundation and start in life. We will be forever grateful to you and Betty. You helped give us a strong foundation to build a forever home and raise our family. We take comfort in knowing that one day we will see you again "on the other side of heaven."

John and Deb Clement  
Carlock, Illinois

Deb and John Clement - December 18, 2017 at 11:37 PM



“ The Gudeman cousins are diminishing in number on this mortal coil , but Heaven has gained another wonderful Angel when Robert went to his Reward.....

Brother Milton (now 94) ,brother Curt (passed on in 2005) & myself ( also 91 ) have great memories of happy times spent with Uncle Dave, Aunt Cordelia, Bob, Dorothy and Joyce through the years.....

Our loving sympathy to all of Their Family...  
Loren zuercher

Loren Zuercher - December 18, 2017 at 06:44 PM

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“ Loren Zuercher lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" K. Zimmerman



Loren Zuercher - December 18, 2017 at 06:11 PM

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“ From: Bruce Stuart and family. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Robert Zimmerman.



From: Bruce Stuart and family. - December 18, 2017 at 03:03 PM

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“ I am sorry for your Loss. I have some fond memories of 4-H and fairs showing rabbits and carrying on a conversation with Bob. He always had good advise about what they were looking for in the rabbits. Each year it was something different but Bob always knew. He was such a friendly man and a great man. He will truly be missed by all.

Chris Turner Kearfott - December 18, 2017 at 02:45 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Zimmerman.



December 18, 2017 at 01:42 PM

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“ Bob was a good fellow and a very special friend of my dad for many years. Please accept my sympathies upon the loss of someone so dear to his family.

Hunt Henderson

Hunt Henderson - December 18, 2017 at 12:26 PM

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“ This is Marcella Nance, sister of Madonna Boitnott. I am deeply sorry that Bob's joyful life ended under such sad circumstances. My sincere condolences to Fern and Litta and Bob's extended family.

I met Bob through his friendship with my sister and brother-in-law and can honestly say I enjoyed each and every minute I was in his presence. His attitude and witty wisdom about life were welcomed contagions. He was a wellspring of funny stories and uplifting conversation. I once spent an afternoon in the lower level of his farmhouse competing in a game of hand shuffleboard - my sister and I against my brother-in-law and Bob. What a fun time we had!

I did not know Betty but I'm certain she was as lovely a lady as were his beloved Audrey and now precious Fern. He was an extraordinary man who attracted extraordinary ladies. I attended the memorial services for Audrey and was in awe of Bob's self-composure as he spoke lovingly and respectfully of their life together. I recall him bringing the congregation to hearty laughter when he related the way he often answered the question of how long had he and Audrey been married. I do not recall the exact numbers he used, but his response went something like this: "Well, I was married for 53 years and Audrey was married for 45 years, so between us we've been married for 98 years!" Typical sharp-witted Bob.

There was a hidden sadness in Bob following Audrey's death but he persevered through the period of heartache.....and then something wonderful happened. He married Fern. Oh so blessed was he to have shared his life with three marvelous ladies. And I am certain they each considered themselves fortunate to have been a part of his respectful life.

Bob was a gem. I knew him to be sad, but I never knew him to be downtrodden nor dwell in self-pity. He had an innate ability to see the good in all people and situations and rise above petty differences. The world needs more Bob Zimmermans though there will never be another quite like him. I treasure my memories of brief but inspiring conversations with him, the warm hugs received upon greeting him during fellowship hour at the Hudson UMC, the sparkle in his eyes, the ready smile, the interest he always had in others' welfare.

Rest in peace, ye salt of the earth. A life well lived and lovingly remembered.

**marcella nance** - December 18, 2017 at 09:28 AM