

Robert (Bob) J. Isoz, 93

Devoted Father, Uncle, Cousin, Friend, Co-Author, Fan of Betty Grable, and a Star Himself

Las Vegas – Robert J. Isoz, 93, residing in Las Vegas passed away May 7, 2025. He gained his angel wings peacefully after a long, exciting life in which every day he felt blessed for each new day. Born March 21, 1932, in Rockford, Illinois to the late Rudolph Isoz and Alma (Lind) Holmbo.

Bob was a storyteller and would say he grew up poor, but he and his siblings did not know it, they were happy to earn ten cents and go to the movies. At eight years old, his sisters took him to see Betty Grable movies, and it was then that he became Betty's #1 fan.

He graduated from East High School (1951) and remains friends with his classmates. After high school, Bob went into the Navy, serving his country from 1955 – 1957. In the Navy he traveled from Italy to Morocco, and this is when his yearning for international travel began. He married Dina DiLullio and welcomed their son, Mark in 1960.

Bob graduated from Weaver Airline School in 1962 and was two of fifty students to be offered a job with a major airline. Bob left Rockford, (he referred to it as Happy Valley), for his new home in New York to start his career with Pan Am Airlines where he was employed for 26 years. His employment at Pan Am in Passenger Services allowed him to travel the world and pursue his passion of the movie industry and he became the President of the Betty Grable fan club.

Above all, he loved his son, Mark, and helped him explore photography, traveling internationally, and taking pictures of the wonders and people of the world. He and his son had a love for animals and had several dogs that they both adored.

In 1959, at the Latin Quarter in New York, his dream of meeting Betty Grable came true, and they became friends, dining together or bowling after her shows around the globe in which he always had her house seats. He worked briefly for MGM Grand Airlines in 1990 – 1991 as a VIP Passenger Service Agent and again met Hollywood movie stars and had many stories to tell. Bob moved to Las Vegas and was recruited by Debbie Reynolds to work at her hotel and was employed at her hotel and casino for five years. After he retired, he would say he dreamed of working at the airline every night: he had good dreams and great memories.

In his later years, he would say "I'm older than dirt, but I think young" and he certainly did. He was a father first and a great friend to many, with stories that captivated his audience reciting his memories of a lifetime, a life well lived.

Bob is survived by his son Mark (Ann Marie) of Georgia, nieces Val Busby of Rockford, Janice (Greg) Hobbs of Rockford, Jill Carabelli of Chicago, Tracey Isoz of Georgia and nephews Brian Isoz of Rockford, Steve Isoz of New York, Michael (Vickie) Naill of Michigan, Tom (Eileen) Naill of Rockford and John (Jan) Carabelli of S. Beloit, many cousins, great nieces and nephews and friends all over the world. He is predeceased by his parents, stepfather, John Holmbo, brothers Roy (Sandra) Isoz and David Isoz, sisters Alberta (Jack) Naill and Beverly (Eugene) Carabelli.

Per his wishes, Bob was cremated, and his ashes will be buried with his mother and stepfather in the Scandinavian Cemetery in Rockford, IL. A Celebration of his life (or as he wished a "party") will be held in Rockford, IL.