



## Robert Joseph Ward

August 31, 1952 - May 19, 2026

Robert Joseph Ward “Bob”, age 73, passed away peacefully on May 19th 2026. Bob is a 1970 graduate of Pennsville Memorial High School and a lifelong resident of Salem County. He was a devoted father, grandfather, brother, veteran and friend whose humor, warmth, and storytelling left a lasting impression on everyone who knew him. Born August 31st, 1952 in Mannington NJ, Bob proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Vietnam war and reached E-5 rank. After his service in the Army, Bob was a very passionate disc-jockey and developed many friendships during this time. His career began working for Robbins Instruments in sales and land surveying. Afterwards, he was a surveyor for Richard C. Waddington. His gift for conversation and ability to connect with others made him successful. He never met a stranger, and people would say he could turn the simplest moment into a memorable story.

Outside of work, his greatest joy was his family and sports. Many hours were dedicated to playing and coaching baseball and softball, and he coached both of his children’s little league teams and took great pride in encouraging young athletes to play their best and to love the game. He also coached and played on several local men’s softball and flag football teams where he continued many childhood friendships that carried throughout his life. Bob was an avid Philadelphia sports fan who remained loyal to his teams through every win and loss, always watching with passion and enthusiasm. When he wasn't watching sports, you could see him around town riding his bike or walking. He

loved staying fit and active.

Bob will be remembered for his quick wit, unforgettable stories, generous spirit, and contagious laughter that he brought into every room. He always had a way of making people feel welcome, valued and loved. His presence will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his children Bethany (Matthew) and Scott, grandchildren Neko, Geo and Bram and his siblings Patrick and Bonnie. He was preceded in death by his mother Virginia (Green), Father Robert Sr, sister Joyce (Thompson) and ex-wife Brenda Hanby (Buckingham) whom he remained close friends with until her passing.

A very special thank you from Bob's family to Dan and Donna Saxvanderweyden who spent many years caring for him.

Though our hearts are heavy with loss, we take comfort in the memories he gave us, the lives he touched and the love that will remain with us always.

A memorial service will be held at Ashcraft Funeral Home in Pennsville on Friday, May 29, 2026 with visitation starting at 9:30 and services starting at 11:00 with interment will follow at Salem County Veterans Cemetery.

Afterwards, friends and family are invited to gather at the Pennsville VFW for food and fellowship as we remember and celebrate Bob's life. In Lieu of flowers the family has asked for donations to be made directly to the Pennsville Animal Shelter at 94 Industrial Park Rd, Pennsville NJ 08070 to honor his lifetime love of animals

# Cemetery Details

## Salem County Veterans Cemetery

719 NJ-45  
Pilesgrove, NJ 08069

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAY 29.** 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Ashcraft Funeral Home (PV)  
740 S. Broadway  
Pennsville, NJ 08070  
(856) 299-3366  
ashcraftfuneralhomes@gmail.com

## Memorial Service

**MAY 29.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Ashcraft Funeral Home (PV)  
740 S. Broadway  
Pennsville, NJ 08070  
(856) 299-3366  
ashcraftfuneralhomes@gmail.com

# Tribute Wall

JD

“*Joan, David & Pinky, Donna & Dan purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Robert Joseph Ward.*



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**Joan, David & Pinky, Donna & Dan** - May 27 at 01:38 PM



“*My condolences to Bob's children and extended family. I met Bob in 1977 at the Mariner Inn where he was a frequent guest (surprised?) We would talk mostly about music but he had so many stories about the prior Mariner Inn ownership which harbored a memorable place called "The Animal Bar" Bob would bar tend there and saw so many fights and weird things that will go down in Pennsville history. Over the years Bob would DJ at Tom's Tavern and the Broadway Station and pack the places. He would also coach Men's softball where I was also a teammate. After the early 1980s I moved to Delaware and lost contact with Bob. Fast forward to 2012 and I am now traveling to southern NJ once a week and decided to stop on the way home to Delaware - low an behold who do I meet at AJs (formerly Tom's Tavern - surprise!) Mr. Bob! - we immediately reconnected with stories like we never had that gap in time. Just an FYI - Bob's best experience due to the military was not fighting for the country it was meeting Jessica Savage at the induction. center. RIP Bob, you were always a great conversationalist and had so many entertaining - well written Pennsville memories on Facebook.*

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**Tony Stark** - May 22 at 11:36 AM