



Robert "Bob" Allen Taft

September 21, 1960 - March 18, 2026

Robert "Bob" Allen Taft, age 65, of Knoxville, Iowa, formerly of Albia, Iowa, passed away on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at MercyOne Medical Center in Des Moines, Iowa.

Bob was born on September 21, 1960, at Monroe County Hospital to Geraldine Hopkins and was raised by his grandparents, Orvel and Lelah Taft. He grew up attending school in Albia, graduating with the Class of 1980. Bob proudly served his country as a Corporal in the United States Army National Guard for 20 years. On July 20, 2007, he was united in marriage to Carol Eisbach in Albia.

Bob dedicated 22 ½ years to working for the Albia Street Department. He was a member of St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Knoxville and the Knights of Columbus. He enjoyed playing cribbage and putting puzzles together. Bob also loved being outdoors, especially hunting and fishing. His real joy in life was spending time with his family and friends, especially his grandchildren.

Bob is survived by his children, Angela (Willie) Wilson, Joseph Taft, Joshua (Amanda Welsh) Taft, and Tabitha (Aaron) Heartley; 19 grandchildren; 3 great grandchildren; 3 sisters, Mary (Doug) Turnbull, Judy (Paul) Billings, and Lucinda (Jim) Tuthill; and 4 brothers, George (Robin) Taft, Ronnie (Amy) Hopkins, Alan Hopkins, and Jeff (Karen) Hopkins. Bob is also survived by

several nieces, nephews, cousins, and good friends.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Carol Taft; his mother, Geraldine “Jeri” Hopkins; his stepfather, Ronnie Hopkins; his grandparents, Orvel and Lelah Taft; and 2 grandchildren, Ashley and Junior.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. on Friday, March 20, 2026, at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with Bob’s family present to greet family and friends. A time of sharing will be held at 7:30 p.m.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Knoxville, with Father Dennis Hoffman officiating. Burial with military honors provided by the American Legion Baty-Tucker Post #168 of Knoxville, Iowa, will follow services at St. Anthony’s Catholic Cemetery in Knoxville.

A memorial has been established to the American Legion in Knoxville, IA.

Cemetery Details

St. Anthony's Catholic Cemetery

Knoxville, IA 50138

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 20. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Tharp Funeral Home
116 Benton Ave.
Albia, IA 52531
(641) 932-3129
<https://www.tharpfh.com/>

Time of Sharing

MAR 20. 7:30 PM (CT)

Tharp Funeral Home
116 Benton Ave.
Albia, IA 52531
(641) 932-3129
<https://www.tharpfh.com/>

Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 21. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Anthony's Catholic Church
1202 Woodland Drive
Knoxville, IA 50138

Tribute Wall



“ Bob, and I had many adventures in high school. He and Brian were tight, and I enjoyed hanging with them at Bobs house. Judy, I am sorry I can't be at visitation or the funeral as I am having a terrible sinus infection. Judy you and the family will be in my thoughts and prayers.. God bless

John Edgren - March 20 at 11:27 AM

BT

“ Ben Shinn Trucking purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Robert "Bob" Allen Taft.



Ben Shinn Trucking - March 19 at 02:05 PM

BT

“ Ben Shinn Trucking planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert "Bob" Allen Taft.

Ben Shinn Trucking - March 19 at 02:05 PM

FR

“ From Rosie and Mark Randolph purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Robert "Bob" Allen Taft.



From Rosie and Mark Randolph - March 19 at 01:35 PM

HW

“ Heidi Sutton (Van Wardhuizen) purchased the Forever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of Robert "Bob" Allen Taft.



Heidi Sutton (Van Wardhuizen) - March 19 at 09:36 AM

CH

“ Prayers to Bob and the family.
Prayers to Doug and Mary. 🙏



Cheryl - March 19 at 09:35 AM