



Robert "Rob" A. Bretveld

September 16, 1974 - February 9, 2026

Robert "Rob" A. Bretveld, 51, of Kankakee, passed away on Monday, February 9, 2026, at his home.

Rob was born on September 16, 1974, the son of Ronald and Marcia (Juda) Bretveld. Rob was valedictorian of his high school class, earned a master's degree in psychology at Ohio State University, and received his undergraduate degree at Bradley University. He was a boy scout, cub scout leader, a trumpet player through college, and a diehard Ohio State Buckeyes fan. He enjoyed playing word and trivia games with family and friends. Rob was an avid movie watcher; frequently reciting quotes from the movies he loved the most. Most importantly, Rob was amazingly kindhearted and tolerant, always a joy to be around.

Rob is survived by his parents, Ronald and Marcia Bretveld; sister, Jamie Lynn Bretveld (David King) of Kankakee; brother, Aaron Michael Bretveld of Kankakee; 7 aunts and uncles; 6 cousins.

He is preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Henry and Loretta Bretveld; maternal grandparents, Albert and Bella Juda; Aunt Sharon Bretveld.

A celebration of life will take place from 10am until noon on Saturday,

February 14, 2026, at Jensen Funeral Home in Kankakee with burial immediately following at Oakwood Cemetery, Wichert.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB 14. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Jensen Funeral Home
3639 EAST State Route 17
Kankakee, IL 60901
jensenfuneralhomes@yahoo.com

Burial

FEB 14. 12:30 PM.

Oakwood Cemetery
Wichert, IL

Tribute Wall

AN

“ *Anonymous lit a candle in memory of Robert "Rob" A. Bretveld*



Anonymous - February 16 at 02:29 AM

DM

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Dianne Maxwell - February 16 at 12:26 AM

DM

So sorry to hear of Rob's passing my thoughts and prayers are with you Marcia, Ron and family. Rest in peace Rob. You have touched so many lives on this journey with your beautiful, loving, kind and gentle spirit. We are blessed to have you as a friend. Thank God for you. Love and prayers Dianne 🙏🙏❤️❤️👐👐👐👐👐👐🕯️🕯️

I put these photos on facebook and am putting responses from GROW Community as follows:

For those who don't know, our dear friend Rob passed away unexpectedly Monday, February 9th at home. Rob was a much beloved staff person at the GROW Residential Centre for a number of years and delighted us with his gentle loving presence and caring spirit. We miss you Rob but are grateful for the time we shared...Rest in peace knowing that you will always have a place in our hearts, you touched so many lives during our time together and we are blessed to have shared the journey with you. With love from all of your GROW family.

Rob, so precious, gentle and wise. His wisdom and knack for creating balance always had a way of soothing us all; guiding us to evenings rest from the trials of the day. A wonderful Soul and Life... In his memory, I will always try to emulate his graceful ways and thoughtful approach, remembering to love and laugh in this precious journey of life. Blessings to all and my deepest sympathies. His beautiful soul will be dearly missed and cherished❤️Jean Emily Moon

Truly sorry to learn of the loss of your good friend, a devoted GROW worker~~~~~Brenda E Kelly

So sorry for your loss, 😞❤️🙏. Mary Causer

So sorry for your loss. Prayers and hugs to you and all Robs family and friends. Love Sharon

*So Sorry for your loss my condolences and prayers for Rob and his family! 🙏
Linda Terrell*

Rob was a great guy. He helped so many people with a kind heart and gentleness. Chris Gardner (ex resident GROW)

Who can ever forget his creative trivial pursuit affirmation cards that he made for everyone for Christmas Eve!

He truly embodied gentleness. One of gentlest person who I have ever met.

Praying for peace and comfort to enfold his family, friends, and his

extended Grow family. Michael Bourrell

Bob such a sweet and kind soul you will be truly missed rest my brother in peace hugs. Tanya Hicks

Dianne Maxwell - February 16 at 12:28 AM

EM

“ *I had the good fortune to share an apartment with Rob while living in Columbus in 98-99. We met as strangers and departed as friends. His kindness, wit and intellect were irreplaceable. My deepest condolences to his family -- he will be greatly missed.*

Edward McCoul - February 15 at 11:21 AM

KE

“ *Rob was a kind and gentle spirit. I know the persons staying at the GROW residential loved Rob. He was soft spoken. I really missed Rob when the residential house closed due to budget cuts. He was a God Send as residents transitioned. We will greatly miss Rob and his amazing smile that made you feel comfortable. I hope one day I'll get to see you on the other side my friend.*

Kerrie - February 14 at 09:00 PM

R(

“ *A friendly guy. I know the whole family through Boy Scouts. 2 of my boys were in Scouts. I helped with getting snacks and juice ready for after the meeting. My deepest condolences to the family*

Ruby (Tipsword) - February 14 at 12:33 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert "Rob" A. Bretveld.*

February 14 at 01:40 AM

ME

“ I work with Rob at CCS, and he was always very kind. One time, I was having a really bad day, and he was about to cover my break, he always told me to enjoy my break, and I said I would because I was going to eat cheese, and he sent a really funny gif of Jerry, from Tom and Jerry, eat cheese and smiling, and it made me laugh!

Rob had a way of boosting your spirits with his calm and kind nature, and I told him he'd made me laugh, and he was happy that he had. Rob was always so kind, smart, gentle, and very very good at his job, and I will greatly miss the time I spent chatting and working with him

Melody - February 13 at 02:07 PM



“ Dear Marcia, Thinking of you and your whole family during this unexpected and sad time. Your son Rob was very smart and accomplished; I am so sorry for your loss. May his memory always be a blessing!

Sincerely,
Suzanne (Beck) Webster
HHS Class of 63

Suzanne Webster - February 12 at 05:48 PM

JW

To Robs Family my deepest sympathy at this very sad time I always found Rob so nice to work with when we worked together at The Grow Residential Centre in Kankakee..June Woods Ireland 🇮🇪

June Woods - February 12 at 06:31 PM

PA

I met Rob in 2011 at The Amazing Meeting in Las Vegas. We corresponded via email off and on over the years and were Facebook friends. I am so very sorry to hear he has passed on at such a young age. Did Rob have a particular charity or cause that he supported that I could send a donation to in his memory?

Pat Acks - February 12 at 08:10 PM

TB

“ Our past Christmas together ❤️ 2025



Tammy Baines - February 12 at 03:38 PM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Robert "Rob" A. Bretveld.



February 12 at 03:23 PM