



Robert James Fontana

May 11, 1939 - June 15, 2026

Conway.....Robert James Fontana, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, went home to be with the Lord, from his cherished home in Conway on June 15, 2026 .

Robert "Bob" was born on May 11, 1939 in Aliquippa, PA to Clara and Paul Fontana. Throughout his journey of 87 years, he touched many lives with his warm kindness, inviting humor, and servant heart. Bob lived a life of integrity, undergirded by his faith in Jesus and punctuated with compassion and laughter. His rich life was the product of a beautiful relationship with his wife and life-long love, Judith "Judy" New Fontana. He intentionally fostered deep, meaningful relationships within his family and church community, living out the biblical mandate to care for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow. Bob cared for foster children, neighborhood children, widows in the community, and even wounded animals.

In his early years, he served his country in the Army National Guard. He worked at Jones and Laughlin Steel Mill in Aliquippa, PA for 29 years and owned a musical instrument repair shop. After his retirement, Bob worked at Glendinning Products, LLC,

Studebakers, and for many friends who needed anything built or repaired. Bob was a musician, a "Mr. Fix-it," and a friend. Two of his greatest joys were family and music. As a member of Tilly Swamp Baptist Church, Bob served as a deacon and church choir director for many years under the nickname, "Sweet Ole Bob." His legacy of music, hard work, humor, compassion, and integrity will remain within all who knew, loved, and respected him. In addition to his parents, Bob was preceded in death by his daughter, Alyssa Jill Fontana; two sisters, Emma Jane Mraovich and Virginia "Bunky" Kwolek; and one brother, Charles Fontana.

Bob is survived by Judy, his loving wife of 63 years; five daughters, Diane Fontana (Bob) Moore, Paula Fontana (Greg) Qualls, Nicole Fontana, Jessica Fontana (Joey) Dadetto, Bethany Fontana, one son, Michael Fontana (Stephanie). Bob, was known as "Happy" to his ten grandchildren; Makenzie (Rashord) Ling, Madison (Ashton) Harvey, Emily Jordan Qualls, Nathaniel Qualls, Elizabeth Qualls, Makai Lewis, Cruz Dadetto, Reese Dadetto, Eli Fontana, Evan Fontana, 2 great grandchildren, Amelia Harvey, and Judah Ling, many nieces and nephews, and his faithful dog, "Henry."

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 AM Thursday from Tilly Swamp Baptist Church, Conway SC with Pastor, Greg Qualls officiating. Burial will follow in Hillcrest Cemetery.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM Wednesday.

Sign an online guestbook at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Hillcrest Cemetery

1000 Highway 544
Conway, SC 29526

Upcoming Events

Visitation

JUN 17. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel
606-610 Beaty Street
Conway, SC 29526

Funeral Service

JUN 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

Tilly Swamp Baptist Church
4619 Hwy 90
Conway, SC 29526

Tribute Wall

DM

“ So many precious memories of Bob — his joyful humor, his gentle spirit, and that unmistakable Fontana warm hospitality. I have loved this family for as long as I can remember, and I’m deeply grateful that our Sovereign Lord ordained so many cherished moments for us to share. “Every good and perfect gift is from above” (James 1:17), and Bob was truly one of those gifts.

And yes... I still love my donuts, Bob. I still laugh at how he teased me about that. What a kind, gracious man the Lord allowed us to know.

May the Lord, who is “near to the brokenhearted” (Psalm 34:18), surround the whole family with His comfort, His peace, and His steadfast love. We count it a privilege to know you and to love you.

*With love in Christ,
Darlene (Rob) & Jens*

Darlene Marshall - 5 hours ago

L<

“ Love, Rob, Darlene & Jens <3 purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Robert James Fontana.



Love, Rob, Darlene & Jens <3 - Yesterday at 11:57 PM

L<

“ Love, Rob, Darlene & Jens <3 planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert James Fontana.

Love, Rob, Darlene & Jens <3 - Yesterday at 11:57 PM

SH

“ Bob was one of the finest men I have ever met, always a smile and when you met him you felt like you had always known him. He and Judy were a fine. And fun loving couple. I was blessed to have known them both. I know he will be missed . I send my love and condolences to each one in his family. Love to each of you.



sandra Hatcher - Yesterday at 10:09 PM

AC

“ To the Fontana family my deepest condolences. Just a wonderful caring man. God bless.

Andrew Candelora - Yesterday at 10:07 PM

PA

“ To all of Bob's beloved family, "Sweet Ole Bob" was so beloved! I haven't known a finer man than Bob. He was humble, kind, compassionate, a perfect gentleman, so talented in all areas, whether it be music, carpentry, whatever, the list of attributes could go on and on. Bob was a model for being a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather for his family, demonstrating consistence, patience, love, and devotion.

Bob moved into the Nixonville/Tilly Swamp neighborhood and became "one of us," as a true and faithful friend. My parents, Marion and Elsie Vaught, thought the world of Bob, and cherished his visits to see them, as they grew older and unable to get out much. When my father was in his final decline, Bob came to visit him about a week before he passed. When Daddy saw Bob, he broke into tears, of happiness, to be with Bob one last time. It was a lasting memory for me. Whenever I'd come home to be with my parents, Bob would always greet me with a hug, telling me "Welcome home!"

He gave so much of his time back to the community, and was loved by everyone. I'm thinking when Jesus greeted him, he said, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

I hope all your wonderful memories of him will give you peace and comfort during this sad time, along with the peace and comfort only our Lord can provide, as I know you will miss him greatly. Much love to all of the Fontana family.

Paula Vaught Adams - Yesterday at 08:25 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Robert James Fontana.* ”



Yesterday at 07:19 PM