



Robert George Churella

September 12, 1931 - July 1, 2020

ROBERT GEORGE CHURELLA
WENT TO BE WITH THE LORD ON JULY 1, 2020.

Robert “Bob” Churella was born on September 12th, 1931 in Detroit, Michigan to Vasile and Melenia. He was the seventh born of eight children and the last surviving sibling to Melanie, Viola, Chuck, Olympe, Maria, Jacob and Virginia.

Bob was born in the family home on Hastings Street in the Black Bottom area of Detroit. He attended Highland Park High School, where he was a standout athlete in both football and track. He was awarded All-State honors in football. Bob attended Michigan Normal College (Eastern Michigan University) and Wayne State University on a football scholarship. He played semi-professional football for the Highland Park Bears.

Bob served in the Air Force during the Korean War, enlisting in 1952. While in service, he continued to show his athletic prowess, winning the Golden Gloves Boxing Championship in Texas. Even more importantly, he married his sweetheart Esther. They had been acquainted on and off for years, but after his sister Maria reintroduced them, it didn't take Bob long to decide she was “the one,” and they were married just a few months later.

Bob began his remarkably successful career in sales in 1955, as a shoe salesman for Kinney Shoes. He was promoted to Manager at their new “Flagship Store” in the Northland Shopping Center, the first suburban mall in the United States.

Bob changed career paths in 1962 when he entered the insurance industry as a salesman for Paul Revere Insurance Company. He quickly rose to the top of the sales force, leading the company in life and disability insurance sales. A few years later, he went on to sell insurance for State Mutual Insurance Company.

In 1970, Bob started his own company: Financial Designs, Inc., a life, health and property casualty agency. Bob oversaw the evolution and expansion of the flourishing company

now known as FDI Group. Always the entrepreneur, Bob was involved in creating new opportunities and turning them into successful business deals throughout his lifetime.

As determined and successful as he was in business, nothing was a greater priority in his life than his love and devotion to his family. He and Esther remained a loving couple for 67 years and were blessed with three children Robert "Robb" Jr. (Diana), Mark (Leslie), and Melanie. They were additionally blessed by six grandsons Mark Jr. (Amy), Ryan (Danielle), Josh (Carlee), Nathan, Justice and James, as well as six great-grandchildren Jacob, Lola, Cruz, Ryker, Penelope and Brooks.

Bob was loving, kind and generous to all who knew him. He made friends easily and often, and maintained those friendships, even back to his childhood. Bob drew people to him wherever he was, with his engaging personality and his warm, winning smile.

Bob's faith in his Heavenly Father through his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was unwavering. He was devoted to his faith and his family, he was loved by family and friends, and he will be dearly missed.

A Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

Comments



“ Mr. Churella was a great guy who really loved his family and who was a great conversationalist- i used to love hearing his stories at Chamber events and wrestling meets, especially the stories about his Golden Gloves days. Knowing him gave me insight into where Mark Sr. got his intensity on the mat!

John Davids - July 20 at 12:41 PM



“ Mr. Churella was a wonderful father and passionate about his family- I always enjoyed chatting with him at Chamber events and wrestling meets. I loved hearing the stories of his boxing career and it gave me insight into where Mark Sr. got his intensity! He lived a wonderful life and left a great legacy. RIP Mr. Churella

John Davids - July 20 at 11:28 AM



“ My condolences to the Churella family which I have had the privilege of knowing for more than 30 years. I saw first hand the never ending love and devotion Bob had for his family and friends alike. It's been said that when a person departs from this earth they never truly leave...for they are still alive in the our hearts long after the tears and goodbyes. I'm hoping that the Good Lord has both a computer Bob can play the card game "Free Cell" on and a sporty convertible he can tool around in while overlooking all of us.

Jim Brodick - July 15 at 02:01 PM



“ To the Churella Family-- I am truly saddened to read of Bob's passing. I never met a man I respected more. He was the kindest, most generous, inspirational man I ever met. As you know we first met in 1970 when Rob was in his first year at Farmington High. Bob was more than a true friend. I've been fortunate to have a number of mentors, Bob had more influence on my character than anyone. Over the years if I needed help inspiring young men I knew I could call on Bob's support. The last time was in 2004. Bob's spirit will always be a part of me. Dick Cook

Richard cook - July 12 at 10:24 AM



“ Bob sold me my first insurance policy many years ago when I was a young lawyer, just starting out. He remained a friend and business advisor throughout my career. Bob was the best friend of my father-in-law, Weinstein, of blessed memory. Bob’s family and the Weinstein family shared many happy moments together. Bob created and nurtured a wonderful family and extended family. So too with his business empire. Bob was a Prince of a man who will never be forgotten by those who were privileged to know him. May he rest in eternal peace. Cheryl and Barry LaKritz and the entire Weinstein and LaKritz families and extended families.

Barry LaKritz - July 11 at 09:12 AM



“ Bob Churella will always have a special place in my heart. He had a way of brightening a room with his presence His family will remember more than just the things he said and did. He will be a part of their hearts the rest of their lives. May his legacy be passed from generation to generation!

George Churilla - July 10 at 01:52 AM